

# Still looking for summer job?

BY KRISTINA BAXTER

Moving home from school is a stressful experience for post-secondary students.

Not only do you have to deal with a completely new environment, but for many it's the beginning of the search for that perfect summer job.

Unfortunately, many students who have returned home hoping to find a job are getting a harsh reality check.

Students have misconceptions when it comes to looking for summer work. These mistakes can cost students their summer income.

Megan, a third-year nursing student, was planning on returning to a nursing company where she worked full time last summer. She was disappointed when she was only given eight hours per week.

A new co-ordinator would rather employ a full-time nurse than a student.

"I'm over-qualified and extremely capable, but carrying the label of 'student' seems to be the reason why I can't find steady work in this job field."

Since learning of her schedule change, Megan has submitted more than 25 resumes to various restaurants and retail stores, only to be even more disappointed.

It turns out there are many students in the same situation as Megan.

At times like this, it is important to remember jobs are still out there.

Tom Hollands sees the casualties of these misconceptions everyday. He is an employment coach/facilitator with the Discover program, which is supported by the York Region Board of Education and Service Canada.

Many students search for jobs in the wrong places, Mr. Hollands says.

Students tend to spend most of their time searching the Internet and classifieds, when in reality, only 20 per cent of

jobs are ever advertised.

Many students come to the point where they will take anything. In reality, it is easier to find a job when you have narrowed down your search to two or three job fields.

Resumes also tend to be broad and do not highlight transferable skills.

John Fedy, who manages a restaurant, says many applicants have the exact same resumes.

It is also very important to remember how much competition there is.

For those students who are still searching for summer employment, some possible job fields are: resorts, retail, outdoor labour jobs and anything else seasonal that's still available.

For next year, Mr. Hollands recommends you start your job search as early as January. Most golf courses, cities, towns and large companies start looking to fill positions early.

Always keep your network active throughout the school year, especially if you go to school in a different city.

Remember the job you expect to return home to could be given away to someone who has been working for your employer all year.

You may consider starting your own company.

Register with employment agencies and services for employment news and opportunities.

York Region offers a program called Turning Points/York Youth and provides employment advisors who assist students in all areas of their job search.

Discover is a program dealing with career exploration and helps assess the area of employment that is right for each person.

For information, contact: 905-770-5494 or 1-866-290-7208, www.yorkyouth.ca or discover@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

## HOW TO FIND

### A JOB NOW

► **COLD CALLING:** Call a company you want to work for and sell them on your skills

► **NETWORKING:** Tell everyone you are looking for a job, you never know who is listening

► **AGENCIES:** Temp agencies can offer high-paying temporary jobs that can lead to full-time work

► **PROGRAMS:** There are lots of free programs specifically to help students find summer jobs. Get as many people working to find you a summer job as you can

► **RESUME:** Have a well-edited resume and cover letter that focuses on each specific job

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