

Recognizing the value of education

submitted by Robin Croucher

Adult Education

Robin Croucher is upgrading his academic levels at the Adult Education program in Souris. Robin's experience as a volunteer inspired him to change careers. He is now planning to apply to the Primary Care Paramedic program.



I learned the value of education long after leaving high school. Even though school was never a problem, the lure of money and freedom resulted in leaving school in grade 10.

I've worked in the automotive parts industry for the past 11 years. I got my start through a course I was taking at the time. I did two weeks on-the-job training at a parts store. After finishing the course, a job became available and I was hired.

I became very good friends with the owner of the store and we talked many times about the importance of education. In one of these conversations, he said that if he had not known me and my ability, and had only looked at my resumé, I most likely would not have been hired because I lacked grade 12.

Soon after, I enrolled in night classes at **Adult Education** in Souris and received my GED certificate.

I enjoyed a very rewarding career in the automotive parts business. After joining the Souris Fire Department in 2002 and more recently receiving my Medical First Responder certification, I realized my passion for helping people.

Back in school

This fall, the time was right to pursue that passion and start taking the steps required to enroll in Holland College. I am currently back in the Adult Education program in Souris working on the third and final credit required to apply for the **Primary Care Paramedic** college program slated for September 2010. My end goal is to continue my education and become an **Advance Care Paramedic**.

Advice to others

Stay in school. Get all the education you can. With an education, you can pursue the career of your choice. You will not be limited by what's on your resumé. What you think is a good living changes when you have children and mortgage payments.

As a husband and a father of three young children, I can tell you that it is far easier to receive your education when you are young. But going back to school as an adult has been a rewarding and positive experience. The staff at Adult Education are always there to help. The hardest part of all was coming through the door that first time.

An interest in plant science leads to a bioscience career choice

by Stella Shepard

Adult Education



Stacey LaPorte is upgrading her high school credits with a goal of changing careers.

Stacey LaPorte of New Perth has been passionately experimenting with crossbreeding flowers and plants in her greenhouse for years. Her interest in plant science has inspired Stacey to pursue a career in bioscience.

To move towards this career goal, she enrolled in the **Adult Education** program in Montague in 2009. Stacey is upgrading high school credits to be eligible to enroll in the **Bioscience Technology** college program.

"I started working on a tobacco farm when I was 13," says Stacey. "I've worked seasonally on farms ever since. The reality is that I have 28 more years of work before considering retirement. I feel that I deserve employment that is more meaningful and challenging."

Enjoys learning

"Science and biology are fascinating subjects," says Stacey. "It's interesting to research subjects such as how food is produced and the impact it has on society. My career goal is to work in a research laboratory studying the amazing world of plant science."

"I am excited about eventually enrolling in the college program and about the employment opportunities in research and development."

Lifelong learning

Stacey acquired her GED certificate years ago. But with four children to raise, her dream of continuing her education was put on hold. Now that her children are older, the time is right to continue her educational goals.

"I am back in school at 37 years of age, and I'm eager to learn and to pursue a career," says Stacey. "With age also comes a drive to succeed. Years ago, I didn't have a career plan. Now I have a career direction, the maturity, and the confidence to pursue my goals."

Family learning

"Another aspect of learning is being able to help my children with their homework," says Stacey. "Last week my son asked if I could help him with his homework if he takes chemistry next year. This opens a new door for me. It breaks the cycle of not being able to help my children with their homework."

"I've always encouraged my children to stay in school and not to quit. I have a daughter in university, two sons in high school and a son in junior high school. We study together as a family around the kitchen table. My experience has helped my children realize the importance of an education."