

Ending a pattern of seasonal work begins by returning to school

by Patricia Roy

High School Credits

Lionel Livingstone of West Cape left school and started working in the fishing industry after grade 11, when he was 16 years old. He continued fishing for the next 16 years.

For the past 10 years, Lionel has gone out west to work after the fishing season is over to supplement his income. "I work as a logger in a small town in northern Alberta," he says. "But now it is time for me to do something else. I want to get out of seasonal employment here on PEI and in Alberta. I want a full-time career here on the Island."



Lionel Livingstone is a student at the Adult Education program in Westisle.

Back in school

Lionel started at the **Adult & Community Education** program at Westisle in early November. Before he continues with his studies, he plans to travel to Alberta to work for a few months before returning to class in March.

Lionel says being back in the classroom, in the same school he left at 16, is not as bad as he thought it might be. "People are actually here because they want to learn, not because they are being told to go," he says with a laugh. "But it's all good. I can't complain."

He is upgrading some high school credits in order to enroll in the **Primary Care Paramedic** program at Holland College. "I hope to work for Island EMS once I finish the 10-month course."

As a member of the West Point Volunteer Fire Department, Lionel says he already has some knowledge of what it takes to be an emergency responder.

Advice for those thinking of returning to school

"Make sure you have everything in order before you start," he says. "And give yourself enough time to finish what you start." Lionel hopes to be finished in May and would like to start with his post-secondary field of choice in the fall of 2010.

Getting help to make a plan

Lionel turned to **PEI Career Development Services** in Bloomfield to help make a plan to return to school. "I talked to **Janice Stewart** and found her to be very helpful to get the process underway."

For more information about **PEI Career Development Services**, call the location nearest you:

- Montague: 838-5453
- Souris: 687-1526
- Charlottetown: 626-2014
- Bloomfield: 859-2776
- Summerside: 436-0706
- Wellington: 854-4156

Visit www.careerservicespe.com

For more information about Paramedicine, visit www.hollandc.pe.ca



Changing careers later in life

by Patricia Roy

GED



After 40 years of driving a truck, Bernie Earle has returned to the classroom and is making plans for a second career as a pastry chef.

Barnie Earle of Breadalbane drove a transport truck for 40 years. "Driving on slippery roads in cold weather at night became more and more of a challenge a couple of years ago," says Bernie. "I decided it was time to either retire or start looking for another line of work."

"While looking for work, I received information along with my EI saying that I could return to school. I went to the EI office to find out more about it and they referred me to **Career Development Services** in Summerside. They helped me to make a plan. I enrolled in **Adult & Community Education** and started in September. I am now working toward my GED."

School experiences

Barnie finished school with a grade 11 diploma back in 1967. "Back then in Nova Scotia you could graduate with a grade 11, which I did. I started working in a grocery store, and for two years I also went to night school at a business college and took a bookkeeping and typing course." Once he graduated from the course, he found that he could make more money as a truck driver than as a bookkeeper. He took the job with the better pay.

Getting back in the classroom

"In the trucking industry you learn new things all the time, so it was fairly easy to learn more about that subject," says Bernie. "When I started adult education, it was really hard at first to get used to the structured environment of a classroom. Plus, I had never worked with computers."

"The classroom is different than when I was in school. You are in charge of your own learning here. And the instructors are really helpful."

Building on past experience

A few years ago, Bernie and his wife opened a preserve company and retail outlet in New Brunswick. While operating that business, he used the bookkeeping skills he had learned all those years ago, and he also learned new skills as a business owner and cook.

"We had a government-certified kitchen and made pickles, hot pepper jellies, sauces, soaps, bath salts and more. My wife had a full-time job at the time and since I had more time off as a trucker, I was in charge of the cooking. We closed the business after three years because of the competition in that market."

Barnie plans to revisit his kitchen experiences by enrolling in the **Culinary Institute of Canada** to become a pastry chef. Going back to school is a way for Bernie to explore a profession he knows he will enjoy. Culinary training can lead to many job choices on PEI or elsewhere.

Advice

"I would like to tell anyone thinking of going back to school that it's definitely worth it," says Bernie. "It doesn't matter what your age or level of education is."

For more information about **Adult & Community Education**, contact the central office at 566-9628 or call toll-free 1-800-446-5265 (press 3)



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