

What are the best ways to approach employers about work? (continued from page 1)



Margie Gallant, Owner and Operator, Gillis Drive-In Restaurant

Gillis Drive-In Restaurant has been operating seasonally in Montague for 45 years. The business was recently sold to **Margie Gallant** of Hazelbrook. They now have 22 staff. Some of the staff have been with the restaurant for about 18 years.

Approaching the employer

"I'd prefer job seekers to drop by the workplace and leave their resumé and references with me and not with an employee," says **Margie**. "This provides an opportunity to meet a potential employee in person. As well, I can inquire about which shifts they are willing to work and if they are willing to work on the weekend. They should dress as if they were going to work here.

"This is a fast-paced work environment so staff need to be energetic. When hiring, I also look for people with a great personality who are able to get along and work effectively with all staff.

"I prefer to hire people with some experience handling cash, serving food and beverages, and/or doing kitchen prep-work."

They are presently not hiring but like to keep resúmes on file in the event a position opens up.

For more information, contact **Margie Gallant** at 838-2031 or e-mail margiegallant@pei.sympatico.ca



James Panton, Assistant Manager, Staples Business Depot in Summerside

"We usually hire students in the fall so that we can keep them employed part-time over the winter months," says **James**. "They may also be able to move to full-time work in the summers during their high school and university years.

"Some decide to make a career with us. We have one of the highest employee retention rates in the region, so people tend to stay with us long term."

What skills are important?

James says that people skills are important for working with the public. "Another important aspect is motivation and friendliness. Pretty well everything else can be taught."

Approaching the employer

James says meeting potential employees in person is best. "People should bring their resumé along with one of our application forms filled out.

"We check references, so at least three references should be included with the resumé. We keep applications on file for six months."

Job seekers may also apply through the website at www.greatcareersatstaples.ca

Available jobs are usually posted for all stores in Canada.

For more information, call 432-3838.

PEI has highest percentage of adult learners earning their GED

by Heidi Riley

The provincial government recently reported that from April 2009 to March of this year, 417 adults wrote the General Education Development (GED) test. This is a 24 percent increase from the previous year.

According to the department of Innovation and Advanced Learning, PEI has the highest percentage of adult learners writing and passing the GED test in North America.



Joseph Perry was the student speaker at the Charlottetown Adult Education Closing Ceremony.

Holland College Adult Education program

This spring, **Adult Education** centres held their closing ceremonies and celebrated the achievements of their adult learners across PEI.

At the closing ceremony in Charlottetown, over 150 students were recognized for their efforts in academic upgrading and earning GED certificates. The Harry MacLauchlan Memorial Scholarship, worth \$1,500, was awarded to **Joseph Perry**. Two Austin Carragher Adult Education Awards, each worth \$500, were awarded to **Patrick Curtis** and **Paul Bradley**.

Unexpected lay-off leads to opportunity for change

The student speaker was **Joseph Perry** of Charlottetown. He said his life was turned upside down in 2008 when he was unexpectedly laid off from his job as a Carpenter and Cabinetmaker. "I had three young children to support, and at first I didn't know what to do," says Joseph.

"I had an excellent support system at home, and we began to see this as an opportunity. At my job I had been just going through the motions, and I was earning only enough money to get by. When I was laid off, I realized that there was so much more I wanted to learn. It was not an easy decision to go back to school. My wife Michele was in her first year of an accounting technician program. It would mean that we would both be going to school, but we made the decision that it was worth while to pursue my goal and get my GED."

Joseph wrote and passed his GED and then enrolled in Adult Education in February 2009, earned one credit, and then returned in October to earn four more. The additional credits he was taking were the academic and advanced prerequisites he needed to enroll in the Construction Technology program. "I worked hard," says Joseph. "I was the first one in the classroom in the morning, and the last to leave at night.

"I was pretty naive about going back to the classroom. I had not been to school for 17 years. When I started working on my math credits, I thought it would be easy because I use math every day as a carpenter. But there is a huge difference between using a tape measure and figuring out quadratic equations! Physics was tough too. When I got to English, I thought since this is my language, it would be easy. But the instructor's red pen never ran out of ink as she corrected my work.

"The instructors are excellent. They want you to do well and understand the material. They never get tired of answering our questions.

"As I went through the steps to earn my GED and high school credits, I learned not to be afraid of what comes next. I found out that I know how to learn and how to tackle my future. I learned what I am capable of."

Joe ended his speech with this quote: "If it was easy, everyone would do it. It's the hard path that makes it great."

For information about **Adult Education**, contact the central office at 566-9628 or call toll-free 1-800-446-5265.

Check the website for Calendar of Events - July & August

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