

G'ANT

school to work transition

a publication by the students commission

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chef's table [ya baby !]



synergy & energy
[youth set the stage]

"We stood up there proud and not afraid to tell how it should be, or give suggestions," said Veronica Tesar, a co-op student helping to organize the youth program at the conference.

"We delivered our own ideas in a professional manner to an audience of 800 adults."

Bob Williams, conference organizer, said the students presence "sets a tone" that really adds "synergy and energy."

Court Harkness, Carleton District School Board, Ottawa, Ontario, said he was impressed by the "very enlightening" presentation and "the students were very mature in their recommendations."

My name is Chef Sean Voorden, I'm currently working through the Chefs' Alliance program, together with the Bridges Ontario program, which helps me know first hand about cooking for 800 plus people. Speaking with other students, we have brought together a fun and brief critic of our daily meals.

May 1, 2000: Conference Lunch.

Today was our first lunch together with people from across the country. All the food that was prepared was delicious, the atmosphere was just rocking with the brass band. Here are the opinions of myself, the Chef, and a few of my friends at the CHEF'S TABLE:

The Penne: The penne was done in a red tomato sauce with red peppers. Even though this was very delicious it was some spicy. When you first took a bit of it, it was fine, but once it was in your mouth for a while, the heat set in, and you needed to get a drink of water. As well, this dish had a strong after taste.

Bow tie pasta: This was also done in a red sauce, but this was done in a more creamier sauce, which I personally enjoyed. I found that this dish was lacking in a full body flavor, although my friends at the Chef's Table enjoyed it so much, most of them went back for seconds and some of them even went for more.



Cheese Lasagna: Everyone found this dish was extremely cheesy, which had its advantages and disadvantages. The advantage was that those love cheese, like Chef, thoroughly enjoyed this, but some people didn't enjoy this meal because the top of the lasagna was somewhat over cooked, and a bit crunchy.

Meat Lasagna: The piece that I had for lunch was somewhat toasted, but everyone else at the table, enjoyed the lasagna very much. The sausage in the lasagna was an excellent choice for this dish, because it was not too strong or too mild.

Button Mushroom Salad: This salad was very enjoyed by the students who sampled this dish. The salad is enjoyed chilled, when mixed together with the other different ingredients, it was rather tasty.

Dessert: Instead of going through every single dessert item, the Chef's Table has come to a general consensus that all of the cakes, pastries and delicacies were loved and inhaled by everyone. Except for a pink and white cake which no one at the Chef's Table could identify, but it was too sweet for anyone to enjoy.

...by the time the paper went to print, dinner had not been served.

grab a coffee in arctic bay

At Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay students can grab a coffee in between classes from the High School Café—and they're served by other students in the school. Twelve students volunteer at the café, work at the cash and stay after school each day to bake food that is sold the following day. The students learn valuable work skills while still in school.

For over two years, Teresa Barnabas, 18, has volunteered at the café before classes, during breaks and after school. "The job helps us learn about volunteering, bookkeeping, baking and will lead us to run our own business," says Teresa. And the youth are providing a valuable community service: the town has no restaurant so most of the school's 200 students, from kindergarten to grade 12, frequent the café daily.

Teacher Ron Elliott first opened the High School Café four years ago with the help of his math 16 and 26 (grade 10 and 11) students. Today, the group plans to buy a house in the community and open the town's first restaurant, to be named Bed and Breakfast. At Bed and Breakfast they will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, to be prepared and served by the students. Teresa says they hope to open a hang-out place for the students to do their homework and just have fun. "We don't really have much of a hang-out place in our town of 700 people," says Teresa. "Hopefully, the Bed and Breakfast will employ us too." Community business people have visited the students to offer them advice on opening their business, which helped a lot in the planning, says Teresa.

* Teresa and her teacher, Ron Elliott, will be presenting Tuesday at 10:30 am in the St. Andrew Room



By Veronica Tesar

In Monday's Brave New Work session, Michelle Tocher spoke about the importance of mythical images in finding solutions to problems and worries. Michelle's theory is if you just let your mind wander, it will assess the problem and the true solution will arise.

Michelle said she used to have problems focusing and would find herself staring blankly at walls, and felt like she was a rock that couldn't move or do anything until she heard the saying, "Rolling rocks don't get covered in moss." Every time she found herself losing focus, she would do something to occupy herself and drift into her mythical space. She had each person in the session enter their mythical space. Then, Michelle asked some of us where we found ourselves.

mythical Spaces

One man said he was Merlin the Magician struggling with his powers. I was in a rainforest by a waterfall. She then dimmed the lights, lit a candle and told us a story, called The Mountain Change. The story focused on how people can adapt to change instead of running from it and make the best of things. In today's world of work, adapting to change is essential because no one has just one job for the rest of their life anymore—life is a journey. Once students leave high school, they will be faced with change and it's important they have the tools to deal with them.

Arviat hits the WEB



In a student work program two years ago, Robert Karetak, 16, from Arviat, Nunavut (population 1800) worked on the first website on Arviat history. The grade 10 student from Qitliq worked with two other students and created the website from start to finish. They did research in local libraries and schools and also recorded interviews with elders who told stories and legends. The students then transcribed the tapes into Inuktitut (the entire website is in Inuktitut). Robert says he learned many things: how to type in Inuktitut, how to code in HTML and make web pages as well as the morals of his culture. Robert says being involved in this program was a great work experience. Check out the website at: www.arctic.ca/pictionary/



AGE over POWER

Report by Chris Lowther.

I went to see the *Aboriginal Youth: Success in the New Millennium* session presented by Roberta Hewson, who is a former teacher. She talked about how students would rather learn from their elders than a teacher at the school. She said the main reasons that some aboriginal people can't get jobs are due to lack of education and funds to buy the tools they need to do the job. For example a pair of workboots to work at a construction site. She also talked about job shadowing which should be done in the Band Office and School because they are the main employers in communities. Delta Hotels in northern Canada have said that they would take some students and give them a job and free travel back to the north.

She was very well spoken and seemed to be excited to be presenting on this topic. She made it very humorous and interesting to us all. She handled all the questions very well, and I think she did great job in presenting under the circumstances that she was filling in for Kelly Lendsay.



pathway to employability

Waterloo Region's focus on Entrepreneurship

By Barry Panyadeth and Chris Hammell

The Waterloo Region District School Board has created a variety of youth entrepreneurship programs, in an effort to promote self-job creation. The Venture Training Program provides youth

between the ages of 18 and 30 a chance to learn about themselves, develop an entrepreneurial idea, write a business plan and launch a business. This 24-week program offers participants \$4,800 business start-up grants.

At the high school level, Kitchener Collegiate Institute (KCI) has developed an entrepreneurship internship and an international business program to allow students to work along side local entrepreneurs and experience the challenge of starting and running your own business.

hands-on is the real thing

By Yvonne Kusiak, Kelowna, BC

Greg Hagen and Bobby Bird are involved in the Bridges program in Upper Canada Eastern School Board. They focus on career awareness in three main divisions: construction technology, agriculture and adventure tourism, which includes recreation. The programs consist of both lessons in the classroom, as well as work experience in the area of interest. Available to both grade 11 and 12 students, the programs provide students with an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with a chosen career, and a chance to earn 4 credits (30 are required to graduate). A specific program begins in the second semester, and consists of 9 weeks of in-class work, and 9 weeks on the job site, doing hands-on work for an employer. This work is unpaid, as it is only intended for the experience of the student. Potential summer employment is a possibility for a hard-working student.

The implementation of such a well-organized and inclusive program is incredibly beneficial for someone who plans on entering one of the fields of study, as it not only provides valuable information and training for a career, but also allows the students to get experience in the actual job that they want to pursue — and there is nothing better than the real thing!

Behind the CURTAINS

By Leslie-Anne Dungog

You get a different sense of the conference when you are behind the scenes. Veronica Tesar and I had been given a great opportunity to see how the things work in the Webcasting portion of the conference. In the St. George East room of the hotel, on the third floor, is where the "real action" can be found. In entering the room earlier in the day, I was overwhelmed with the equipment and the rush of the various people getting the equipment set up. Everyone was working hard, getting the conference ready.

The room consists of three Pentium 3 computers all connected to the Internet, and video and data switching equipment (screens, monitors, VCRs, speakers, microphones). The most important part is communication. Headsets are used which allows the camera people below to communicate with the people in the upstairs room.

Twelve individuals are responsible for keeping the show running. They are responsible for broadcasting the conference(s) on the World Wide Web for any Internet user to see, helping various speakers prepare their presentations using Powerpoint slide shows, digital recording and editing the conference events, cueing and initiating the speakers, stage production, lights and everything else that will keep the show running smoothly.

Have you ever wondered who these important people are?

Sherman DeISol is who the team calls the "head hauncho." He is the networking engineer.

Gino Priolo is the project manager.

Walter Vitar is the graphic designer for the Powerpoint presentations.

Angelo Furgiule is the photographer/ field camera person.

Michael Flynn is the technical director.

Tony Priolo is the production manager.

Iain Young is the lighting director.

Steve Towers is the audio specialist.

Bill Payne is the stage manager.

Bob Sorger is the director.

Chris Kelly and Derek Hooper handle the studio cameras.

Having the opportunity to be "behind the scenes" is a great way to get a new perspective of the whole event. Veronica and I brought a little girl power into the room. These twelve individuals play a very important role in the conference and their jobs should not be taken lightly. They do everything in their power to have things running smoothly--with energy to burn.



look before you lead



Barb Shopland Interviews Chris Gilroy of YAP

Question: "So Chris, what did you talk about this morning?"

Answer: I talked about career planning and my experiences with it related to my program.

For example, I spoke about my experience going to a pharmacy to work. I came out of the placement liking the business side of what I experienced more than the actual pharmaceutical side. I was fortunate to have had this program because it was a short term learning experience that had me realize I was more inclined to the business side of the job than the medical...this could have been a costly mistake had I spent money on university and ending up in the wrong job for me!

Question: "What else did you learn through this experience?"

Answer: I learned a lot more about the interview process, customer service and how important communication is in every aspect of the job.

Question: "What advice would you give to someone questioning what job they wanted to take in YAP [Youth Apprenticeship Program]?"

Answer: Don't be stuck in a longterm situation if you are uncertain about the job you are getting into. Look and learn before you leap.

grown-ups: school to work starts NOW!

Because you asked..

By Denise Campbell

Since the Youth Team opened up the School to Work 2000 Conference with a youth panel presentation Monday morning, I've heard two comments over and over again. First, that the 26 youth who presented their initial recommendations about how to improve school to work programs are bright and inspiring. The second is directed at me, the MC for the panel, on how articulate and skilled I am. Well, there are reasons for why the youth team and myself shine—we have, and need, adult support to access opportunities to learn skills, develop confidence and build our ability to make an impact.

As adults here, interested in supporting youth, you have the ability to take direct action to ensure that the benefits of effective school-to-work programs reach youth. The Students Commission is hosting a seven day conference in Ottawa from August 17 to 22, 2000. Similar to this conference, the youth will engage and empower each other and themselves by actively taking on important issues and developing positions and solutions for their resolve. It's not just talk though. Youth get hands-on learning through technology skills, leadership skills, production skills, program development skills. They take what they learn and return to their home communities, schools and jobs to apply them.

At 24, I can now say that The Students Commission programs, like the Ottawa conference, has been the single strongest influence on the development of my confidence, ability to be articulate and my skill development. It is a strong and effective example of the incredible benefits that effective school-to-work programs can achieve.

The potential for these 26 youth to continue to develop the skills to be articulate, productive and skilled young adults can be harnessed and made real with more support and opportunities. It costs \$750 for one youth to participate in the conference which includes travel, accommodation, program and entertainment for a week. Meaningful school to work transition opportunities can start now by you "walking the talk" and supporting a youth here or one you know to participate. An application is attached to the newsletter. We are located in the Youth Communications Centre in the Armoury Room if you have any questions or are ready to sponsor one member of the Youth Team.



**youth
school to
work starts
NOW!**

By Steven Leconte

What are you planning to do this summer? Before you start making plans, you need to know that there is a cool opportunity for youth you might want to know about.

The Students Commission is hosting a seven day conference in Ottawa from August 17 to 22, 2000. This conference is part of a two-year program and the theme is child poverty. We did the first one in Ottawa in 1998, the second one in Banff and in Newfoundland and the fourth in the province of Quebec all in 1999. This year we are going back to Ottawa to do the last one. These conferences usually gather between 150 - 200 youth from 14 to 19 years old. Our target group is youth from all across the country, from all different backgrounds. These conferences are also bilingual to represent the diversity of our own communities.

Similar to this School-to-Work conference, the youth will engage and empower each other and themselves to make sure the voice of young is heard by government and policymakers. We spend a lot of time developing our own programs to do in our communities and building the tools to raise awareness. It's also a good experience for youth to develop real job skills. We especially seek out youth who don't normally have these opportunities.

Of course, it is fun too. Between making friends, movies, speaking on Parliament Hill, free time in Ottawa and more and more friends, it's a week of a lifetime.

The cost per student is \$750.00 for the whole week. If you are a youth and want to participate in the conference, The Students Commission will help you fundraise. Possible sponsors may even be found at this conference.

For more information about this once in a lifetime event, drop by the Youth Communications Centre in the Armoury Room and speak to any of The Students Commission staff.