

Youth, businesses to have more summer job opportunities: MP



By Brock Weir

For young job hopefuls, waiting for word on your application and resume is often the hardest part.

The agony of waiting could be a bit shorter next year for hopefuls looking for a job through Canada's Summer Jobs Program.

This year, potential employers and hopeful employees will find out earlier, with deadlines now set at January 10, 2014.

"This will allow employers more time to complete their hiring processes and will give students more notice when they get their summer jobs," said Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown in an announcement at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week.

To see the benefits of the Canada Summer Jobs Program, one only needs to look as far as the Church Street landmark, she said. Indeed, Ms. Brown was joined in her announcement not only by Frank Pulumbarit, President of the Aurora Cultural Centre Board, but also by Stephanie West, a summer student hired by the Centre with a nearly \$4,000 grant through the Youth Employment Strategy.

A third year student at the University of Waterloo, Ms. West was hired with funds obtained via the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations grant.

"Stephanie has brought her incredible talents to the Aurora Cultural Centre," said Ms. Brown, adding she was the bearer of good news for students throughout the riding. "Through the Canada Summer Jobs component of the Summer Work Experience Program, we are helping local employees create 94 summer job opportunities for students. Across the country, Canada Summer Jobs is providing up to 36,000 important job opportunities and experiences for students this summer.

"Organizations like the York Region Food Network, Habitat for Humanity York Region, Doane House Hospice, the Aurora Historical Society and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club are all benefiting [from the program.] This helps students gain the skills and the experiences they need to be successful now and in the future. These jobs strengthen the local economies and the communities where students live and work. There is no doubt that workplaces also benefit from fresh ideas."

It is a "win-win-win" situation, added Ms. Brown, and one, she said, which will only get better. This year's Economic Action Plan has earmarked a further \$70 million over three years to fund 5,000 additional paid internships, she said. Grants will also be available to help students focus on skilled trades through apprenticeship programs and other initiatives.

These efforts will allow young Canadians to get a better work experience that will only strengthen the future of the Canadian workforce," she said.

‘Today’s students are tomorrow’s workforce,’ she said. ‘Investing in them helps to contribute to Canada’s long-term growth, competitiveness, and overall prosperity. With an investment this important, we want to ensure that as many local employers as possible can participate in the summer work experiences program.’

As the Aurora Cultural Centre reaps the benefits of Stephanie’s time in their employ, Mr. Pulumbarit said he and the Cultural Centre Team, including Executive Director Laura Schembri, are encouraging her to leave her own mark on the institution and something which she will be proud to showcase.

‘Philosophically, that is how we work,’ he said. ‘We have a framework and strategic plan and five overriding priorities. These kinds of things drive our everyday business but the way those things are delivered is in the creative manner and the philosophy around it is delivered in a creative way. Whenever we can reach out and find awesome people to work with who share that same philosophy, that is a great combination and one we would like to do over and over again.’

Government support for the Centre, he added, has been fantastic and he hopes they are returning the favour.

‘We are passionate about what we do here and hopefully it shows and we’re also passionate about our contributions to the Town of Aurora and beyond,’ he said. ‘We hope that that passion is matched only by our passion towards contributing to the lives of our young people and the careers that they are going to go on to fulfil for the Town they live in.’