

VALLEY EAST TODAY **Community Lifestyle Magazine**

www.valleyeasttoday.ca and www.thelearningclinic.ca

**Valley East Library Centre
Serves A Wide Variety of Needs
For Local Residents**



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This Is Valley East

"Where People Make The Difference"



The Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine is a weekly publication that is designed to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the “people making a difference in the community of Valley East.”

It is called a “lifestyle” magazine because it is much more than a newspaper. If you want up-to-date news you can check the daily newspapers or the internet. However, if you want articles and features that will take you deeper inside a story or an issue, then you will find that in the Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine. Each publication will contain information that will be of interest to people from all walks of life and we are certain that our inspirational editorials and stories will leave a lasting impression on you and your family.

We also intend to use the magazine to help local residents become more aware of the goods and services that are available to them from businesses, professional offices, and institutions that serve the community.

It is our feeling that many people living in Valley East are unaware of the wide variety of quality goods and services that are being provided by our business sector. Once we develop and expand Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine, we are convinced that residents will support local shoppers on a much higher level than ever before.

Open Invitation To Schools, Churches and Groups To Submit Articles of Interest & Photos

Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine welcomes articles and photos from schools, groups, churches, and organizations. There is so much happening in our community each week, but we simply cannot get around to cover everything. You can help us out and at the same time keep the rest of the community informed by sending us photos and information about your events and activities so that we can publish them in Valley East Today for all to see.

Simply send me your story along with a photo or two and we will gladly publish it in one of our upcoming weekly magazines. Send the information in a Word document and attach the photos separately.

We have also decided to publish Valley East Today in a PDF format so that our readers are able to forward the attachment or link to all of their family and friends around the world. The public has been very happy with this decision and we look forward to providing them with even more in the form of content from the community.

All of the contact information you need can be found in the box below or at www.valleyeasttoday.ca

The Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine is published by Infocom Canada Business Consultants Inc.

Robert Kirwan, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

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www.valleyeasttoday.ca

ELECTION 2010

Rainbow District School Board

Gordon Ewin

Robert Kirwan

Ruth Ward

Sudbury Catholic District School Board

Michael Bellmore

Geraldine Meskell

Conseil scolaire du district du Grand Nord de l'Ontario

Robert Boileau

Francois Boudreau

Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario

Fern Bidal

Georges Boudreau

Marcel Legault

John Robert

LOCAL RESIDENTS URGED TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES

All of the candidates are now registered for the Municipal Election 2010 which will take place on October 25, 2010. Candidates for City Council and for School Boards must begin the long, gruelling six-week campaign period and make an attempt to convince voters to cast a ballot for them on Election Day.

The candidates for positions on school boards are listed above.

Ward 5 Councillor Ron Dupuis was acclaimed, so residents of Ward 5 will be asked to turn out to vote on their choice for Mayor as well as their choice for the school board of which they are a supporter.

In Ward 6, incumbent Andre Rivest is up against Pete Chenier and Christine Guillot-Proulx. The voters will also be asked to cast ballots for Mayor as well as their school board representative.

During the six weeks, the candidates for Mayor and Councillor positions will be trying to send their message to all registered voters in an attempt to encourage them to turn out to vote on Election Day. This means that if we go by the numbers in 2006, we can expect no more than 41% of all registered voters in Ward 5 to turn out and about 46% of the voters in Ward 6 to turn out. Unfortunately, in Wards where there is no election going on for Councillor, as in the case of Ward 5, voter turn-out is usually lower than normal, therefore we could see a turn-out of less than 40% this year in Ward 5. Hopefully, we will have a strong showing at the polls and begin a new trend in civic participation.

Public Library Provides Something For The Entire Family



The Valley East Citizen Service Centre and Public Library is a building of which everyone in the community of 25,000 is proud. When the City of Greater Sudbury was formed in 2001, it was decided to continue to provide service to the outlying areas, such as Valley East, by establishing Citizen Service Centres at the local public library facilities. Therefore, what was once known simply as the “Library” is now a combined “Town Hall/Public Library”, where residents have access to virtually all of the services that are offered at the new central Tom Davies Square.

One visit to the library will convince you that there is much more to this place than books. For example, there is a wonderful children’s area complete with plenty of books for the kids as well as toys and activities for them to play with while you are reading your own books and periodicals.



There are even little seats and educational floor activities for the children, so this isn’t merely a place to play...it is also a place where young minds can be developed. Parents of young children are always welcome to drop in and spend some time getting their boys and girls accustomed to the library environment.



The job board has become a popular attraction at the library as well. With the economy the way it is today, many local residents stop by to see what is new in the way of employment opportunities.



The location and hours of operation are shown below
4100 Elmview Drive, Hanmer, ON P3P 1J7

Phone: (705) 969-5565

Branch Hours of Operation : Effective September 7, 2010 - June 6, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-	8:30 - 8	8:30 - 8	8:30 - 8	8:30 - 8	8:30 - 5	10 - 4



How Many Potatoes Are You Carrying Around?

Reflections About Life by

**Robert Kirwan, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine**

I just finished reading what must be the shortest story in the world. It is a story that was written by M. Stanley Bubien and is entitled, “The Unhappiest Man Who Ever Lived”. Let me share the story with you.

“Forgive? Never!”

How is that for a powerful story?

Let me tell you the story again.

“Forgive? Never!”

Yes, these are definitely the words one would expect to be spoken by ‘The Unhappiest Man Who Ever Lived’. Do you know him? Have you ever met him?

To further illustrate the message of this wonderful story, let me share with you another short passage I came across recently. The author of this story is unknown, but I am sure each of us in our own small way can identify with the moral.

The story is entitled, ‘Are Your Potatoes Heavy?’

“A college teacher brought a couple of huge sacks of potatoes to class one day. She told her students to think of people they have refused to forgive for whatever it was that they said or did to them. All of the students could think of quite a number of people who had done something to them that was absolutely unforgivable. The teacher then instructed the students to take one potato from the sack for each person for whom they could not forgive and write the name of that person on the potato. Each student then put their potatoes inside a clear plastic bag and were told to carry that bag with them everywhere they went for one full week. They were to put the bag beside their bed at night, on the car seat when driving, next to their desk at work, at the dinner table, etc.

The students experienced the inconvenience of lugging this bag of potatoes around with them. Naturally, the condition of the potatoes deteriorated to a nasty smelly slime. This was a great metaphor for the price we pay for the emotional baggage we carry around with us when we



refuse to forgive others for the pain they have caused during our life's experiences. The message came across loud and clear to the students who suddenly realized that while we often think of forgiveness as a gift TO the other person, it is actually a gift FOR ourselves to get rid of these nasty feelings that we harbour inside."



It is too easy to blame others for our problems. When this becomes a personal habit, we tend to blame others for all of our anger, frustration, depression, stress and unhappiness. If something is missing, someone else must have moved it; if your marriage did not work out, it was your spouse's fault; if you lose your job, it was your employer who was to blame; and so on.

Personal happiness and peace cannot be achieved as long as you are blaming others. In order to be at peace with yourself, you must accept responsibility for your own actions as well as for your reactions to others around you. To carry on the hatred is like carrying around a bag of potatoes. Until you forgive the person and get rid of the potato, it will be a burden on your life and will follow you wherever you go. Forgiving the person who has done you wrong is not so much a gift to that person, but a gift to yourself so that you can rid yourself of this heavy burden and not allow it to consume so much of your life. You can apply this philosophy to virtually all situations in which you find yourself unable to forgive another person.

Blaming others is very stressful and takes a tremendous amount of mental energy. It also leaves you

powerless over your own life in that you soon feel that your own happiness is controlled by the actions of others. When you stop blaming others, you will regain control of your personal power and take charge of your own happiness. You will also find that life is much more fun when you stop blaming others and forgive them for what they have done.

So, next time you think you are so angry that you feel someone has done something to you that can never be forgiven, remember the story about 'The Unhappiest Man Who Ever Lived'. Get rid of your potatoes and enjoy life.



Have a good week!

"A Daughter's Letter"

A mother enters her daughter's bedroom and sees a letter on the bed. With the worst premonition she reads it, with trembling hands:

Dear Mom,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm telling you that I eloped with my new boyfriend. I found real passion and he is so nice, with all his piercing and tattoos and his big motorcycle. But it's not only that mom, I'm pregnant and Ahmed said that we will be happy in his trailer in the woods. He wants to have many more children with me and that's one of my dreams. I've learned that marijuana doesn't hurt anyone and we'll be growing it for us and his friends, who are providing us with all the cocaine and ecstasies we may want. In the meantime, we'll pray for science to find a cure for AIDS, so Ahmed will get better. He deserves it. Don't worry Mom, I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself. Some day I'll visit for you to know your grandchildren.

Your daughter, Judith

PS: Mom, it's not true. I'm at the neighbour's house. I just wanted to show you that there are worse things in life than a report card..... that's in my desk drawer.

Six Months to Live (One Day At A Time?)

by Kevin Shanahan



The following is one of the articles that have been written by Kevin Shanahan a local writer who has been battling cancer for a number of years. He shares his thoughts about life in the hope of providing inspiration to others who are dealing with this dreadful disease as well as other challenges in life. Kevin has provided us with a selection of over fifty different articles that Kevin has written for us so that our readers may share some of his inspirational words.

If you, or I, were told that we had six months to live how would we handle it? Anyone that has had a brush with cancer, or any serious illness, can relate to having those thoughts at one time or another during their journey to wellness.

My wife, and I, talked about it briefly. She said she would max all the credit cards, shop til she dropped. I told her that wasn't funny because I would get stuck with the bills. Well, we wouldn't have to worry about cholesterol. Don't obey yield signs? Stomp the Eveready Bunny? Better still, stomp Barney, that purple dinosaur. But seriously, how would you handle it?

Now I don't usually talk about death. I don't like winter and I don't talk about that either. It's coming, it is one of the four seasons and I will ease into it. I have no choice, its either make the best of it or fight it until spring arrives. But , yesterday, my friend Alice was told just "that". "You have six months!" So it got me wondering, how is she going to handle it? "If it were me, how would I handle it?" First of all, are they sure? Maybe get another opinion? Wasn't there a recent newspaper article on a fella, given six months to live, that's been dying for nine years?

Your belief, about what happens after life, can play a major role in the acceptance of death. I believe in life after death and that it will be a better life. That transition, from this life to the next, can be comparable to what it was like moving from teenager to adult life. No way did I want to grow up(my wife is the first to say, I never have) but once I got here it wasn't so bad. Well that's ok about the death part. But what about the living part, until death, in the meantime? How would I "live it"? We would all handle it our own way. I would certainly not want to behave in a manner that would burden those around me.

When first diagnosed with cancer, my first thoughts went to my grandchildren forgetting me. So I would have to say that the ultimate best would be to hold them tight, every opportunity, and know that life is not ending, it is renewing itself. I have a life rich in loving family and friends. My property has beautiful trees, some wildlife and lots of birds. I



love music and would continue to dance alone(when nobody is watching). Family, music and friends would be my daily essential activity. This would certainly be a beautiful way to spend each day. (So why don't I practice living those type of days, now?.....Darned if I know, but I try) I'm sure there would be dark moments, or days, during that period. And yes, I would get afraid. But mostly, I would fear having my family see me diminish physically. And I would fear most that I will not be able to hide this fear. And I would wonder if I made a difference.

So, today, choose to live a life that matters, because;

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; Not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success, but your significance. What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many people will feel lasting loss when you're gone.



What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is not how long you will be remembered, but by whom, and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstances, but a choice.



Take A Trip Down Memory Lane With A Visit To Our Living History On The Valley East Today Community Web Site

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/newsmagazine/Living%20History/homelivhist.htm>

Click on the link above and you will find yourself in the middle of hundreds of articles and photos about the people who have been making a difference in Valley East during the past several years. It is a fitting tribute to the community that we have so many wonderful people who are committed to providing residents with such a great choice of activities and organizations in which to become involved. I am sure that you will see many people you recognize in the stories. You may also be the subject of some of these articles. The best thing is that you can forward the link to all of your friends on the internet and help us spread the message that Valley East is a pretty good place in which to live.



**Robert Kirwan, OCT, B.A.(Math), M.A.(Education)
Candidate for Trustee, Area 3 (Wards 5 & 6)
Valley East & Cambrian Heights Area
Rainbow District School Board**

Robert Kirwan has been a resident of Valley East since 1974. While he and his wife, Valerie, were raising three sons they became actively involved in a just about all aspects of the community. Robert Kirwan is well-known for his weekly editorials in The Vision Paper which were both inspirational and educational. He was a classroom teacher for 28 years before retiring to open a private practice as a consultant in 2001. Since that time he has been involved in a variety of initiatives with all four school boards; has worked with secondary school students from Sudbury to North Bay on behalf of a private career college; is the host of a weekly radio show where he interviews business owners about education and career issues; publishes the Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine and web site; and has operated a personal tutoring agency for the past four years. Kirwan is running for the position of Trustee because he feels that the personal and professional experiences he has accumulated over the years will enable him to provide other trustees with insight into the true impact of their decisions and policies on students, parents, grandparents, and teachers. He is aware of the realities of education today, is an expert on education law and collective bargaining and feels that he will be able to make objective decisions as a trustee with the Rainbow Board. Among other things, he intends to increase support for local school councils, communicate on a regular basis with parents, provide more resources to classroom teachers, strengthen labour relations and return to the basic essentials of education in order to better meet the needs of students and the expectations of their parents. You can visit his web site at www.kirwan.ca for more information or contact him at 969-7215.

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Make sure you visit the Valley East Today Corporate Web Page for New Orleans Pizza by clicking the following link:
http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/newsmagazine/Corporate%20Profiles/new_orleans_pizza.htm

NEW ORLEANS PIZZA IS A FULL YEAR AHEAD OF THE MINISTRY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS



New Orleans Pizza has been providing lunches to schools and school groups for over 30 years and is proud to announce that it has altered its products to meet the new requirements set out by the ministry of education a full year before it will become mandatory. Some schools are making it mandatory now so this is something they might like to know.

New Orleans Pizza provides a school lunch menu where over 80% of its products are in the Sell More Category as outlined by the Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy. This is good news for teachers and principals who like to schedule weekly pizza lunches which comply with the requirements. New Orleans Pizza has a proud reputation for quality products and do not compromise when it comes to maintaining a high standard of nutrition. For more information you should contact Vicky Wydra at 523-8080.

Heatwave Tanning Salon Has Information For Parents About Safe Use of Tanning Beds



With four locations to serve you, Heatwave Tanning Salon has become the preferred tanning spa in the Greater Sudbury Area. Each month you will find special deals that will help you stretch your dollar as far as possible. Ron and Andrea are also pleased to provide you with all the information you need about how to tan responsibly, whether in their tanning beds or on the beach. You can also save money on lotions whenever you buy any tanning package.

During the month of September you can purchase a 15 tan package for the price of 10

Ron and Andrea also invite people to call them up to discuss the safety measures that have been incorporated into the Heatwave Tanning Salon policy. There is much

concern about the safe use of tanning beds and Ron and Andrea wish to assure all local residents that no one is more concerned about the safety of their clients than they are. Visit the web site for more information

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/Heatwave/> or call Ron or Andrea at 897-4006

Ron Pedneault of Fantastic Floors Has The Secret



Ron Pedneault opened Fantastic Floors in the fall of 2005 after gaining years of experience in the flooring and construction industry. He built his business by providing customers with the kind of personal service that demonstrated the pride he has in always doing his best. Today his business is thriving because local residents appreciate the efforts he puts in to satisfy their needs. This is a perfect time of year to stop by the Val Caron location of Fantastic Floors and speak to Ron about projects you have in mind for the summer cottage or your mobile homes. You will find some special "cash and carry" deals on carpets and flooring that will certainly suit your needs and your budget. Ron always has something on sale so stop by before you head out to camp this weekend. [CLICK HERE FOR THE](#)

[FANTASTIC FLOORS PROFILE>>>>](#)



VCCNET.ca Internet Solutions Offers Full Range of Internet and Communication Services for Home or Business

VCCNet.ca Internet Solutions is subsidiary of Valley Computers & Consulting Services and is a locally owned and operated business that has offered affordable, cost effective telephone, long distance, and internet

solutions since 2001. If you need any of these services for you home or office you should visit the web site at www.vccnet.ca to find out more about the services available and even get an indication of the low prices that are offered at this time. Give Edgar a call and he may be able to save you plenty of money while giving you the kind of service that you thought was no longer available.

www.afterthewhistle.com



Calling A Hockey Game Is Easy From The Stands..Or Is It?

The AFTER THE WHISTLE hockey site was created to help minor hockey fans appreciate the finer points of the game from the viewpoint of the officials. It deals with the “realities” faced by on-ice officials while they deal with the emotional and competitive forces that are all part and parcel of the sport. What follows is one simple example for you to consider.

Imagine that you are a hockey fan watching the play and try to make the call...

YOU MAKE THE CALL

It's late in the game between the White's and the Blues - two traditional rivals who always seem to be up for each other when they play. The winner of this game will advance to the next round of the playoffs. The loser will be eliminated.

It was Blue's home game, and since the White club was from a distant community, they had come with very few fans. On the other hand, the arena was packed with fans for the Blue team.

The game has been kind of a chippy affair, with a lot of penalties being called.

The White team has been playing with discipline and has avoided the retaliation penalties which have plagued the Blue club. It was one of those games where the Blue players were going out of their way to commit obvious penalties. The referee had no choice but to call penalties against the Blue players because of the type of infractions being committed. Yet, every time the referee was forced to call a penalty, the coach of the Blue team reacted in a way which just seemed to add fuel to the fans who joined in and expressed outrage at what they thought was a "biased" manner in which the referee was calling the game. The more penalties were called against the Blue players, the more they went out of their way to do things which would force the referee to call more penalties against them.

In this case, the Blue team was far more skilled than the White team and would likely have had no difficulty winning the game if they had stayed out of the penalty box.

With four power play goals already scored by the White team, they now held a two goal lead. It's early in the third period, and the referee is concerned about keeping a tight rein on the play. He doesn't want it to get out of hand, but he also realizes the importance of the contest. Another goal by the White team might put the game out of reach, but the referee couldn't be faulted for this situation - he was calling a great game. Up until now, the fans have been pretty vocal, obviously caught up in the emotions of the game. Every call made by the referee or linesmen that goes against the Blue team is greeted with a boisterous response from the crowd. This is one of those games that supervisors call "difficult".

The Blue's star player, Jamie, has just taken a pass and carries the puck into the White zone, being chased by Darcy. Jamie has no chance of getting to the net since the other White defenseman is in good position and the rest of the Blue team is behind the play, making a line change. Darcy, seeing that he was beat, places his stick half-heartedly up under the arm of Jamie, as shown in the photo. Jamie slows down and begins to lose control of the puck.



The people around you are all fans of the Blue team. As soon as they saw the "hook" and realized that Jamie was going to lose the puck, they immediately rose to their feet, demanding a penalty call. You saw the play exactly as shown in the photo.

YOU MAKE THE CALL...

From the view that you, the fan saw, it looked like Jamie was being hooked and from that view it looks like a no brainer. Therefore, of course a minor penalty should be called for 'Hooking' against Darcy. It is very obvious and *if* the Referee viewed the play from the same place you were seated maybe a penalty would be called. From a game management point of view, calling a hooking penalty against Darcy at this point in the game would probably help to alleviate the imbalance of penalties on the score sheet and quiet down the crowd.

However, as a referee you must remember that by creating a power play it is likely that the Blue team will score (as they are the stronger team) and this may change the entire momentum of the game in favor of the Blue team. The Blue team may end up tying the game afterwards with the momentum on their side and they even might win the game. But as a referee, we can't tell the future so we must call what we see. From the vantage point of the original photo you would call a hooking penalty against the white player and that would be it.

But Wait a minute!

The referee has blown the play dead and called penalties to both players!

He called a penalty against the Blue player, Jamie, for 'Holding the Stick' and against the white player, Darcy, for 'Hooking'.

You are stunned and can't believe your eyes. However, in the picture that you see to the right, you can see that even though Darcy did put his stick up under Jamie's arm, which he shouldn't have done, Darcy was not trying to hook Jamie, he was merely trying to get his stick back



from Jamie who was holding onto the stick in an attempt to draw a penalty and get his team on the power play.

Why would the Referee call a penalty on both players?

Perhaps the referee wanted to communicate to both teams that Darcy did place a little hook but Jamie was also guilty of holding Darcy's stick and therefore by assessing both players a penalty at this point in the game, both the coaches and the fans may realize what just happened and it will in essence keep the game "under control".

Furthermore, by assessing both players penalties, no team will receive a power play for something that normally might not have been called.

Other options for the referee would be to not even call a penalty, but then the fans and coaches (who had the vantage point of the original photo which showed what the view behind the play) would be upset because no hooking call was made.

He could have called a penalty on Blue for 'Holding the Stick' but this call would not be too popular with the locals and especially not the Blue team's coaching staff as they have already received the majority of the penalties in the game. Especially a non-impact penalty such as 'Holding The Stick' this late in the game. It likely would have resulted in the coach being ejected for over-reacting and the game would end in a terrible battle.

He could have called a penalty on White for 'Hooking' and no coaches or fans would be upset because from their vantage point it looked like an obvious hook. The only one in the whole arena who saw the holding the stick was the referee. However, the referee must call what he sees and not what he thinks the coaches or fans see, regardless of the possible reaction.

This example gives a good lesson about how a referee may see something completely different from what the fans or coaches see. It does not mean that anyone is wrong by making the call they thought should be made. It is just that the referee's vantage point is all that counts in the final decision and he only has a split-second to factor in all of the above scenarios.

Question: What is the most frustrating thing about being a referee?

Answer: There are many things that are frustrating about the position, but for the most part if you understand the nature of the game and try not to take things personally, you will get along well and maintain your composure. However, one of the most frustrating things about refereeing is that you have to put up with complaining and crying by players and coaches when you call penalties. They know they committed an infraction, but they will blame it on the other player hitting them first, or complain that you didn't call a penalty on the other player, etc. Sometimes you just want to hold up your hands to your ears and scream. Another thing that is frustrating for referees who call the game properly is that the players may be accustomed to a much more lenient style of officiating and be allowed to get away with a lot of stuff that you will not tolerate.

Question: When is a referee in a conflict of interest?

Answer: A referee who takes his role seriously may find himself in a situation where there is a "perception of conflict", but in reality, no referee is ever in a conflict of interest. The referee is assigned to do a job. It doesn't matter who the teams are and it doesn't matter who the players are. The referee is there to administer the rules. If a person commits an infraction, a penalty must be handed out. That being said, a referee-in-chief will usually try to keep referees away from situations in which the "perception of a conflict" may create problems for the official. For example, assigning a parent to referee a game in which his son is playing is something that we try to avoid. Usually it is not to the advantage of the son's team to have his father refereeing anyway. In order to make sure that no one can accuse him of favouritism, the father would likely be much harder on the son's team. If you find yourself assigned to a game in which there may be such a perception of a conflict, just remember that you are a professional with a very serious responsibility and carry out your assignment in the same manner as always.

INSIDE EDUCATION

News & Commentary On Important Issues In The World of Education & Learning



INSIDE EDUCATION is a special publication that is a supplement to The Greater Sudbury Learning Clinic which can be found at the web site at www.thelearningclinic.ca

The main purpose of INSIDE EDUCATION is to help parents, grandparents, teachers, school administrators, the general public and the members of the business sector better understand some of the major trends and issues in the world of education, training and career development today.

Many of the articles and commentaries that are contained in this publication will reflect what is happening locally, but we will also deal with larger political and policy matters that impact on the local education scene.

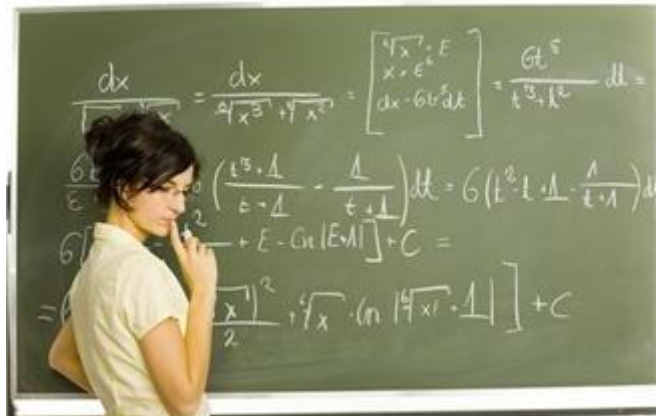
UNIVERSITY MATH PROFESSORS FINDING THAT STUDENTS KNOW “WHAT TO DO” BUT DO NOT KNOW “HOW TO DO IT”

It is said that you can always use statistics to support any argument. For example, people who have a vested interest in the Canadian public education system state that the country provides its students with one of the finest education programs in the world. They often cite the fact that Canadian students rank high when compared to other countries in the world. For example, the most recent scores for math assessment done for the Program for International Student Assessment show that Canada placed 5th out of 30 developed countries in a test that compared the skills of 15-year-old students.

University professors of math, however, state that the PISA assessment only tests “math literacy”, which is the ability of students to apply math knowledge in the real world. While this may seem like a good thing to be skilled at, university professors state that students who cannot perform the basics of math will have serious consequences with their education choices that are necessary to enter their chosen careers.

Many educators argue that in an age of calculators, people don't need basic skills to acquire higher level mathematical knowledge and that it's more valuable for students to spend their time learning larger concepts.

Hence, we tend to find students at the elementary and secondary school levels spending much more time developing problem-solving skills and less time on the fundamentals. This change seemed to have come about 20 years ago when there was a philosophical shift in math pedagogy which emphasized conceptual thinking instead of what may felt was rote memorization. Now, university professors in math, physics, chemistry and economics all state that they are concerned about the serious lack of basic skills in their students. One professor claimed that ten years ago his students were strong in technique and weaker at grasping concepts. Now, he says, “The students know what to do, they just don't know how to do it.”



The greatest concern is that many careers require students to take math courses at the post-secondary level. And those courses demand a certain standard of proficiency in computational skills in order for students to be able to grasp the concepts. In other words, you must know how to perform the tasks in order to grasp the concept. It will be interesting to see who wins this tug-of-war.

The Shift From Success To Significance By Baby Boomers Will Have A Huge Impact On Career Scene

I receive a number of online newsletters through email every week. One I always take time to read comes from a man named Michael Josephson who operates a web site called "Character Counts". He recently sent out a commentary about something that was written by Peter Drucker, a management consultant from the United States.



Drucker pointed out that as highly accomplished people get older, they often feel a need to measure their lives more in terms of the impact they have rather than by what they have. Let me repeat that last sentence. "As highly accomplished people get older, they often feel a need to measure their lives more in terms of the impact they have rather than by what they have."

Drucker calls this the shift from "success to significance" and explains that. "Success is achieving your goals; significance is having a lasting positive impact on the lives of others."

Drucker stated that for some, particularly those people who have accumulated enormous amounts of money and worldly possessions, "This desire to be significant is just another form of vanity or yearning to achieve a kind of immortality through good deeds long remembered. For others, it's simply a desire to live a worthy life."

"Whatever the reason, when people begin to think more deeply about significance, they tend to place greater emphasis on enjoying what they already have and enriching their lives through service to others," he went on. "The irony is that living a life focused on the pursuit of significance is much more personally gratifying than one devoted to climbing the ladder of success. As author Stephen Covey warns, it's no good climbing to the top of a ladder that's leaning against the wrong wall."

Many people, especially baby boomers, are approaching the age of retirement and they are asking themselves some very serious questions about life. In fact, in one recent survey, 80% of baby boomers indicated that they expect to continue working past the age of 65. Some are going to do so because they are afraid of running out of money now that they are living longer and the cost of living continues to rise, but many say that they do not want to spend the rest of their life laying around waiting to die. They are feeling the shift from success to significance and want to remain engaged in life. They want to do something meaningful with their life and many of them are finding that the skills they developed during their working years are very much in demand now.

I personally know an awful lot of people living in the City of Greater Sudbury who have achieved a huge amount of success during their lifetime. Many of these people are now reaching the age when they will feel the call to shift from "success to significance". The opportunities for these people to do positive things for the community will be tremendous during the next decade.

I see many examples of this shift from "success to significance" occurring every day. I see people who have worked

in a career their entire life and who are now volunteering for a number of service organizations and giving of their time and money to help others. I see successful business people going out of their way to help the less fortunate, demonstrating that it is important to give back to the community. I see struggling families who still have time to help out others who are struggling even more than they are. I see young and old alike volunteering to organize recreational activities that are affordable and yet still allow people to spend time with their family, friends and neighbours.

I also see many people who still want to work when they hit retirement age, but they don't want to be in the "rat race". They want flexibility and they want to work on their own terms. This means that they are available to work on a part-time basis and when needed, which suits many companies in the marketplace today that have are turning to "outsourcing" as a way of meeting their needs. It is not uncommon to see former company managers working on the floor in a hardware store helping younger customers find solutions to their problems. This low-stress employment keeps the older worker active and contributing in a meaningful way to the economy.

Many Universities Are Now Posting Their Courses Online For Free Public Access

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has instituted a new initiative called "OpenCourseWare" that virtually makes all of the school's courses available online for free. This includes lecture notes, readings, tests and often video lectures.



People from around the world are accessing this free material. For example, one linear algebra course has had 1.3 million lectures downloaded since in the first six months it was online.

MIT's initiative is the largest, but the trend is spreading. More than 100 universities worldwide, including Johns Hopkins, Tufts and Notre Dame, have joined MIT in a consortium of schools promoting their own open courseware. You no longer need a Princeton ID to hear the prominent guests who speak regularly on campus, just an Internet connection. In December, Yale announced it would make material from seven popular courses available online, with 30 more to follow.

The online courses and lectures are quickly becoming popular among students who are attending other universities around the world as a reference source. Some students are stating that they have trouble understanding the material as it is presented by their own professors, but now they can try to find online lectures that perhaps explain things in an easier to understand format.

Universities really have nothing to lose by putting their courses online. Students can benefit from the intellectual stimulation of the material, but unless they register with the university and comply with the course requirements, they do not receive any credits that can be added to their transcripts. Yet, the image and credibility of the top professors in the world can certainly be enhanced.

Indeed, many of the people who access the online material are themselves instructors who are seeking resources to assist in the presentation of their own courses.

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