

HAPPY SPRING!



Many people consider spring to be the New Year - flowers are blooming, there's freshness to the air, people seem more energetic, happy and open to change. The labour and real estate markets generally improve. And that's great news! In late 2008 the economy crashed and as a result the unemployment rate increased. In Guelph, the automotive industry was especially impacted. We're in a time of change and although difficult, it can be positive.

Written by: Monica Peirson-Durbin, 2nd Chance Employment Counsellor / Norfolk Office

Spring into Volunteerism

By Monica Peirson-Durbin (Norfolk Office)

At 2nd Chance we have assisted many people with their employment goals, from job search to retraining. We have celebrated with those approved for Second Career Strategies, an option for many unemployed to retrain and transition into a new career (www.ontario.ca/secondcareer). Accessing retraining and education while the economy is weak holds promising opportunities. It gives one a sense of spring; of renewal, change and growth.

At 2nd Chance, we encourage youth and adults to volunteer. It is a positive way to contribute to one's community and gain valuable skills to add to a resume and bring to a job. In keeping with spring, we think of Easter. Easter Seals is a well known organization that relies heavily on its volunteers to carry out services. "The introduction of the "Easter Seal" and its promotion during Easter is no accident. The connection to Easter is symbolic of new life and along with it, the rehabilitation of youngsters with disabilities. Easter Seals Ontario began in 1922 as a vision to create a better life for children and youth with physical disabilities." (Copyright© Easter Seals Ontario 1995-2009 Helping kids with physical disabilities succeed). Guelph's next Easter Seals event is the Annual Wellington Golf Tournament. It is being held on Monday, June 15th, 2009 at Springfield Golf and Country Club.

For volunteer information with Easter Seals contact:

Karen E. Blackwell
Senior Development Officer
Easter Seals Ontario
103-325 Max Becker Dr #133
Kitchener, ON N2E 4H5
Ph: (519) 342-1052 Fax: (519) 342-0956



Easter fact: The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back to Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life. (Happy-Easter.com, Produced and developed by Scotland On Line)

Easter funny (kind of?):

What did the bunny want to do when he grew up?
Join the Hare Force.

Facts about volunteerism in Guelph (from 2008):

1. There are more than 800 non-profit organizations in Guelph and Wellington County.
2. During the last week in September, there were 1,316 unfilled volunteer positions.
3. 11 per cent of total volunteers contribute 77 per cent of the total volunteer hours. (Source: The Volunteer Centre of Guelph-Wellington, Statistics Canada)

For more information about volunteering, please contact or visit:

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington at:
46 Cork Street East, Unit 1, Guelph, Ontario N1H 2W8
Tel: 519-822-0912
Toll free: 1-866-693-3318
Fax: 519-822-1389
email: info@volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca

From all of us at **2nd Chance**, we wish you a happy spring. May you feel recharged in what you do—*retraining, job search, work, school, volunteerism*—and experience a renewed sense of energy in your personal life.