





Bored With Your Day Job?

Think Beyond The Trap You're In - Learn New Skills

By Kathleen Davies

If you're fed up with your job, your boss, or your co-workers, and fancy a change, you're spoiled for choice ... should you be a flower arranger, a private investigator, work with seniors, or do hot stone massage in a swanky spa—or start your own? Perhaps you always wanted to act or be a defence lawyer or design a fashion line... Career options have mushroomed in the last few decades. With so many courses available online, upgrading is easier than ever.

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READY TO LAUNCH

You could be ready to launch in weeks (even days), depending on your choice, while the ink's still drying on your pay cheque. Instead of moaning and groaning about the low lights of your workday (we all do it!), aim for some high lights. Learn new skills. If you're ultra cautious, learn while you earn with part-time studies. Try a home business or freelancing to see if you like it. Volunteer and pick up new job skills with on-the-job training.

Not many stay with the same employer from 25 to 65. Even if you leap out of bed to go to work with a smile, the idea of one job forever may be daunting. It doesn't hurt to re-examine your day dreams now and again to see if it's time to turn them into reality. You'll know you gave yourself the chance to be what you wanted to be 'when you grew up.'

CHOCOLATE WHAT?

University and college courses show possibilities your parents probably never imagined. At *George Brown*, choose from Professional Chocolatier to Event & Meeting Management, plus hundreds more. *George Brown* offers 157 full-time programs and 1600 continuing education courses.

Humber College offers 150 full-time programs in 40 fields of study across eight academic schools and delivers approximately 200 part-time certificates and 325 online programs or courses. *Humber* reports nine out of 10 grads are employed within six months. Some 1400 continuing courses are available evenings, weekends, and online.

The Humber Business School has more than 25 programs in over a dozen fields and is a fashion hub-

- with courses in Cosmetic, Spa and Fashion Management. Choose from makeup for film, TV or theatre, skin and cosmetic science, or fashion promotion or Esthetics, and that's just a sampling. Their unique Public Administration Program is reportedly the only college program with a fast track to government.

EXPERTS IN EVERYTHING

Cocooning all winter because it's cold outside is not a valid excuse when you can study online. To find the expertise at your fingertips, check the central website maintained for a consortium of 22 Ontario Community Colleges from *George Brown* to *Sheridan*, *Centennial*, *Seneca*, and *Humber* (www.ontariolearn.com). For university classes and programs, Canadian Virtual University links to listings of Canadian public universities offering online and distance education (www.cvu-uvc.ca).

GROWTH AND FUN

The options for growth through education are endless. Shawn Campbell, a professional actor/director, also teaches at The School of Creative and Performing Arts at *Humber's* Lakeshore campus. Through his part-time course, Acting Through Scene Study, Shawn sees first hand that further education is not always about career development, although this may be the initial motivation. "Some students come just to do something different that sounds like fun, but find crafting scenes and working through character helps them with career and life goals in ways they didn't anticipate." Students attending the course may already be actors or interested in doing commercials. Some are involved in related creative fields. Whatever the purpose, an unlooked for benefit is the opportunity for self-exploration, which can be an enlightening experience, whether

your new found skills are useful in your job or on a stage. By taking the time to enjoy yourself, you often find you help yourself. Chasing your dreams doesn't need a major investment in time or education. Sometimes a new job or skill is closer than you think.

ACHIEVING GOALS

You don't have to write an essay, submit letters of recommendation, or take tough exams to get the ball rolling and your new career started, say the folks at Everest College. Helping students achieve their goals and complete their training is what Everest College is all about. "Prior to enrollment, most people do a career placement assessment," says Lisa Baggs, President of Everest College in Newmarket. "This assessment helps ensure that our students' aspirations and aptitudes are consistent so they ultimately get the most out of their education."

With locations throughout Ontario including the GTA, Brampton, Newmarket, Mississauga, and Barrie, Everest Colleges offer programs including Accounting & Computer Applications, Law Enforcement Foundations, Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technician, Personal Support Worker, and more

The emphasis in all courses, from Addictions & Community Service or Personal Support Worker to Law Enforcement Foundation (for private investigator and investigator training/security positions), is to achieve success in the job market and provide marketable skills.

Whether you pursue knowledge online or on location for your career or your own amusement, the opportunities to grow and achieve are infinite. Plan now if one of your new year's resolutions is Get New Job/Chase Dreams.