

GREATER SUDBURY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Future jobs plentiful for tweens, teens

BY HEATHER CAMPBELL
AND VICKI GILHULA
NORTHERN LIFE

Parents worried about their children preparing for a successful career path should stop trying to steer them, says an authority on demographics and how population trends impact on the economy.

David Foot, the author of *Boom, Bust and Echo 2000: Profiting from the Demographic Shift in the New Millennium*, told the Emerging Leaders conference that when children born in the late 80s and early 90s are ready to enter the workforce, there will be lots of job opportunities.

Workers who were born at the peak of the baby boom in the 60s - who are now 45 - will be ready to retire, and there will be lots of work available.

Tell children, "to do what they do best, let them do it to the best of their ability and give them support," said Foot.

He told the audience of about 200 Thursday at the Holiday Inn that, unlike their parents and grandparents, the next generation will not have a linear career path to the top of their profession or trade. Rather, they will have many jobs in entirely different fields.

The best way for employers to keep today's entry-level employees is to offer them opportunities to try a variety of

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MARG SEREGELY

Junk Art

Emily Tomisch of Myths and Mirrors is scraping a hubcap found in Junction Creek to make a birdbath on St. Catherine's St. Four sculptures will be created at sites that have been "adopted" by community groups, such as Myths and Mirrors, under the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee's Adopt-a-Creek program. Local artist Will Morin, who is leading the project, has found many interesting treasures in the creek to build the sculpture.

Share the love

Foster Family week runs Oct. 16-22

BY HEIDI ULRICHSEN
HEIDI@NORTHERNLIFE.CA

Back in 1986, Suzanne and Denis Benard opened their home for the first time to foster children. They already had three daughters, but wanted to provide love and support to kids in need of a stable home.

Over the years, they've taken care of over 30 foster children for the Sudbury-Manitoulin Children's Aid Society. Sometimes the kids just need a place to stay for a weekend or a few months while their family sorts out problems.

But in other cases, the Benards have become real parents to their foster children. They have been caring for 20-year-old Christina, who has special needs, since she was just three. They adopted the young woman several years ago.

Right now, the family is also caring for a teenager who has been with them for over 10 years, and two pre-schoolers who just arrived last month.

Suzanne and Denis want other families to consider becoming foster parents during Foster Family

Awareness Week, which takes place from Oct. 16-22. There's a shortage of foster families in this area, they say.

"There is a big need. They need different cultures, different backgrounds and people who can care for different age groups," says Suzanne.

Becoming foster parents was a natural decision for the couple, who both came from large families. Suzanne's aunt and uncle were also foster parents while she was growing up.

"They fostered for many, many

Group home director charged

BY KEITH LACEY

KLACEY@NORTHERNLIFE.CA

The executive director of a Sudbury group home now facing sexual assault allegations passed a government police check before being hired to work with children.

Roger Hawkins, 53, was charged earlier this week with one count of sexual assault and sexual exploitation following a complaint received last month. Greater Sudbury Police laid further charges of one count of gross indecency and one count of indecent assault on a male, dating back to the early 1970s.

Sgt. Bob Keetch of the Greater Sudbury Police Service said the police investigation started following the September complaint, which resulted in other complainants coming forward with allegations of improper conduct by Hawkins.

Hawkins was the executive director of Inner Sight Educational Homes, which operates two group homes located on Bloor St. The agency also operated Grace House, a group home that opened in Gatchell last year.

Keetch would not comment if the recent allegations involve a young person under Hawkins' care at a group home.

The Ministry of Child and Youth Services conducts a police check of every employee hired to work in a ministry-approved group home, said ministry spokesperson Anne Machowski.

"Protecting youth in care is a priority and this ministry is doing every-

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years. Once in a while, we'd go over there. The foster kids were our friends. For me, it was like 'One day, I'm going to do this.' And I did," she says.

The Benards' foster children sometimes have a hard time trusting them at first because they've been through so many homes, they say.

Some foster kids move around quite a bit because they go back to their birth families and it doesn't work out, or they just don't click

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