

Charlottetown Rural Career Day highlights many careers on PEI

Recently, about 85 professionals gathered at Charlottetown Rural High School to share their employment experiences with students. On pages 10, 11 & 12 are stories of people who described their own employment journey and what they do on the job.

A career in Medical Laboratory Technology

by Heidi Riley

When a specimen is collected at a doctor's office or hospital, it is sent to a laboratory to be analyzed by Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs). About two million lab tests are done every year at the QEH.

"Across Canada, approximately 40 percent of MLTs will be eligible to retire over the next 10 years," says **Greg Dobbin**. "The shortage is already critical, and PEI has to recruit graduates from other provinces. Employment opportunities are good for new graduates here and across Canada."

About 85 MLTs and Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) work at the QEH. MLTs and MLAs are also employed in hospitals in Summerside, Souris, Montague, and O'Leary. They cover shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "About 85 percent of PEI's MLTs and MLAs are female, which can mean improved opportunities to cover maternity leaves," says Greg.

MLTs work in labs in hospitals, in biotechnology and pharmaceutical research, veterinary medicine, government agencies, the military, public health, and quality control in industry.

MLAs work under the supervision of an MLT. They work in a hospital, where they take blood, process specimens, and deliver them to the labs.

In smaller hospitals, MLTs cover a wide variety of areas.

MLTs typically take a three-year community college program. UNB offers a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science degree option that bridges with the diploma program at NBCC. The degree students are guaranteed their seat in the program. All MLTs must also write a national exam on completion of their MLT program.

"Education programs can be very competitive to get into," says Greg. "Apply as early as possible."

For more information, visit the **PEI Society for Medical Laboratory Science** at www.peismls.com



In a large hospital, they can specialize in the following disciplines:

Hematology: taking blood and analyzing blood cells to look for diseases.

Biochemistry: analyzing the serum component of blood.

Microbiology: analyzing specimens such to look for bacteria or fungi that cause infection.

Molecular biology: detecting viruses.

Transfusion medicine: testing blood to match blood donors to recipients for blood transfusion.

Histology: receiving surgical biopsies and processing the tissues.

Cytology: preparing and examining preparations of cellular material such as tumors.

Wages

On PEI, the starting wage for MLTs is about \$28/hr. MLAs start at about \$22/hr.

Education

MLAs take a one-year diploma program at a community college such as Oulton College in Moncton or NSCC in Halifax.



Greg Dobbin, MLT, QEH.

Many directions you can go as a medical doctor

by Stacy Dunn

Dr. Pamela Hudson is a Medical Doctor Resident currently working at Prince County Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

She earned a Bachelor of Science at Mount Allison University and a Masters in Health Promotion at Dalhousie University before going to medical school for four years at Memorial University in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Dr. Hudson is doing her residency training through Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine.

"After my undergraduate degree, I wrote the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The test takes seven to eight hours to write."

Dr. Hudson says medical schools accept people with a liberal arts degree, music degree, or other non-science undergraduate degree.

Some schools look at extracurricular activities as much as marks from previous education. "Also, I have seen people in their 40s attend medical school."

Many areas of specialization

She is working towards a career in family medicine. Other medical specializations include, but are not limited to:

- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Neurology
- Cardiology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Oncology

"Family medicine is a two-year residency," she says. "Other residencies take up to eight years."

"I chose family medicine because I like the idea of following a patient from the time they are born through adulthood. Within family medicine, there are further areas to specialize in. I am planning to focus on addictions medicine."

Other examples of family medicine specialization:

- Emergency
- Medical Research
- Palliative Care
- Hospital Medicine
- Geriatrics
- Sports Medicine

Day in the life

Her work day starts at a hospital at 7:30 am visiting patients. "By mid morning, I am back at the clinic seeing patients and doing paper work. My work week ranges from 40 to 80 hours."

"Once I become a Medical Doctor, I am required to complete a set number of hours of continuing education every two months with online learning, attending conferences, or doing presentations."



Dr. Pamela Hudson, Medical Doctor Resident.

Memorial University Faculty of Medicine: visit www.med.mun.ca

Dalhousie University Faculty to Medicine: visit www.medicine.dal.ca

For more information on the MCAT, go to the Association of American Medical Colleges website www.aamc.org and search MCAT.



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Correctional Officer is among the many career choices in the justice system

by Gloria Welton

Kim Kempton's career in the justice system began years ago. After high school, she took a gap year. "I did not know what I wanted to do as a career, and I needed time to work it out."

She worked as a waitress for a year, and then went to a small college in Vermont, USA, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management. "The four-year degree in HR management was a springboard to great careers," says Kim.

Right after she graduated, she obtained a position with the PEI government. After working in a group home, she went on to become manager of a group home. Then she worked in child and family services as a resource worker with adolescents in care.

"In 1999, a one-year opportunity came up at the Correctional Centre. I thought I would not want to stay more than a year, but I never left. My past experience was a great asset for me. Looking back, I had a great career."

Education needed

"Applicants must have graduated from a correctional program or have a university degree. People with degrees can be trained in security measures if they have a good background in handling crisis-oriented circumstances."

Provincial custody programs and community programs on PEI

- Provincial Correctional Centre in Charlottetown
- Prince County Correctional Centre in Summerside
- PEI Youth Centre in Summerside

Career opportunities

- Youth Worker
- Administration
- Management and Supervisory positions
- Human Resources
- Clerical
- Nursing
- Psychologist
- Victim Services Management

"It is a challenging yet rewarding career choice, but it is very important to do your research and know what you are getting into," says Kim.



Kim Kempton was Warden/Manager of the Provincial Correctional Centre for seven years and is now retired.

For more about the Holland College program, visit www.hollandcollege.ca

A career in Conservation Enforcement

by Heidi Riley

The province's natural resources according to provincial and federal legislation.

and environmental enforcement. Conservation enforcement agency for the Confederation Trail.

The role has expanded greatly since the section moved to the Department of Justice and Public Safety in 2011. that affect public safety and off-highway vehicle rules to keep riders safe and protect valuable agricultural

policing partners like the RCMP, local police, Fisheries and Oceans, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Parks Canada. This provides each agency with additional resources when working on matters of public safety or resource protection.

and undergo constant updating of their skills and Academy Conservation Enforcement program.

Trevor MacKinnon and Patrick Desroches work in Conservation Enforcement.

of a day, we respond to public reports and complaints, monitor and investigate environmental issues, wildlife poaching, off-highway vehicle and says Trevor.

to educate and inform, but also lay charges when required to send a message in the case of repeat offenders. They are trained to keep excellent notes and must have good observation skills.

Their employment journey

"When I was in grade 11, I went for a one-day drive-when I realized I wanted to do the job. I worked for 19 years as a Wildlife Technician. I had the training, I kept taking courses, and let people know I wanted a job a job in Conservation Enforcement."

Patrick is from Summerside, and attended the College of Maritime Forest Technology and became a Forest Technologist. Then he took the Conservation Enforcement training at the Atlantic Police Academy.

"It is tough to get into this position, because there is some experience in other positions such as a summer job at Parks Canada. You have to pay your dues and work your way up. You have to take what you can get, work hard at it, and keep going back."

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Plumbing/pipefitting

by Gloria Welton

Pipefitting is new to the plumbing program and will start in the 2018/2019 school year. Students will learn to lay out, assemble, fabricate, maintain and repair piping systems that carry water, steam, chemicals, or fuel used in heating, cooling, lubricating and other processes.

Logan White and **Justin Ferguson** graduated from Charlottetown Rural High school last year and are now taking the Plumbing/Pipefitting program at Holland College Georgetown Centre.

Both students plan to work out west after they graduate this year. Justin hopes to return to work and live on PEI. They plan to register with the Apprenticeship program on PEI to start the process of obtaining their Red Seal.

Logan loves the plumbing program and says his marks are now much higher than they were in high school. Justin says while he was in high school he knew university was not for him and considered himself a hands-on trades person.

"In my on-the-job-training, I did many tasks that were new to me, and I learned so much," says Logan. "The course is phenomenal and the staff are great."

"All students in the program received offers for work both on PEI and off Island," says **Mark McQuaid**. "Plumbers are definitely in demand."

Mark took the Holland College program and worked on the Island with a local plumbing company. During the summer, he continues to do plumbing work to stay active and up-to-date.

Mark says wages on PEI can range from \$14 to \$20 per hour, depending on the size of the company. "Some companies also offer a benefit package."

About the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant

A \$1,000 federal grant is available to registered apprentices when they complete Level 1, and another \$1,000 grant when they complete Level 2.

A \$2,000 federal grant is available to apprentices who complete their apprenticeship and pass the Red Seal exam.



From left, Mark McQuaid, Learning Manager, Holland College Plumbing/pipefitting program, Logan White and Justin Ferguson, Students.

For more information, visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/workforce-and-advanced-learning/apprenticeship-program

For more information about the Holland College Plumbing/pipefitting program, visit www.hollandcollege.com/programs/steamfitting-pipefitting/



Machinist: A trade in demand

by Stella Shepard

Sue LeFort is a Business Development Officer, Aerospace, Defence & Marine, with Innovation PEI. She is also a Red Seal Machinist.

After completing high school, she got into a program called Katimavik, which offers opportunities for young adults to gain life skills and work experience through volunteering.

"After a year of travelling across Canada with the program, I still had not chosen a career," says Sue.

"I went for career counselling and did aptitude testing, where I scored very high for working in the trades. Welding seemed interesting, so I took the nine-month night program. I had an opportunity to branch out into the machinist trade. That is where I got my start. I was hired a week before I finished the program.

"I worked as a machinist for the same company for 25 years. I started out on the shop floor, and eventually moved to all areas of the shop, including tool room, inspection, CNC operator, setter, and some programming.

"I went to night school to upgrade my high school math skills, and eventually became a lead programmer at the shop. We worked on projects requiring a high degree of skill, for example aircraft engine parts and components for the international space station. To be a machinist, you need good critical thinking skills, math skills, and manual dexterity."

Sue went on to a position as manager of the provincial Apprenticeship program. "It was a great opportunity to align my technical and industry background to support the growth of skilled local trade and technology on PEI.

"I worked with groups targeting under-represented people and encouraged training and trade certification as a viable career opportunity."

In her present job, she works with employers in the Aerospace, Defence and Marine industry, which employs machinists.

"In this trade, there is an opportunity to go from the shop floor all the way to senior management. Take a tour of the local precision machinist program, talk with the instructor, and check out machine shops to see if this career path may be a good fit for you.

"It's a trade that will continue to grow. Holland College says that well over 90 percent of Holland College precision machinist students are hired as soon as they graduate.

"I have been told the starting wage for a machinist graduating from the nine-month program is between \$2 and \$5 an hour above minimum wage. Also, there are monetary incentives through the Federal government to support people to attain a Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement."



Sue LeFort, Business Development Officer, Aerospace, Defence and Marine.

For more information about the Precision Machinist program, visit www.hollandcollege.com/programs/precision-machinist



Video Production:

Becoming an independent digital video producer

by Stella Shepard

Darin Foulkes is an independent film producer who started an Island-based company called Foulkes Productions, which produces digital video projects for individuals, companies, organizations, and government.

"I graduated from Souris High School in 1987," says Darin. "I studied broadcasting, which was not available on PEI, at Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology. I had the opportunity to work at a summer job with CBC for eight weeks, which turned into eight years. That is where I built my camera and editing skills.

"Because of cutbacks at CBC, I thought about starting a business. I enrolled in a one-year interactive multi-media program at Holland College before starting my own business in 2006.

"I've been an entrepreneur in video production for 12 years. I have built a good base of clients, mainly in the private sector. One day I can be filming an instructional video on the newest way to plant potatoes or doing an on-the-job safety film. Then I could be filming the Prime Minister of Canada for the National news. My job is exciting and different every day.

"As an entrepreneur with a small sole-proprietorship, you should be prepared to expect your income to vary greatly from year to year," says Darin. "I've had some years with \$70,000 to \$80,000 in projects, and some others that were not quite so good."

A peek at some of the Foulkes Productions credit roll:

Events:

- Junior Achievement PEI Business Hall of Fame
- Red Cross Power of Humanity Awards
- Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce President's Excellence Awards

Online:

- Collège d'Île
- PEI Association of Exhibitions
- Culture PEI
- Vogue Optical

Broadcast:

- Global National News
- Canadian Public Affairs Channel
- TVA Sports
- Eagles Glenn Golf television commercial



Darin Foulkes, Independent Film Producer.

For more information about Foulkes Productions, contact **Darin Foulkes** at 902-368-4336, darin@foulkesproductions.com Visit www.foulkesproductions.com



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