



## Reminder

New Leaf Resumes changed its primary email address some time ago. Please amend your contact list by replacing the old

[stephaniec@newleafresumes](mailto:stephaniec@newleafresumes)

with the new

[newleafresumes@gmail.com](mailto:newleafresumes@gmail.com).

The gmail account never drops emails, has user friendly features and is ultra-reliable. Thank you for that!

\*\*\*Please note that the old email (stephaniec) is no longer available to me. Up until about a week ago I had been able to access it, but no more!

## This Month's Issue

is a rambling musing on career management, a topic about which I am passionate. After all, how we spend so many hours each week, week after week, year after year, will undoubtedly affect the quality of our lives. If you hate your job, unhappiness, dissatisfaction, moodiness, curmudgeonness (is that a

ISSUE 27 MANAGE YOUR CAREER

## Career Management - Random Musings

Entering my 5th year of business, I know that far too few people take the concept of "career management" seriously. Too many have relinquished their power, absconded from the responsibility, plain old given up or never even considered that they could manage their career.

And yet, they spend eight hours a day working at a job that numbs their brain, toeing the line for a boss who shirks his own responsibility, working in an environment that stifles the very essence of their being.

Some will claim that they must keep the job, as a paycheque is necessary. I won't argue with that. Some will claim that there's really nothing else they can do, as they a) don't have the education, b) don't know what else they'd like to do, c) wouldn't know where to start, d) are too old to make a change, e) aren't the right size, age, colour, gender, or fill in another arbitrary criteria.

All those may be true, but are they insurmountable? Not at all. It simply takes a plan.

(This issue was inspired by a repeat client, one who had been seeking to make a career transition for a few years now, unsuccessfully. After chatting about his experiences it became evident that he wasn't strategizing or planning for a change, and I realized that this is likely pervasive rather than isolated.)

## Secret Ambitions

For many years I had a secret ambition: to write.

It took me until I was 45, though, to find a way to begin to create that reality. It took returning to school (through OntarioLearn.com), hitting the books (usually on Sunday mornings while everyone else slept in), moving out of my comfort zone (by telling everyone who would listen what I was transitioning into, searching for that helping hand, mentor or cheerleader), and it took a cut in pay while I rebuilt my career.

What is your secret ambition? Is there a role that you've long held silent and still in the recesses of your mind, afraid to give it light in case, "poof"! it vanishes? Nonsense! Give it a voice, illuminate it and empower its existence. You must try to triumph. (I recently read a great quote: The only difference between "try" and "triumph" is a little "umph." Ain't it the truth!?)

word!?) will spill over into your private life. That cannot be good. Your work is vital to your well-being.

## As Always

I welcome questions, shared observations and opinions, and your suggestions for future newsletter topics. New Leaf Resumes is here to enhance your career management strategies. Call me toll free at 855-550-5627 or 855-550-5627, or email at [newleafresumes@gmail.com](mailto:newleafresumes@gmail.com). I'd love to hear from you!

## Why the Lack of Focus on Career Management?

I have been writing a weekly article for Waterloo Region Record for over a year now. The *Careers Weekly* feature runs on Fridays, and you'll find it in the Classified section. I will be honest and share that I wish they would print it in Saturday's edition (and have gently inquired as to the possibility!), as more job hunters would benefit from the information that I share-- which I do with generosity of spirit, hoping to inspire career management!

There are weekend articles in the printed news for house hunters and gardeners, but job hunters, who must easily outnumber home owners and gardeners, are neglected. Admittedly I am stumped as to the "why's."

## You Get What You Pay For

I get a fair number of service inquiries, and I'd say that 90% of the callers begin with "How much do you charge for a resume?"

If you are a skier, do you purchase the cheapest skis? If you bowl, do you want the bargain basement ball? Do you purchase the cheapest makeup, cologne, aftershave? Do you stop at a no-name greasy spoon to buy your morning coffee or pop into a quality coffee shop?

I think you get the message.

Why would a job hunter not value his or her career enough to invest in its evolution? After five years in business and over 500 clients I know this to be true: too few people realize the power of the written word as it applies to a resume and cover letter! A dismal set of documents inspires no confidence in your abilities and leads to few interviews, likely for sub-par positions. A well written, strategic set of documents inspires the reader to call you for an interview, for that step up the career ladder position, or a lateral step to a well-run company that appreciates quality work.

It is true: I am on a mission to guide people to actually manage their careers with effective resumes and cover letters, and influential and strong interviewing skills. No, I don't promise that you'll always get exactly what you want, but I do know that you won't get anywhere without making an effort. Change, improvement, advancement takes time, energy, work - but it is so worth it! Loving your work is truly like not having to work.

What's holding your career back? Write to me and share your barriers. I'll tackle them in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of New Leaf Resumes. It continues to be my pleasure to serve your career-related writing and coaching needs! All the best to all my readers - Stephanie

