

Variety Village Sport, Training and Fitness Center



Variety Village started providing cooperative education experiences in 1983 in a partnership with Birchmount Park Collegiate, located next door for 7 students. Since then they have grown exponentially to the current status of 40-60 students from high school, college, university and from international programs.

High school co-op's may work in the field house, pool, outreach programs, maintenance, marketing, administrative areas.

Archie Allison, Director, Access and Awareness is in charge of all the co-op students at Variety Village. He is an amazing mentor, ensuring that the students are the right fit for the placement, and get the best possible experience.

"Give to the world the best you can and the best will come back to you."



This quote exemplifies the philosophy at Variety Village. The students are provided with rich experiences, great mentors, fantastic opportunities and learning every single day. In return for an amazing and unique experience the students often apply to Variety Village for full or part-time jobs on completion of their co-op experiences. Of course Variety Village is the winner in having these former students who they have trained, continue to work for them.

The students who leave to other places of employment take the philosophies learned at Variety Village and teach others what they have learned. This of course reflects well on Variety Village in the community at large.

Janu Macdonald, current employee and former co-op student said, "When I walked into Variety Village for the first time, I knew right away that I had entered a special place. It was fall 2007, and I was completing an extra year of high school in hopes of figuring out what educational path I should follow, or as most students worry, making the "right" post-secondary program choice.

The next four months proved to be the most challenging and rewarding experience of my high school life. Upon my completion of my coop placement at Variety Village, I was hired and had an amazing summer job experience. After the summer I was hired to work at Variety Village throughout the year as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Four years has passed since I entered Variety Village as a cooperative placement student. I graduated with my college diploma in June of 2010 and I continue to work part-time at the Village. I am a strong believer of practical learning opportunities, and I am forever indebted to the cooperative education placement system.

Variety Village was the best platform step outside my comfort zone, and it is with their ongoing support, love and sense of community that I continue to look forward to each new day.