

PROCESSORS NEEDED

The following story was run in last year's SUN to make students aware of one more possibility in their hunt for summer jobs. With the same purpose in mind the article has been updated for consideration now.

by: Kevin Gauthier
Georgetown Seafoods Ltd.
is offering summer employ-
ment for students at UPEI
who are interested in
working on a process for
packing lobsters. Wages
for the 120 positions
available begin at \$4.15
per hour, with an increase

the popular misconceptions
that surround such an
operation. A tour of the
plant gave us the opportunity
to inspect working condi-
tions, to talk to employees
regarding their experiences
at the plant, and to learn
a bit more about the process
of cleaning and packing



after 30 days. Time and
one-half and double time
are paid for overtime
work.

The image of a seafood
processing plant that most
people have is usually not
pleasant one. The popular
impression is one of a dark,
dingy, barn-like factory,
that smells to high heaven
and is covered with the re-
mains of former fish who
were unlucky enough to
have found their way to
the processing line. Be-
cause of this, the pro-
cessing plant at Georgetown
has had a difficult time
in the past attracting
students for summer employ-
ment. Most students do
not relish the thought of
standing knee-deep in fish
suits, with a fresh supply
always ready to be dumped
on one's feet. This, of
course, is understandable
unless one is inclined to
feel at home in such a
situation, but this image
of a seafood processing
plant is very, very wrong.
In an effort to eliminate
these misconceptions, last
year, the management of
Georgetown Seafoods
invited officials of
Canada Manpower and the
UPEI Student Union to
visit the plant and inspect
the working conditions first-

hand. What we discovered in
Georgetown was very differ-
ent from what we expected.
Georgetown Seafoods oper-
ates a clean, well lit,
modern processing factory
that conforms to none of

fresh fish (which doesn't
really enter into this
article, but was nice to
learn just the same).

The production line itself,
which is only one part of
the processing plant, is
located in a large,
brightly lit and well
ventilated building. The
line is much like any
other production line, with
a conveyor moving the
product to each station
in the process. The
machinery located in the
work area makes a fair
amount of noise, but not
so loud that it makes
conversation difficult.
The modern plant, although
it does retain the smell
of fish to a moderate
degree and is inclined
to be somewhat warm during
the summer, is very clean
and bright, filled with
good helpful people, and
is generally not a bad
place to work.

For ten weeks during the
summer, Georgetown Seafoods
will be employing 120
casual workers (8 hours/day)
to staff a new processing
line for packing lobsters.
There will be no cleaning,
shelling, or gutting in-
volved. All the processing
involves is placing a
whole cooked lobster or
codfish in a plastic
pouch, filling the pouch
with salt water brine,
and hanging the package
on a rack to be sealed.
For \$4.15/hour the work
is not very difficult, and
this certainly is one of the
better paying jobs available

SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS

to students. Overtime is
readily available for anyone
who wants to get rich quick,
and the pay scale is time
and one-half for Saturdays
and double overtime for
Sundays. The ten week
work period covers May and
June and this will leave
the last part of the summer
open for rest and relaxation.
Students who choose to stay
on for the last month at
Georgetown after the ten
week period may be moved to
the fish processing line
until the end of the
summer. If enough employees
desire it, a daily bus
service will be provided for
the trip to and from
Charlottetown at a fee not
yet decided upon.

It really is unfortunate
that so many people have
the wrong idea of what
Georgetown Seafoods is,
because there is good
money to be made for work
that is not exactly over-
tiring. Of course, work
on a production line is not
suitable for everyone, but
if one is used to such work
or is willing to try it,
Georgetown Seafoods is
willing to give you a chance.
The company is trying to
employ as many students as
possible this summer, and if
you are interested, applications
are available at the Canada
Manpower Center on campus,
located on the first floor of
Main Building.

All employees work within
speaking distance of
somebody else, so friends
are easily made and jokes
easily traded on the work
floor. There is a good
deal of water used in the
processing of the fish, and
a lot of it finds its way
onto the floor (which has
very adequate drainage) so
most employees invest in a
pair of rubber boots to
keep dry (and in an upright
position).

The plant also contains
a clean, bright cafeteria
where workers can spend
their coffee breaks (15
minutes twice per shift)
and buy some hot lunch.
The cafeteria is operated
by the Victors, a father
and son team (the son owns
the caf., Dad is semi-
retired) who have a rep-
utation for serving up a
fine, hot meal for a
very reasonable price.
In addition to the
cafeteria, the plant
houses lockers and showers
where workers can refresh
themselves after a day's
work.

All in all, the seafood
processing plant at
Georgetown is a modern,
efficient plant, similar
to many other factories
and plants who try to make
conditions reasonably
pleasant for employees.



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