

- News and Updates
- Comings and Goings
- Community Happenings
- Media Highlights
- Home

Did you miss these Spotlight profiles?

We love featuring employees and teams In the Spotlight. Don't be shy; email staffnews@georgiancollege.ca.

Mikaela Lefaive, Communications Specialist, Marketing and Communications



Feedback

Who are you... in a few sentences? I'm a Franco-Ontarian from Perkinsfield— just outside of Midland. I speak Franglais fluently, occasionally sport a Métis sash and have an unshakeable love for fiddle music. I'm also a socially conscious (and eco-aware) writer, amateur musician, social media addict and vegetarian.

What have you been up to this summer? My partner and I own a large, rickety old Victorian home in Elmvalle. We enjoy birding in Tiny Marsh and lunches at Pieces of Olde. We also like to visit and entertain friends. When we're not doing those things, we're slowly chipping away at renovations.

What do you love most about your communications job at Georgian? My favourite part of working in communications is storytelling. People love stories and they help bring our corporate identity to life. Capturing an event or person's flavour is hard – but valuable work. I also love collaborating with people in other departments.

How do you typically start your work day? I think good communications starts with a strong understanding of audiences, issues and context. So (after picking up my daily cup of tea), I start by scanning media alerts, news feeds, online newspapers, e-newsletters and Twitter for updates related to my field and our sector.

Feedback

As a writer, do you have any advice for those who struggle with the craft? When I write for work, I often imagine I'm writing for my 80-year-old Portuguese grandmother. She knows nothing about Georgian College and her grasp of English is minimal. I keep it simple, informative and interesting. When I write for myself, I start by sketching out the narrative from start to finish. Once the words are drafted, I speak them out loud – my favourite pieces flow like conversation.

On Friday night, where are you likely to be found? I just moved back to Simcoe County after living and working in Toronto for a decade, so Fridays often feature me crawling down the 400 toward a concert, restaurant or friend's apartment in the city. When I'm lucky enough to spend a Friday night at home, I love curling up on the couch and watching black and white movies.

Are there any causes close to your heart? Before coming to Georgian, I worked at Kids Help Phone and United Way Toronto – both causes are dear to me. But coming from a family of musicians, most of my energy is currently spent supporting our local arts community (I volunteer as a member of the Festival du Loup and help promote the Midland Cultural Centre). I also believe in earth-friendly, healthy food and do my best to support local farmers.

Learn more about Mikaela. Visit her blog at www.hellofield.com.

Centre for Career and Employment Services team (Orangeville)

The Centre for Career and Employment Services (CCES) provides residents of Dufferin County with the services and resources required to find employment, make a pursue re-training. Staffed by a dynamic group of experts, the team helps residents look for work, supports employers looking for workers and assists the community by having a strong presence on various committees.

Feedback

CCES has been active in Dufferin County for the last 15 years. The team has grown from two to 16 staff members, expanding to see more than 800 new visitors each year and individually supporting more than 500 people.



Feedback

Team members, many pictured: Brenda Burman, Anne Coulter, Stacey MacNeil, Bill MacKay, Valerie Loucks, Sylvia Lauterbach, Rebecca Black-Scott, Julie Moore, Mark Praakel, Wendy Abbott, Gerry Holden, Pat Thacker, Danielle DeGroot, Connie Baxter, Farida Luhar and Sean Elliott.

What the team is currently working on: a social enterprise café, a labour market partnership that will help determine needs and requirements for Dufferin County, expanding services to support the Shelburne community, and organizing a conference in October for more than 70 college employment centre staff from across southwestern Ontario

What motivates the team: great direction and leadership, the ability to make a positive difference, contributing to the community, the diversity and flexibility of their work, supportive colleagues

What you may not know about the team: they consume an enormous amount of treats – for everyone's birthday there is usually a cake involved and Treat Tuesdays has become a tradition; out of the 16 staff members, 14 live in Dufferin County; they are a very active bunch, physically and as volunteers within the community; the team is very close –

supporting each other professionally and through life challenges; most team members have been at Georgian for seven years or more

What team members tend to do for fun: hike, garden, make baby blankets, spend time at the beach, enjoy time with family and friends (and pets!), extensive volunteer work, play music, mountain bike and sail, tennis

Posted Sept. 3, 2014

Feedback