

JOB MARKET

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

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Diver likes the challenges of the job

In 1772, Parisian Sieur Fréminet designed and developed his hydrostatergatique.

It was the world's first "diving dress."

His compressed air reservoir was an autonomous breathing machine that consisted of a helmet, a hose for inhaling, a hose for exhaling, and this apparatus was dragged behind the diver. His invention worked well, and he dove with it for more than a decade. Of course Fréminet's early prototype has been consistently improved upon, as popularity in diving continues, both recreational and commercial.

Moncton's Dave Lewis of Ship to Shore Diving & Engineering Ltd., a trained scuba diver, has been diving since 1988. The divers who work for him at Ship to Shore are trained commercial divers. He explains the difference.

"Mine is more of a recreational type of training, but I use that to do inspection work. Commercial divers are trained to do any type of construction work underwater that you can do above water — everything from concrete placement to welding, cutting steel underwater, drilling holes ... The difference with them (from scuba diving) is that they are supplied with their air from the surface — an 'umbilical' comes down to the guy who's working on the bottom. I'm in contact with him, two-way communication from our dive trailer on the surface. He (diver) wears a helmet cam so I can see what they're doing on the bottom. It's a much safer mode of diving because you have an endless supply of air and you have communication with the surface. Everybody knows where you are, and you're physically attached to the surface."

Commercial divers are trained at Holland College in a 10-month course (two of the instructors used to work for Dave). It's also taught at Seneca College in Toronto and according to Dave, "Canadian schools have a very good international reputation for quality commercial divers."

Dave began working for Marine Atlantic as an engineer. That company had an in-house diving unit that inspected all of their ships and docks in Atlantic Canada. He took over management of that unit in 1988 and continued until completion of the Confederation Bridge project, and then opted to start Ship to Shore.

He enjoys the challenges faced with each new job, and no two are ever the same. Divers have the environment to deal with — tides, currents and weather. Harsh environments take a toll on equipment, and there's a lot of equipment necessary "to support life underwater."

There are "constantly" breakdowns and when you're working in remote locations things can certainly get "interesting."

Still, there's nothing like being out from behind a desk and into the great outdoors. Dave and his divers travel throughout Atlantic Canada, routinely experience the beauty of sunrises and sunsets that can't help but inspire a spiritual appreciation of nature. There's also the "adrenaline rush" of working



Dive tenders Jason Redding, left, and Don Richards, right, assist commercial diver Julian Taylor of Ship to Shore Diving & Engineering Ltd. with preparations for diving operations to install corrosion protection anodes on a dock in Grand Manan.



What I do

LINDA HERSEY

on ferries or ships that have run aground or suffered mechanical problems, and divers must determine the problem. They're also called upon to do inspections of the Confederation Bridge when underwater computer systems "flag the management people" following a hurricane or similar incident.

It goes without saying that close calls would be part of the job and while Dave has not experienced anything like that personally, he certainly recalls the day that two of his divers were inspecting the two submarine power cables running from New Brunswick to P.E.I., looking for exposed portions. They dive in teams of two, with one diver walking along the bottom with the second diver following.

On this occasion visibility was poor, and an approximately 12-pound lobster got his crusher claw

on the hose that runs from the tank to the regulator of one of the divers and pinched it off. The diver couldn't breathe, and they were down 80 feet.

"We were up in the chase boat and saw some equipment starting to float up to surface. We were saying 'oh, this isn't good.' Anyway, the two guys buddy-breathed and just held onto each other, surfaced, and eventually the lobster fell off and it turned out to be a happy ending — but it was a neat story to tell."

Not surprisingly, the most challenging aspect of all for Dave Lewis is the administrative side of running his business — especially dealing with accounts receivable.

Also, it's not surprising that the uninitiated think that diving is just like what we see on TV. It isn't. Most of their work is done with very minimal visibility, where they can only see about a foot in front of them — despite the fact that they're wearing a video camera and a helmet light.

Most things are done by feel. "(For example) the diver basically has to put his hand on a weld seam and just follow that weld seam as his compass so that he knows what direction he's going in. If he loses that position and he's under a ship in the dark, it can be very discomfoting. Jobs like that," he says, "are not the public's perception of commercial diving."

For job interviews, bring notes — and manners

Dear Mr. Walberg: Is it acceptable to bring copies of a letter of recommendation from a job that required relevant skills to the prospective job?

And, is it acceptable to refer to notes on my smart phone during an interview, or to take notes on my smart phone during the interview? -- M.J., Alabama

Dear M.J.: Good questions. Certainly it is acceptable to bring photocopies of a letter of recommendation relevant to the job for which you are interviewing, but I would only present the letter if it is requested. Some HR people like them, yet others completely dismiss them.

When you go to an interview, it's good to have a brief case, or folder, with resumes, copies of letters of recommendation, reminder notes for the interview, and a legal pad or something else to write on.

Do not use a smartphone during your interview — in fact, turn off all such electronic devices before going into the interview.

You don't want to appear to be texting a friend for a lunch date during the interview, and you certainly don't want any distracting sounds emanating from your pocket or purse.

If you have notes you'd like to consult during the interview, ask your interviewer if you could refer to them, particularly if they include questions about the job or company.



Marvin Walberg

GETTING HIRED

Wait for the appropriate timing the interview. If you want to take notes during your interview for later consideration, ask your interviewer if it would be acceptable. If you get a funny look, on and write your notes in private right after the interview concludes like when you get back to your office.

Within 24 hours, hand write a brief thank you note to whom interviewed you, and hand-deliver or mail it ASAP. If you know an e-mail correspondence would be favourably received, e-mail your thank you note, but write it in the usual e-mail abbreviation informality. If your interviewer is good and you want to job, say your thank you note.

Do what others fail to do. ■ **Marvin Walberg is a search coach. Contact him at mwalberg@bellsouth.net, www.marvinwalberg.com, or PO Box 430, Birmingham, Ala. 35243.**

Resumania

Keep resume up-to-date for next opportunity

Even if you're not actively hunting for a job, it's smart to periodically update your resume. Take stock of new skills you've gained or responsibilities you've taken on. You never know when an appealing new career opportunity could come your way, or when you could suddenly find yourself needing to look for work.

These job seekers should have devoted more time to proofreading their resumes and cover letters.

"EDUCATION: Completed some coarse work toward my bachelor's degree."

Sounds rough.

"JOB DUTIES: I started an assignment assassinating a senior accountant."

What a bad beginning.

COVER LETTER: "I look forward to hearing from you. I am contractable 24/7."

Works around the clock.

"WORK HISTORY: Most recently worked on a maturity assignment."

We hope you've grown up since then.

"OTHER SKILLS: Able to compete a Rubik's Cube in less than two minutes."

A puzzling misspelling.

These next job candidates apparently didn't even bother to use spell-check. Consider the interesting new

terms they coined.

"CURRENT JOB DUTIES: new employees tours to help them acclimatized."

I think the word you are referring to is acclimated.

"OBJECTIVE: Seeking a time powermanent position.

We're "permanently" permanent by this.

COVER LETTER: "I am someone who is a whinerwhiner."

We can't complain about the **"EXPERIENCE:** I define experience in a nutshell as bearnesteen."

You'll need to define "earnesteen" for us.

Finally, it seems that many people write notes or reminders to themselves when working their resume, before finalizing the document. This isn't a problem as long as you remember to hit the delete button before you send **"ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** more text here?"

Yes, please do.

■ **Max Messmer is CEO of Robert Half International specialized staffing firm. See examples to Resumania, c. Robert Half International Sand Hill Road, Suite 200, Park, Calif. 94025. Or, visit resumania.com.**