

## Caledon Parent-Child Centre thanks its sponsors

By Bill Rea

It takes lots of backing for Caledon Parent-Child Centre (CPCC) to provide the programs it does, and much of that has to be financial in nature.

CPCC took some time out recently to show its appreciation to its sponsors.

Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson was on hand to offer his congratulations to the donors, as well as to the staff.

"It's a great place and it's great for Caledon," he remarked.

Councillor Doug Beffort, representing Mayor Allan Thompson, commented that he was learning a lot about the facility, adding people in Caledon village are looking for something like that.

Executive Director Teresa Colasanti commented on the impact of the donors and their commitment to invest in the community.

She stressed that supporting parents is a critical part of helping to raise children in the community, and the economic return from these supporters investing in children in their early years proves to be significant as time goes on. She said \$1 invested in the early years ends up saving \$17 later in health care, education, unemployment supports and the justice system.

"We know it's the right thing to do," she remarked.

Colasanti pointed out that children do not grow and develop in isolation. While the family is their first environment and has the most impact, they need help. Parents need places that provide support and help them care for and relate to their kids, and that's where agencies like CPCC come in.

Kara Enns, program facilitator and one of the parents who has benefitted from CPCC, commented on how grateful she was for all the support.

She said her daughter was two when they moved to Bolton.

"It didn't take long before I got to know all the moms and the kids," she said.

There were other resources available too, like the parent library, filled with books and resources.

Enns recalled her daughter was very spirited, and she was able to attend programs that helped her prepare for school.

She also said she was glad there was a place parents could go with their kids where there was no housework.

"We're here because each other supports," she remarked.

Enns said there are a number of workshops available at the agency, and they provided her with breaks, as well as opportunities to get together with other mothers.



Caledon Parent-Child Centre recently expressed appreciation to some of its major financial contributors. Seen here are (front) Sharon Savini of Scotiabank, Nadine Melemis Walters, Tina Parnaby, Krysta Cadden of the Rotary Club of Palgrave, Sandra Tomona of The investors Group, Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson, (back) Kara Enns, program facilitator, CPCC Board Member Pam Seidel, Councillor Doug Beffort, Frank Mansley of the Fr. Henk Council of the Knights of Columbus, Bill Parnaby, Ron Frank of the Knights of Columbus, Josef Schweighofer of the Knights of Columbus, Frank Macellaio of Scotiabank, Gary Walters and CPCC Executive Director Executive Director Teresa Colasanti. Photo by Bill Rea