

Tilson on hand to celebrate Life for Youth

By Josh Braun

Many of today's youths have trouble finding a job and/or the experience most employers want.

LIFE for Youth (LFY) is a game changer for these youths.

LFY is operated by Caledon Community Services (CCS) it is a paid, six-month program run by project manager Mary Falcone. LFY provides an opportunity for youths to gain employability and life skills, through innovative classroom instruction and various in-house work placements.

This year, LFY is in its ninth cycle. It has been granted more than \$420,000 to aid 24 youths in Caledon toward getting skills and experience necessary to make a successful transition to the job market or return to school. To date 140 out of 190 students who took part in this program went on to graduate from post-secondary education.

Life for Youths ninth cycle was hosted at Chez Thrift in Bolton where Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson stepped to the stage to congratulate all the participants and showed his appreciation for the LFY program. "Life for Youth is one of the most important programs in the Caledon Region" Tilson stated. "Today's youth are tomorrow's future."

Falcone gave more information about the program, talking about past students she has worked with and her favourite aspect of working with youths.

Following that, all of the students introduced themselves and explained why they're participating in the program. Youths said they were in the program for work experience and to further their skills with working in a group.

Brittany Arthur spoke about a youth who in the eighth cycle of the program worked at Sands Precision Incorporated. Mitchell Muchulay spent his 14-week placement "finding the skills needed to succeed"he can now drive a forklift," Arthur said. "Having these kids come in and work for us is great. It's nice seeing them develop and it's beneficial for the company as well."

Falcone takes great pride in the youths she works with. She loves seeing the growth the individuals display throughout the program and hopes the community will continue to support this great cause.