

# Jobs for Youth program gives students lifelong employment skills

by Alicia McCutcheon  
MINDEMOYA—Student employees, their employers as well as representatives from the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) gathered in the Mindemoya Missionary Church late last month to celebrate a successful summer hard at work.

This year the DSB boasted 44 students paired with employers across Manitoulin through the Jobs for Youth program led by leaders (university summer students themselves) Amanda Sheppard and Danielle Shank. The program sees the students' wages completely funded by the DSB through the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, plus they gained three days of training in CPR, workplace safety and customer service



Following a pizza and wings lunch, the Jobs for Youth graduates pose for a photo with their leaders, Amanda Sheppard and Danielle Shank and Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha.



Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha addresses the Jobs for Youth graduates late last month.

themselves flash by on the projector screen, a chance for the rest of the students to see how everyone's summer was spent, be they feeding baby alpacas, serving ice cream or fishing aboard a Purvis tug.

Colin Lloyd, a 17-year-old from Kagawong, spent his summer at the Old Mill Heritage Centre. "It was good—I really enjoyed it," he said of his summer at the museum. "I got to be really good at dusting," he

One of his jobs was to help put on the ever-popular History Night at the Heritage Centre where he even made a presentation.

Liam Leblanc of Mindemoya worked hard this summer at Uncle Steve's Park and Cabins on the shores of Lake Manitou, cutting grass, cleaning cabins and perfecting the art of changing the rolls in the automatic paper towel dispenser. Liam said he had such a good summer he would love to go back next summer should they need more help.

Sean Patterson, also of

Kagawong, learned about the inner workings of a municipality while he worked for the Billings public works department.

"I was a bit apprehensive at first, I really wanted the job at the museum, so when they offered me the job at public works I almost didn't take it, but I'm glad I did," he said. "It's a nice job with a lot of variety. It's amazing how much they do—it's just two people doing all that work."

Director of Integrated Services with the DSB, Donna Moroso, thanked Ms. Sheppard and Ms.

photos by Alicia McCutcheon

Shank for their hard work over the summer in putting on a successful Jobs for Youth program. Ms. Moroso shared one success story from the summer where a young man, fresh from his first aid training, was able to assist a woman who had slipped and fallen at his place of work.

"I hope you have gained valuable experience through this," Ms. Moroso said to the youth.

"This program has done wonders for employers and students on the Island," said Lou Addison, DSB board member. "It also

helps to assist small businesses that only have a small window to 'make hay,' not to mention the invaluable experiences the students gain."

Mr. Mantha spoke of his time as a Junior Ranger 30 years ago where he gained valuable work experiences that he carried with him throughout his life. Hearing the story of the young man who helped a woman in distress, the MPP shared his recent newsworthy story of helping a man who he found to be choking during a lunch at Queen's Park. Applying the Heimlich maneuver—a skill he learned from Junior Rangers—Mr. Mantha was able to stop the man from choking.

"You never know when you're going to need that training," he said. "The training you received this summer will follow you through your life."

The students were then called to the front where they received a certificate in recognition of completing the program as well as a congratulatory note from Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha.

Following the presentations draws were held with prizes donated by the employers, as well as for two iPad minis donated by the DSB. Winners of the iPads were Miranda Amyotte and Camille Poitras.

prior to the start of work.

Following a pizza and wing lunch, the students watched a slideshow of

joked.

"It was kind of cool to learn the history of the town," Colin said.