

MOTHER/DAUGHTER PRAISE WDHS CO-OP PROGRAM

At the recent Employer Appreciation Breakfast hosted annually by the Co-Op Department at Waterdown District High School (WDHS), the mother and daughter team of Teresa and Haley Luckanuck shared their perspectives on the program. Haley – founder and owner of Spoiled Rotten Pet Services – was awarded the inaugural ‘Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award’ by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) at the Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA) awards gala at the African Lion Safari in February.

BY TERESA LUCKANUCK

Good morning. I have been invited to speak on the employer’s perspective of the co-op education program.

First, on behalf of all the employers, I would like to thank WDHS for the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary program that allows the young adults of this community to experience their choice of career paths.



TERESA LUCKANUCK

I have always been an advocate of the Co-op experience; the best way to become skilled is to have mentors that specialize in their fields to pass on not only their invaluable experiences but also failures so that you – as the apprentice – can learn from.

If you are in this room now, that means you have been successful, completing this program and taking away invaluable skills and knowledge to help

you in your future accomplishments.

We as the employers and mentors are very proud to have talented youth to work with. Everyone in this room has something they are extraordinary at. We as a community will always need trade and service business.

From this co-op placement you will all have taken part in different experiences – some you will have disliked and

“I started off with just a passion to work with animals and a \$500 loan. Now I have six employees, two company vehicles and just sold my third franchise.”

Haley Luckanuck, Spoiled Rotten Pet Services

some believe it or not, you will have learned from. I can not stress enough the importance of networking and asking questions in your everyday life to gain the experience and wealth of knowledge you will need in your future accomplishments.

Everyone’s co-op experience is different and all employers have different tasks from which you learn. My employer experience was unique from the perspective as my co-op student actually owned the business herself.

This is a great example of a student who took an idea a year ago and a \$500 loan to get started and now has six employees, two company vehicles and has sold three franchises.

All at the ripe old age of 15.

This program is a great marriage of



Executive Director Arend Kersten brought greetings and congratulations at the annual WDHS Employer Appreciation Breakfast on behalf of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC).

the co-op employer, school and other community professionals assisting you to grow and nurture a viable idea to its fullest potential.

Everyone young and old learns in different ways. There is the ‘book smart’ of the world and the ‘hands on’ approach to gain experience and knowledge.

I have learned that no matter what

your age or area of expertise, you can study and gather other people’s perspectives to better improve yourself and your skills through great communication and networking.

Some of the world’s premier entrepreneurs like Donald Trump, the university students who created Google and the inventors of the Blackberry all started from working with a mentor or having a vision and acting on it!

From this co-op placement we as employers hope that you have explored and gained avenues to your future career paths and take from this experience the tools for the foundation of your résumé to build upon.

Keep in mind that if you chose a career path that you take pleasure in, you will be compensated for all the hard work and effort in the end!

BY HALEY LUCKANUCK

I have been invited to speak on the student’s perspective of the Co-op experience.

I would like to start off thanking the employers on behalf of all co-op students for providing opportunities in their workplace. Each and every one of the students has learned something throughout their co-op placements.

Whether it be how to fix a car or install wood flooring, because of the employers we can take what we have learned and succeed that much further.

Co-op is a great program for students looking into their future career opportunities. Throughout this pro-



HALEY LUCKANUCK

gram, I have seen what it is like to live an every day work life.

You face challenges in your work place and get opportunities that not every student gets. And best of all, you set yourself goals.

The Co-op opportunity has helped me understand how much heart and soul employers put into their businesses. To appreciate how much time and effort goes into a job you really care for, you must experience it first hand.

It just so happens that my co-op placement is for my own business Spoiled Rotten Pet Services Inc. I started off with just a passion to work with animals and a \$500 loan. Now I have six employees, two company vehicles and just sold my third franchise. It just goes to show if you have a passion for something in life, you can do it no matter what your age!

Through this program, I have been able to attend lawyers, accountant and HST meetings that I would not have been able to participate in otherwise.

Everyone’s Co-op experience is different, whether after your placement you realize this is what you want to pursue in life. Or whether the job was not cut out to be what you thought it was. Either way you come out learning something and knowing that much more. I would like to thank once again all the employers and teachers for investing their time and guidance in the Co-op program to help us all!

HAMILTON TECHNOLOGY CENTRE