

2018 Award of Merit Recipient - Chris Edwards

Our next recipient was born and raised in Tay Township, attended St. Theresa's High School in Midland, and went on to earn a Diploma in Business Administration from Georgian College in 1994, followed by a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration at Lakehead University. In 1998 he attained his professional designation as a Chartered Accountant. He is a member of the Harvard Business School President's Club with certificates in Leadership Best Practices, Strategy Building and Sustaining Competitive Advantage.

In 2002 he joined Weber Manufacturing, an internationally recognized leader in custom tool manufacturing, and worked his way up to President in 2007.

He is a remarkable business leader who successfully led the growth of Weber Manufacturing in Midland while championing youth apprenticeship for the skilled trades, benefitting our area's youth and manufacturers.

While serving as President, he pursued his passion of promoting skilled trades. He has been actively involved with the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) –working with Georgian College, the County of Simcoe, school boards and regional high schools to open the lines of communication with industry and generate interest and awareness for careers in skilled trades.

His leadership has led to industry tours, Career Days, Skilled Trade Expos and speaking at public events. These efforts have significantly contributed to the 800% increase in enrolment over two years for students entering the General Machinist program through Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. He serves as a Director on a number of local non-profit boards including the Audit Committee for the Simcoe County District School Board, the Advisory Committee to Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation and has previously served as President and Treasurer for Credit Counseling of Simcoe County.

It is my esteemed pleasure to present the Award of Merit to Chris Edwards.