

Summer Company

2006 Yearbook



BE YOUR OWN BOSS

Student entrepreneurs gain support, experience and grants

For local students, the Summer Company program has been a real-world experience. This year, the program, which provides an opportunity for local youth to develop and run their own businesses, is being supported by the Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

The Summer Company program provides full-time students aged 15 to 29 with the opportunity to experience self-employment by securing participants to develop, start up and run a business from scratch. In addition to business support, mentoring and training, the program also provides grants of up to \$3,000.

To qualify for Summer Company, students must first submit a business plan outlining their idea and their expected start-up costs and then attend an interview. Selection for participation in the program is based on the viability of the business idea as well as the student's level of maturity and enthusiasm. Once accepted, the students receive up to \$3,000 to cover the start-up expenses associated with running a business, including the costs of advertising, equipment and supplies. Throughout the summer, as they roll out their



ventures, the students will receive one-on-one coaching, group mentoring and business-related training. At the end of the summer, and upon returning to school, students who have actively and successfully participated in the program will receive another \$3,000 award. The financial support helps to alleviate some of the risk associated with running a business while the training and mentoring provided help to build a successful enterprise. The knowledge and experience gained through the launch and operation of a summer venture is tremendous and helps young students to develop personal and business management skills that will be an asset to them regardless of their future career choice.

This year's participants include Heath Fashina, a Mississauga area student who attends the School of Media Studies at Humber. As the owner of Thriller Video Transfers, Fashina transfers video from a variety of formats to DVD for ease of use and protection against deterioration. With the goal of freelance work in his future,

Fashina saw the Summer Company program as an ideal way to gain experience and expertise in all aspects of self-employment.

Virginia Laxton is a Shelburne area high school student who owns Golden's Nursery, a fruit and vegetable market located on Highway 10, just 15 minutes northwest of Shelburne. In addition to providing fresh produce, the nursery also supplies tropical, exotic, flowers and shrubs. Motivated and hard working, Laxton opened her market in May and is already supplying products from local farmers and greenhouse growers, as possible.

Kyle Davis is a Shelburne area student who is focusing on entrepreneurial skills and characteristics. As owner of Taper Beach, a home-based provider of game ball supplies and accessories, Davis's goal is to provide "reliable and affordable" products.



Five local students, Peter Irvine, Laryssa Cud, Kyle Davis, Virginia Laxton, and Heath Fashina, will get to experience being "the boss" this summer as part of the 2006 Summer Company Program.

ing for Summer Company. Kyle was first place home owner and \$3,000 in the local business plan competition.

Also participating in Summer Company this year is Peter Irvine, owner of Thriller Video

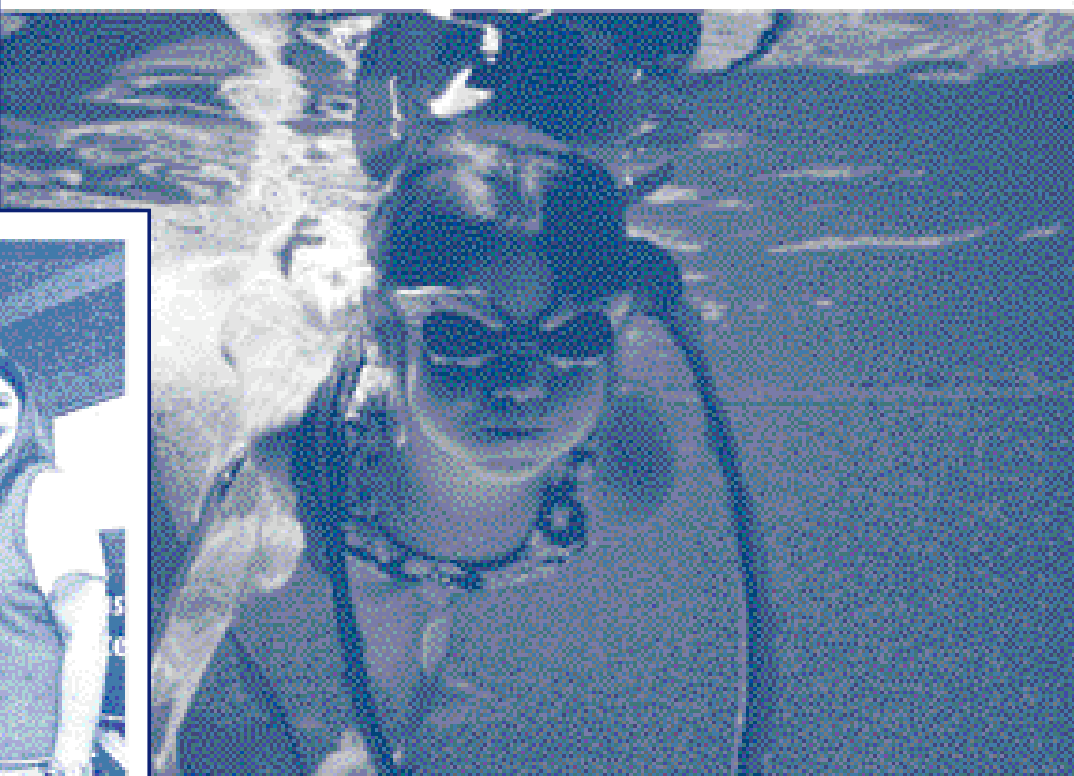
Transfers. Irvine is a home-based data entry service provider to businesses. Equipped with great communication skills and a love of computers, Irvine decided to become the Summer

the SMEC office at 111-1111 1111, 111-1111.

Beth Phillips is the coordinator of the Summer Company program at the Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Summer Company's COMING

Durham Region's Summer Company program nurtures young entrepreneurs. The provincially-funded program provides students aged 15 to 29 with up to \$3,000 in start-up funding, business training and one-on-one mentoring to build their own summer business.



OWN BOSSES: Summer Company participants: Geoff Dillon, Patricia Petrie, Scott Metherall, Austin Miller, Lhisa Bennett, and Megan Hillman.

Students learn to run their own businesses

By Darren Lum

Making their own summer jobs is giving youthful entrepreneurs a real world experience.

Six area entrepreneurs, each heading up companies as varied as their personalities, offered words of appreciation for their inclusion to the Summer Company program at the Town of Brantford's council chambers on July 17.

his company Over the Top paintball in 2005 during the Year of the Veteran.

Over the Top is situated on 10 acres of land. It is loosely based on the Viny Ridge scenario, complete with trenches and "no man's" land areas.

Miller believes Muskoka is a "recreational hub" in Ontario and believes his service will fulfill the recreation demands of cottagers from

near is being assisted by her sisters.

Shooting with a passion to show the world through her eyes, photographer Megan Hillman, a local high school student entering Grade 12, is using the summer to launch her dream of becoming a professional photographer on the back of her company Blue Turtle Studios.

"I love to take pictures,"

growing summer jobs and giving it all student guided business

able

BILLY GIVES WATERBOARDING knows, teaches swimming, water games, water and beach, operates landscaping business, designs greeting cards. Kaitia presents the story Students all these diverse business share a unifying factor: Summer Company.

Billy Knight and Rachel Bakker are veterans of last year's successful stories. They're going forward by advising the latest crop of entrepreneurs.

Billy learned about Summer Company firsthand: he opened his school's g

SplashAquatics one of the companies students have created for the summer

By Vic Kasek
Museum staff

GUELPH

Victoria Miernicki is providing the ultimate in customer service.

The certified swimming instructor's company, SplashAquatics, makes home — or more accurately backyard pool — rats.

She will teach those who want to learn to swim in the privacy and comfort of their own homes.

"They love the convenience of being in their own pool," says Miernicki, a University of Guelph business student who formed SplashAquatics as a summer company, envisioning it in part as a learning experience to a career as an entrepreneur.

"I'm just trying to get my toes in the water," Miernicki said. "I have a lot of goals for the future and I want to get quite far."

Miernicki is one of nine people enrolled in an annual provincial Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship program helping local young entrepreneurs get their own summer companies up and running. All the students are returning to school in the fall.

The ministry gives each of them \$3,000 in seed money, with guidance, mentoring and training provided by the Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre.

The intention is to boost self-em-



The Entrepreneurs

placement among those 15 to 29.

The latest businesses range from computer and high-tech companies to others involved in landscaping, jewelry making and sales, children's events organizing, as well as dinner removal and housekeeping.

Hilford Nelson, the center's summer company co-ordinator, said assistance began with drawing up viable business plans for each new firm.

Subsequent training sessions focus on bookkeeping, marketing, advertising and promotions, as well as any other "good habits" of business professionals, she said.

Participants, she added, receive half the government funding in early summer and the rest later, when they're enrolled to return to school in the fall.

Miernicki's focus tends to be on children because she feels an affinity for them.

"I absolutely love working with kids. I just have a natural ability to teach and deal with children," Miernicki said, adding many of the ones she instructs are eight or nine years

The Summer Company Experience

Ontario's economy is driven by entrepreneurs and small businesses. In fact, 99 per cent of all businesses in Ontario have fewer than 500 employees and employ more than half of all Ontarians. Entrepreneurs are creative, they take risks and they generate new opportunities for Ontario domestically and abroad. The students represented in these pages are just some of the talented young entrepreneurs who participated in the *Summer Company* program this year, and are helping to pave the way for a bright future for Ontario.

The *Summer Company* program gives full-time students the opportunity to run their own small business over the summer. Students submit a business plan and attend an interview, and upon being accepted into the program, receive hands-on business training and funding towards the start-up costs of the business. Volunteer members from the local business community team up with Small Business Enterprise Centres and other program providers to deliver guidance and advice to the students on how to operate a successful small business. The rich array of guidance provided by these program providers and committed volunteers bring out the initiative and creativity of the participants, and help to build successful summer enterprises!

This past year innovative students from large and small communities across Ontario successfully completed the *Summer Company* program. These dedicated students developed and marketed their products and services, built a customer base, promoted their businesses, and made tough business decisions based on market demand and cash flow. Students sold products locally and globally, and have laid the foundation of important skills for business and personal development later in life. It is thrilling to see so many young people, some as young as 15 years old, reach their goal of running their own business and experience the excitement and satisfaction of being their own boss. Their hard work, commitment, initiative, self-motivation and ingenuity are shining examples of Ontario's youth and bright future.

The stories that follow are just a sample of the many exciting ventures that young Ontarians have launched this past summer. Those profiled, as well as all *Summer Company* participants, are to be congratulated for their hard work and determination. They have proven that they have what it takes to become tomorrow's business leaders, and will help continue to grow Ontario's economy.

Summer Company: Six Great Years!

This year was the sixth year that *Summer Company* has provided Ontario students with the opportunity to experience entrepreneurship and discover the challenges and rewards of being their own boss! Since 2001, over 1,500 high school, college and university students have taken part in *Summer Company* from all parts of the province, from Kenora to Haileybury, Niagara Falls to Windsor. These enterprising students have operated a wide range of businesses running the gamut of interests, passions and pursuits from swimming camps to website development. In fact, a short list of just some of the companies started, illustrates how diverse the interests of the participants are:

- Aesthetics, hair styling and spas
- Alternative energies
- Bead and jewellery making
- Cafes
- Camps
- Catering
- Children's entertainment companies
- City and student entertainment guides
- Computer repair
- Flower growing and arranging
- Forestry inventory
- Management consulting
- Furniture assembly
- Green retailing
- Landscaping
- Painting, construction and home decorating
- Performance art
- Personal training
- Tutoring
- Video and film production

What do all *Summer Company* participants have in common? The desire to work hard and overcome unexpected challenges. An ability to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities and take risks. The willingness to learn from mentors and build networking, sales and marketing skills. The aspiration to discover new talents and build confidence. And while in some cases businesses are very profitable and in others profit levels are more modest, in every case *Summer Company* participants come away with a wealth of knowledge about entrepreneurship and their own ability to be entrepreneurs.

Over the program's six years, participants have learnt that the *Summer Company* program is more than just a summer job. The program not only builds enterprising skills, like risk-taking, time-management, networking and self-motivation, but also helps Ontario's youth to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option. In fact, many *Summer Company* students know for certain that a full-time entrepreneurial career will be part of their future upon completing the program.

The Ontario government is proud to help students discover entrepreneurship through the *Summer Company* program, and wishes to congratulate all of the committed mentors, Small Business Enterprise Centres and program providers who participated in the program, and most importantly, all of the enterprising youth who have taken on the challenge of running their own businesses while discovering the value of entrepreneurship and building enterprising skills for their future career and academic pursuits!

The Monster Adoption Agency

Alexandra Apolloni
Waterloo



"Bridging the gap between play and art" is how 22 year-old Alexandra explains the monster-themed accessories, pillows and toys she handcrafts and sells through The Monster Adoption Agency. Creating and selling her own designs, as well as undertaking custom work for clients, Alexandra's monsters provide an opportunity to showcase how "art can be fun, tactile and playful." Selling mostly through on-line storefronts, craft

shows, markets and existing retailers, including some in Toronto's trendy Queen West fashion district, Alexandra's *Summer Company* experience encouraged Alexandra to "step outside my comfort zone" in order to try new skills, like cold calling and learning how to undertake e-commerce, which are of value not just in business, but for all of Alexandra's future pursuits as well.

Installaquarium

Willy Ba
Kingston



Setting out to provide businesses and homes in Kingston with quality installation of aquariums, Willy Ba launched Installaquarium. Drawing on his sales and retail experience, Willy was "ecstatic about the opportunities" that he encountered through *Summer Company*, including networking with other participants and responding to customer demand by expanding his services to include pet-sitting.

Filling an important niche market in the community, Willy has learnt the value of solid bookkeeping and financial management to control spending and keep track of his company's financial management. Now having accomplished his goal of starting a career in the pet industry, and with plans to grow his business to include the aquaculture of coral and fish, Willy is optimistic about his future entrepreneurial pursuits.

Vision Films

Lucas Baiano
Niagara on the Lake



By offering a high quality product at a fraction of the cost of his competitors, Lucas was able to successfully enter into the competitive film production industry this summer with *Vision Films*. Knowing that the quality of his work would be the biggest selling feature, Lucas used networking and word-of-mouth sales to land contracts and win new clients. Understanding that customers would respond to confidence, Lucas learned

“that you must be confident when pitching an idea... in order to sell your product, you must believe in it first.” This confidence led to a number of successful pitches and to Lucas working on more than three projects a day at some points over the summer. This hectic schedule prepared Lucas for future film pursuits later in life, as he continues to enjoy every technical minute of what is sure to be a very entrepreneurial future.

Classic-Car-Wash

Félix Beauchamp
Clarence Creek



Juggling football practice and a full-time business could have been daunting, but for 15 year-old Félix, ensuring he was organized and understanding the importance of time-management was all he needed to succeed at both. Not only did Félix successfully merge both football and business, but he tackled a number of challenges head on. One of the biggest was realizing that his initial

business location would not work, as it would not provide the exposure his car-washing business required. Solving this problem meant approaching a local auto body shop and using some of this space. Undeterred by these obstacles, Félix had a successful first summer and is looking forward to opening a truck wash in the future!

Skyscapes

Faye Bontje
London



Offering original watercolour paintings, bookmarks and cards capturing the imagination of astronomy and nature lovers, Skyscapes allowed 16 year-old Faye to test out what it would be like to be a full-time independent artist. Painting as much as 15 hours a day led Faye to create a wide variety of new works, which she sold by attending art festivals, conventions and through private sales. By participating in the festivals, Faye not only got an opportunity to showcase her art, but also network and share experiences with

other vendors, many of whom were also just "starting out."

Through *Summer Company* Faye also learnt how to judge the tastes and preferences of her customers, and has improved how to handle her finances. With over 80 paintings and around 100 bookmark and cards sold, Faye's summer as an independent artist has provided her with a wide range of artistic and business learning opportunities, and given her a great first experience of life as a full-time artist.

Mad Crepes

Eliza Chandler
Toronto



Before ever selling her first crepe to hungry customers in Toronto's busy Kensington Market, Eliza had to overcome a number of obstacles. Having spent countless hours making practice crepes, perfecting recipes, ensuring she met Health and Safety regulations, designing and creating her crepe-cart and sourcing out the required equipment, Eliza thought she was ready to start. Then she found out she had to find a new location at the last minute! Undeterred, Eliza canvassed local Kensington storeowners, and was able to find a new space, showing the determination and flexibility of an

entrepreneur by persevering through it all. One of the best outcomes for Eliza this summer? Becoming a part of a receptive and supportive Kensington business community, who "were extremely supportive of me as a small business owner." Now with over 1500 of Eliza's organic crepes sold in a variety of flavours, Eliza is enjoying the 'sweet' taste of success, and has gained new found confidence as a businesswoman. She'll also be returning to Mad Crepes next summer, where even more tasty creations developed by Eliza are sure to be savoured by her legion of regular customers!

Chiddicks Technical Services

Ethan Chiddicks
Guelph



Researching market trends and consumer demands is an important part of starting any new business. Ethan undertook consumer and market research, took a risk, and launched Chiddicks Technical Services (CTS).

Not only did Ethan take risks as part of his entrepreneurial summer, he also secured a number of consulting jobs with both small and large firms, enabling him to exceed his overall revenue forecasts and "gain a better

sense of what the market required and what services CTS could effectively provide." Securing a number of clients taught Ethan the importance of prioritizing in order to provide exemplary customer service to his entire client base, and it also enabled him to begin building a brand for CTS and continue exploring new opportunities now as he continues with school, as well as in the future.

Fin-natic Sport Fishing

Jordan De Jong
Oakville



Almost doubling sales forecasts and catching a 32-pound salmon were just two of the highlights for Jordan as part of Fin-natic Sport Fishing's first year. Charting new entrepreneurial waters for Jordan meant offering chartered fishing experiences on Lake Ontario for small groups. Understanding that not all groups would respond to the same marketing techniques, Jordan segmented customers and used separate marketing strategies to attract corporate, friends/family and tourist clients, while ensuring that each marketing plan reflected his overall strategy for Fin-natic Sport Fishing.

For Jordan, retaining customers was just as important as securing customers. Through positive experiences with Fin-natic Sport Fishing, "almost all the people this year said they would be back next year," and Jordan plans to market to these clients early in the year "reminding people what a great time they had and to book soon." By providing a friendly atmosphere, and having a successful catch on every charter this year, Jordan has ensured that his current clients, and many more, will turn to Fin-natic Sport Fishing for a day of great fishing on the lake next summer.

Kids 'N' Quarks Science and Engineering Camp

Dorothy Eng
Toronto



Reading past *Summer Company* success stories inspired Dorothy, a materials engineering and management student, to start up her own summer camp. Keeping what kids like to learn in mind, Kids 'N' Quarks offered "eye-popping and spine-tingling experiments and activities" for kids, aged 9 to 12.

Offering a specialized science, technology and engineering camp allowed Dorothy to differentiate her business amongst the competitive summer camp market, while supporting "younger engineers in their beginnings."

Dorothy worked hard to build awareness of her camp within the community by putting on school demonstrations, holding camp open houses and attending community events.

The result? A camp full of eager summer campers who enjoyed discovering dissection, the science of creepy critters and exploring the animal kingdom! And with parents and teachers offering "great feedback," Dorothy is sure to attract even more campers next summer!

Locals Ink

Scott Green
Kenora



Providing a space for Kenora's artistic talents to be showcased under one roof is how 26 year-old Scott describes his first storefront endeavour, Locals Ink. The store provided a retail and electronic outlet for artists from across Northwest Ontario to sell and showcase their art to tourists, cottagers and visitors to the Kenora area.

Describing Scott as a "natural entrepreneur... always thinking about different ways to solve problems," the Northwest Business Centre noticed that Scott used his problem solving skills to

demonstrate to local artists the benefits of selling their work through Locals Ink, and build business relationships. This creative thinking helped Scott secure work from more than 40 local artists. Facing problems head on, Scott's advice for other youth thinking about entrepreneurship? Give it a try, as "it is better to try at something and gain that experience rather than simply finding barriers to block you." And after one successful venture, Scott is already looking to try more entrepreneurial opportunities!

Fun-Guy Mushrooms

Jacob Guenkel
Omeme



Fun-Guy Mushrooms is a creative business, both in terms of product and marketing. Offering customers hand-made chainsaw sculpted wooden mushroom ornaments, Jacob targeted customers at local area markets. Realizing the importance of having the customers' visualize themselves with the product, Jacob used creative marketing techniques to sell his garden ornaments, including displaying the mushrooms on a green coloured carpet with fake flowers to

create a 'garden' like setting in the middle of market! He also knew that it was important to take risks experimenting with colours, designs and price to give customers a wide selection or products to choose from. Jacob has achieved his objectives this summer, and while he is aware that "a business takes many hours of hard work", Jacob and Fun-Guy Mushrooms will continue to 'carve' out a niche for wooden garden and yard decorations.

Energrow Limited

Jasmin Hofer
Newton



Described as not "afraid to go out on a limb and try something different" by her local program provider, the Perth Community Futures Development Corporation, Jasmin took on the risk of developing a new product when she launched Energrow Limited, a business offering a fuel alternative.

As her product developed, Jasmin took on the challenges of supplier delays, educating customers and promoting a green alternative through creative problem solving and leveraging advice

from local mentors and business contacts. Having to not only sell to, but educate her target market, Jasmin has consciously stayed focused and concentrated on the market with the highest demand.

Having made significant achievements this summer, Jasmin is looking forward to taking Energrow "...very far, through many obstacles and learning curves, eventually to a very successful company, which maintains its personal approach to business and makes a difference."

Sakura Wigs

Winnie Hui
Mississauga



Combining her passion for costuming and wigs, with what the Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre describes as a “natural affinity for entrepreneurship,” Winnie was able to fill an untapped market and pursue her passion by opening Sakura Wigs.

Offering a wide variety of custom and pre-made styles and colours, Winnie targeted local and global customers through her online storefront and at costuming conventions. Operating an online store front allowed Winnie to

reach her target market located across Ontario as well as on the east and west coasts of the United States, but having such a wide geographic base meant that Winnie had to be prepared for exchange rate fluctuations, export regulations and taxation. Winnie was able to tackle these challenges, and with success at home and internationally, including selling wigs to well over 50 clients worldwide, Winnie is eager to continue Sakura Wigs as she completes her post-secondary studies.

Pick-Up Truck 4 Hire

Cody King
Brockville



Moving, hauling, rubbish removal, towing and deliveries were all in a day’s work for Cody and Pick-Up Truck 4 Hire. Providing small trucking services to clients on an as needed basis, Cody distinguished his business from his competitors by being able to take more in one load and offering cheaper rates.

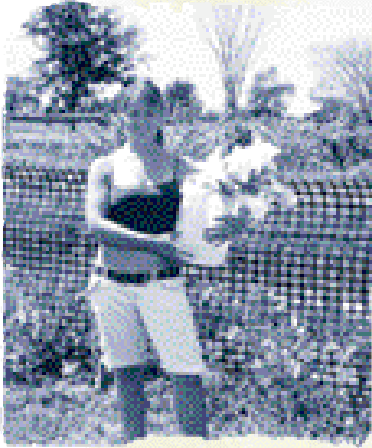
Cody was challenged when his truck broke down and was forced to find an alternative to meet commitments, but

through creativity, ingenuity, and according to the Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre, being “an expert in knowing what should be in the highest priority,” Cody was able to fulfill commitments as well as secure contracts with almost every gardening centre in Brockville.

With a bright entrepreneurial future, Cody hopes to one day open an auto body shop.

Jess's Flower Farm

Jessica King
Lucknow



Setting out to make a name for herself as a flower grower and creative bouquet designer, Jess started Jess's Flower Farm. Jess's business grew staggered flower crops, which allowed her to grow and sell all types of flowers throughout the summer and not just when they are normally available.

Spending a lot of time researching flowers and growing techniques, as well as locating suppliers of materials for her arrangements, Jess learned that planning is critical to starting a business and advises others to "make sure you take as

much of the guess work out of it by informing yourself as much possible." And while having to be resourceful and innovative at times to make the best of a given situation, Jess knows that her business planning was critical to her personal and business successes this summer and is looking forward to continuing with her business and expanding on the "strong foundation of knowledge, skills and work ethic" that blossomed this summer as part of her *Summer Company* experience.

Paul's Yard Works

Paul Myers
Penetanguishene



Paul had seen himself becoming an entrepreneur someday, but "never knew how I would go about it and what I would need to do it." So after learning about *Summer Company* from a friend, Paul at just 16 years old, decided to give entrepreneurship a try! Building on his past landscape and pressure washing experience, Paul started a pressure washing business for residential customers. Using a variety of

techniques learned through a sales training seminar offered through the YMCA of Simcoe-Muskoka, his local program provider, Paul approached sales from a customer's perspective to help generate sales. The result? Lots of sales and greater confidence for Paul, as well as undertaking an invaluable experience that allowed Paul to recognize that for him, "starting a business later in life is inevitable."

Rural Roots Landscape and Design

Mark Moir
Chatham



After hearing about the *Summer Company* program a few years ago, and gaining a couple of years experience working at a local nursery, 22 year-old Mark decided this summer would "be an opportune time to try my own *Summer Company*." His dedication this summer to his business is just part of the reason he was able to complete over 30 residential landscapes and is viewed by the Chatham-Kent Business Enterprise Centre as an "excellent

business person" and a "role model for others."

Having learned more about the accounting, bookkeeping, advertising, budgeting and networking skills needed to run a small business, and with plans to continue his business, Mark is sure to find continued success beautifying residential homes with custom designed landscapes and pursuing post-secondary studies in landscape architecture.

Sweet Tooth

Joseph Moncada
Wasaga Beach



Combining retro candy with some of today's favourite sweets was how Sweet Tooth captured both young and young at heart candy connoisseurs!

With no other stores like Sweet Tooth nearby, 20 year-old Joseph was able to fill a niche market by specializing in both retro and mass-market candies. Having the instincts of an entrepreneur from the start, Joseph overcame power outages which threatened his stock, learned how to manage employees and

undertake a variety of marketing techniques, including renting a costume to compete with a carnival in town.

With just four months of operation completed, Sweet Tooth has surpassed all original expectations and Joseph has "suppliers from all over the world calling." Returning to school, Joseph will have 'sweet' memories of the first of many enterprising summers, and an experience he says he "will never forget."

Build Your Own Summer Company and Be your Own Boss!

Thunder Bay

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Do you want a challenging opportunity and experience a great way to take charge of your future like the *Summer Company* participants profiled in this yearbook? If you are an Ontario resident between the ages of 15 and 29 and returning to school full-time in the fall, then you can apply to the *Summer Company* program.

To apply, you must:

- Have a good concept for an independent business to be run in Ontario
- Develop and write a business plan (you can contact your local *Summer Company* program provider for help)
- Submit a completed application, including a business plan and two letters of recommendation online (www.ontario.ca/summercompany).

For more information or to find your nearest *Summer Company* program provider, call 1 (800) 387-5656 or visit www.ontario.ca/summercompany. Submit as early as possible because spaces are limited.

1. Brampton Small Business Enterprise Centre – Brampton
2. Brampton Small Business Enterprise Centre – Caledon
3. Brantford-Draft Business Resource Enterprise Centre
4. Business Advisory Centre – Peterborough
5. Business Advisory Centre Durham – Oshawa
6. Business Advisory Centre Northumberland – Cobourg
7. Business Enterprise Centre of Simcoe-Lambton
8. Chatham-Kent Business Enterprise Centre
9. Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre
10. Enterprise Centre South St. Marie
11. Enterprise Centre – Belleville
12. Enterprise Renfrew County – Pembroke
13. Enterprise Renfrew County – Renfrew
14. Enterprise Temiskaming – Haliburton
15. Enterprise Toronto – Etobicoke
16. Enterprise Toronto – North York
17. Enterprise Toronto – Scarborough
18. Enterprise Toronto – Toronto
19. Entrepreneurship Centre – Kingston Economic Development Corporation
20. Greater Barrie Business Enterprise Centre
21. Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre – Guelph
22. Halton Region Business Development Centre – Oakville
23. Hamilton Small Business Enterprise Centre
24. Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre – Sarnia
25. JYS Toronto – North York
26. Kewartha Lakes Small Business Enterprise Centre – Lindsay
27. Lanark-North Leeds Enterprise Centre – Smith Falls
28. Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre – Brockville
29. London Small Business Centre
30. Markham Small Business Enterprise Centre
31. Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre
32. Muskoka Enterprise Centre – Town of Bracebridge
33. Niagara Falls Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
34. Northwest Business Centre – Kanora
35. Orangeville & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
36. Perth Community Futures Development Corporation – Milverton
37. Prescott-Russell Enterprise Centre – Hawkesbury
38. Prescott-Russell Enterprise Centre – Rockland
39. Regional Business Centre – Sudbury
40. Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre
41. Sauguenay Shores Small Business Enterprise Centre – Port Elgin
42. St. Catharines & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
43. The Business Centre Hespeling-Parry Sound – North Bay
44. The Business Centre Hespeling-Parry Sound – Parry Sound
45. The Business Enterprise Centre – Owen Sound & Area
46. The Business Enterprise Centre – Timmins
47. The Entrepreneurship Centre – Ottawa
48. Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre
49. Toronto Business Development Centre
50. Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre
51. Waterloo Region Small Business Centre – Cambridge
52. Waterloo Region Small Business Centre – Kitchener
53. Waterloo Region Small Business Centre – Waterloo
54. Windsor-Essex Small Business Enterprise Centre
55. Woodstock & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
56. YMCA of Simcoe-Muskoka – Midland
57. York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre – Newmarket
58. Youth Employment Services – Toronto

Did you know?

- Between 2001-2006, *Summer Company* businesses have collectively generated approximately \$5.7 million in revenues.
- Over 700 applications were submitted to the 2006 *Summer Company* program.
- Between 2001-2006, *Summer Company* participants have been, on average, 65% male and 35% female.
- In 2006, approximately 50% of *Summer Company* participants were from high school, 36% from university, and 14% from college.
- The majority of *Summer Company* participants are 16 to 22 years of age, but any student in the 15 to 29-age range is eligible to apply.
- The longest business in 2006 operated for 152 days.



Green Bananas

Natalie Moreau
Kirkland Lake



Natalie knew she wanted to be an entrepreneur and run her own business. But it was *Summer Company* that helped her to “take the time to stop and think of a game plan, get it down on paper, and make it happen.”

Drawing on Natalie’s design and sewing skills, Green Bananas offers one-of-a-kind handbags and purses of all designs, colours and styles. In fact, the bags have become so popular, Natalie’s purses have gone to Ottawa,

Temiskaming, Toronto and even as far as Ireland and Italy!

Having such a strong demand for her purses meant lots of designing and sewing hours for Natalie, but “having accomplished more than I could have imagined,” opening Green Bananas has been worth all of her hard work. What’s Natalie’s recipe for success? Combine your business with your passion and “you are sure to succeed!”

Synchro Summer Camp

Anne-Sophie Pelchat
Sudbury



Since ending her career as a synchronized swimmer, Anne-Sophie has always had a desire to open a swim club “to share my passion and knowledge of the sport with future athletes.” Through the support of the Sudbury Regional Business Centre and the *Summer Company* program, Anne-Sophie was able to make this dream into a reality this past summer. Anne-Sophie found that time management and networking were two very important skills. Participating in

local Chamber of Commerce events, Anne-Sophie worked to “constantly sell myself and put my service into the peoples minds” as she marketed her synchro camp. With one season successfully completed and a growing interest in synchronized swimming, Anne-Sophie is returning to her post-secondary studies with the belief that “being a business owner is definitely something I would be interested in for the future.”

Finì Home

Jennifer Perry-
Lupenette,
Plainfield



Finì Home provided 23 year-old Jennifer with an opportunity to leverage the growing popularity of home staging and offer clients an opportunity to make their homes appear as large as possible for resale, parties or events, as well as offering painting and decorating services. Jennifer worked hard to inform potential clients about the advantages of staging, and won clients by developing business relationships with other businesses and consistently presenting a "cohesive look and professional appearance" for Finì

Home. Jennifer participated in mentoring sessions and group discussions with other *Summer Company* participants and learned "that even if your business is different from someone else's they might have a really good idea for you since they have a different perspective and approach." Learning from others and growing both her business and personal skills sets has led Jennifer to develop a strong foundation from which she will continue to build Finì Home.

R!ot Clothing & Accessories

Patricia Petrie
Port Carling



R!ot Clothing & Accessories proved to be a perfect 'fit' for Port Carling's bustling summer cottagers, tourists and local teenage shoppers by offering the hottest trends in clothing and accessories.

Finding the right site for R!ot was critical, as Patricia realized "that location is very important to the success of any retail business." Patricia decided that Port Carling in the 'hub' of the Muskoka cottage district would be the best location for her retail clothing shop. Competing in the busy Port Carling retail

market, Patricia had to make R!ot unique, so she used creative marketing and advertising techniques like providing a 'free gift with purchase' or small gift cards for future purchases.

This creativity definitely helped R!ot succeed, as "customers loved walking out the door feeling that they received more than what they paid for." With new suppliers to approach, Patricia is looking forward to operating R!ot again next summer and is looking at opportunities for expansion!

Sing-A-Long with Lacie

Lacie Rempel
Wroxeter



In hour long performances, 24 year-old Lacie lent her singing and musical talents to show tunes, jazz lyrics, and folk ballads to get her senior audiences to Sing-a-Long with Lacie to the popular songs of their childhoods. Performing since the age of 12, Lacie knew she wanted to give entrepreneurship a try and see if her passion could become her business. Always conscious of offering new songs and music to her clients, Lacie had to have strong time management and organizational skills to plan and deliver her sing-a-long session. Travelling to a number of nursing and retirement

homes in a number of different cities for performances, Lacie planned ahead, reconfirmed times and locations for shows and ensured she was on time for all of her performances. Building a client base by delivering top-notch performances and offering professional client relationships, Lacie has successfully turned her passion for performing into a business, discovered that "entrepreneurship is a definite option as a career" and learnt the skills necessary to continue to deliver entertainment and fun through music to nursing and retirement homes.

The Arnprior Ice Shack Inc

Paul Rusheleau
Renfrew



Paul spent his summer 'cooling down' customers by selling freezies, drinks and iced coffee from a structure resembling an ice-fishing shack.

In operating his business, Paul learned the importance of excellent customer service, as "in retail or any customer service job it is essential to be a good talker and to portray a good image for you and your business." This excellent customer service, combined

with great products at competitive prices, helped Paul attract many customers and successfully compete in the local market.

Paul's self confidence also increased as a result of meeting and talking to many customers over the summer. Having well surpassed sales forecasts, Paul hopes to be able to build on this summer's successes and continue to enjoy the benefits of being his own boss in future pursuits.

Bombay Bounce

Sajmun Sachdev
Toronto



'Bhangra Baby', 'Bollywood Bling' and 'East meets West' are just some of the Bhangra, Bollywood and Fusion dance classes offered by Bombay Bounce dance company.

Drawing on South Asian influences, Sajmun's classes offered unique steps and innovative dance routines to kids, tweens, teens and adults who wanted to learn a new dance, get some exercise, and most importantly, have fun. Realizing it's not always easy to create 'buzz' about a new dance company, Sajmun contacted various print, radio and television networks that led to profiles in the Toronto Star and CBC Newsworld amongst others. Being

proactive and contacting media outlets allowed Sajmun to leverage the media attention and book a number of classes and jobs. And while all the publicity "was a blast," Sajmun worked tirelessly teaching classes and learning all of the different aspects it takes to run a successful business.

With no previous entrepreneurial or business training, Sajmun learned "how to actually set-up a business, get insurance, register people, book studio space, advertise and market myself and my business" - all things she didn't "know how to do before" her *Summer Company* experience!

Oliphant Island Services

Hayden Stewart
Wiarton



Last summer, Hayden saw a need and an untapped market. This summer, Hayden launched Oliphant Island Services, a delivery service which offers cottagers on the Fishing Islands of Lake Huron the "conveniences of onshore living" to their island cottage locations.

Transporting supplies, garbage, groceries and newspapers, Oliphant Island Services delivered a number of services to clients. For Hayden, this meant that he had to work hard to maintain his financial records and tackle some complex book keeping. But, by setting a schedule to regularly track

his financial information and not being afraid to ask questions of The Business Enterprise Centre – Owen Sound & Area, Hayden successfully maintained his books and surpassed his profit projections by almost 15 per cent.

Learning that you have to be "enthusiastic about what you are doing to be successful at it", Hayden, one of the youngest *Summer Company* participants this year at just 15 years old, has built a client base which can help his company grow as he continues to deliver to island cottagers in the summers to come.

Golden Wake Water Ski and Wakeboard School

Jared TerMarsch
Pembroke



What better way to spend a summer than enjoying the outdoors and enjoying the cool waters of Golden Lake?

For 18 year-old Jared, starting Golden Wake Water Ski and Wakeboard School provided him with an opportunity to earn money and enjoy the sunny summer skies.

Because his business was weather dependent, Jared had to be persistent and work around cold and windy days to gain clients. Jared's determination led to many accomplishments this summer, including

having his business profile featured in five different local newspapers and having "almost every client book a follow-up lesson after their first experience," which showed that Jared's customers were "pleased with the way they were treated, and also with the service itself."

All of Jared's hard work has led to a great start to a business that he plans on expanding, and spending more summers promoting and teaching wakeboarding and waterskiing under the sunny summer skies of Golden Lake.

OK Computers

David Thompson
Thessalon



Providing computer and technical consulting to local small businesses and home computer users was a natural business idea for David, a certified computer technician.

Aware of the constant need for computer consulting given the fast changing information technology and computing industry, David's OK Computers provides computing and IT solutions to the repair, networking and software questions that its customers require.

The *Summer Company* experience not only helped David to build upon his

existing computing and business skills, but also helped David to enhance his "creative thinking... and challenged me to find new ways to solve problems," including using tools over the Internet to remotely work on a computer that was located outside of his office.

This creativity helped David to keep organized, be efficient and solve customers' needs, providing his customers with top-notch service, and proving that he has what it takes to turn his computing knowledge into a successful small business.

Man in the Middle

Michael Varrin
Brampton



With soccer currently at the forefront of summer sports as a result of the World Cup tournament, 26 year-old Michael found the perfect time to open Man in the Middle, a unique business idea offering qualified soccer officiating for games and tournaments in the Greater Toronto Area.

Refereeing depends on thinking on your feet and calling the plays as they happen, but Michael ensured that Man in the Middle was guided by a well developed business plan. Spending

over a month researching and an additional month producing the final business plan took time and effort, but this groundwork ensured that Michael had a solid understanding of the soccer industry and helped keep his forecasts on track.

As Michael realized, "without the foresight gained through preparation of the business plan, I may not have recognized the potentials out there," and ultimately, reached the levels of success he achieved this summer.

Verney Tennis

Michael Verney
Ottawa



Taking advantage of an under filled market opportunity, Verney Tennis offered half and full day tennis camps at two locations in the Ottawa area.

Michael drew on the support of his mentors who offered him advice on a number of business areas, including how to stay on deadline by setting daily goals for himself and including elements of his personality when marketing the business. The mentoring meetings

motivated Michael to continue to work hard on achieving his goals, and also provided Michael with lots of new ideas for his business. He "found it interesting to see what other businesses were doing" and "took some ideas of other businesses and applied them" to his own. Most importantly, Michael ran a successful summer camp and achieved the goals he set out for himself and Verney Tennis.

Walker Windows

Taylor Walker
Dundas



Differentiating his business by focusing on customer service, Taylor's greatest accomplishment this summer was achieving 100 per cent customer satisfaction.

Offering exterior window washing to customers in the Dundas area, Taylor had to overcome being hearing impaired, a late start due to equipment delays, and difficulty in securing a customer base in getting his business started.

Taylor worked hard to network, market through door-to-door sales and

promote his business wherever possible. As the summer progressed, all of this hard work began materializing in clients.

Having learned how to build business relationships with clients, and now more aware of his leadership and decision making abilities, Taylor's objective of starting a foundation for a business that could be carried into successive summers has been achieved, allowing Taylor to "just keep at it" building more clients and continuing to deliver the utmost customer service through Walker Windows.

Informative Legal Research Services

Pei-Shing Wang
Toronto



As a second year law student, 24 year-old Pei-Shing was already comfortable with a number of legal databases, and knew that many small firms and independent practitioners didn't have enough resources or time to undertake some of the research required for cases. Informative Legal Research Services sought to ease this burden by offering manual and electronic family law and criminal research on a contractual basis to small firms and independent practitioners.

Basing his initial pricing on perceived value, Pei-Shing soon realized

that he had to reconstruct his pricing strategy and raise his prices in order to generate more business, as "with the new higher price, the clients actually felt more confident with my services." This flexibility helped Pei-Shing attract more clients, including a large law firm, and exceed his projected sales forecasts.

Having completed one successful summer, Pei-Shing is looking forward to continuing to attract new clients as he continues his business on a part-time basis in the fall.

J&F Firewood

Jesse Whitney
Sundridge



Being visually impaired didn't stop Jesse Whitney, a 16 year-old high school student, from starting his own firewood business. Jesse, along with his guide dog Fudge, provided residents, cottagers and campers with firewood during the summer.

Jesse didn't let a lack of business experience stop him from taking part in *Summer Company* either. Instead, by relying on his mentors, who Jesse thinks are the "building blocks of the entire program," as well as The Business Centre – Nipissing Parry Sound,

Jesse was able to tackle any obstacle he faced, whether writing a business plan for a first time, undertaking buying and selling, monitoring cash flows or maintaining his online journals, and discovering skills that he "didn't know he had."

With numerous orders from the local residents and cottagers, and even more demand with the cold winter months fast approaching, Jesse has decided to continue the business part time while returning to school, in order to serve the heavy demand for firewood.

Mentors Help Guide The Way...

The mentoring relationship is an important component of the *Summer Company* program. Mentors enrich the *Summer Company* experience for participants, and help by providing advice and ideas, encouragement and sometimes offering a listening ear. Many successful business people credit early mentors as an important determinant to their success, just as many *Summer Company* participants cite mentoring as the most valuable part of the program.

By volunteering to become a *Summer Company* mentor, business people from across Ontario are playing a valuable role in their communities and in the lives of enterprising youth. Without their commitment, knowledge, and expertise, *Summer Company* could not be the success that it is. To find out more about becoming a mentor, check with your local Small Business Enterprise Centre or *Summer Company* program provider. For locations, please visit: www.ontario.ca/summercompany or call 1 (800) 387-5656.

Mary Crossley

Crossleygiftbaskets.com
Midland



Being an entrepreneur herself, Mary knows how hard it can be to start and run a successful business. Mary took time out of her busy online gift basket business to mentor up and coming *Summer Company* students. She enjoyed working with the students and helping them practice their networking skills.

Mary says "seeing the difference in the students from the first meeting to the last was amazing... by the end they were doing the walk and talk. Networking and mingling with the professionals became very natural for them."

As far as being a mentor goes, Mary thoroughly enjoyed it. She has mentored adults for the last four years, but found that mentoring the students "was just wonderful." She would highly recommend that experienced business owners become mentors.

Jeff Bowman

Bowman Training
Initiatives
Brampton



Jeff has volunteered as a *Summer Company* mentor for the last four years, and enjoys it more every year. That's why he takes time out of owning a training company and being partner in another marketing consulting company, to help students discover the challenges and opportunities in being their own boss. Jeff enjoys seeing students from a variety of backgrounds working as a team and helping each other out. Not only do they learn business acumen, but teamwork and respect as well.

Jeff worked with the students in the areas of marketing, networking and sales. Once the students understand basic sales concepts, their ability to network and market themselves becomes much easier due to higher self-confidence.

As far as being a mentor goes, Jeff says that "this is an experience that every business person should take part in. Seeing these young people succeed, in part due to the assistance that you offer, is the greatest feeling of success that you can have."

They Were Their Own Bosses...

Name	Company Name	City	Name	Company Name	City
Kara Aitken	Aitken Aquatics	Unionville	Martin Dube	Dube's Car Care	Timmins
Kya-Lynn Aitkenhead	K-L Designs	Thessalon	Joshua Dueck	Fluid Image	Kingston
Chantal Alves	Summer Breeze Laundry Service	Kingston	Ian Duke	Duke Aerial Photography	Mississauga
Alexandra Apolloni	The Monster Adoption Agency	Waterloo	Heather Dumillion	A Women's Touch Lanscaping	Barrie
Michael Aquan-Assee	Minds Eye Motivation	Oakville	Scott Durdle	Scott Durdle Landscaping and Property Maintenance	Guelph
Emma Arenson	Color and Light in Glass	Toronto			
Jamie Atkinson	Dexterous Home Improvements	Toronto	Veronica Eby	Occasions Gourmet Coffee Catering	Listowel
Willy Ba	Installaquarium	Kingston	Dorothy Eng	Kids 'N' Quarks Science and Engineering Camp	Toronto
Lucas Baiano	Vision Films	Niagara-on-the-Lake			
Rebecca Basciano	Becca's Books	Sauble Beach	Nathaniel Erskine-Smith	Gourmet on the Go	Kingston
James Basnett	Slate West Media	Thornhill	Heath Fashina	Thistle Video Transfers	Orangeville
Jessica Bastonnais	Paz-t'o-Camp	Rockland	Eric Ferguson	DreamPix	Napanee
Alex Bath	Jab's mowin'	Kingston	Fabio Ferri	TLP Renovations	Concord
Félix Beauchamp	Classic Car Wash	Clarence Creek	Shawn Fetterly	U-Rock Guitar Lessons	North Bay
Amy Belair	Itta Biza	Toronto	Anthony Fick	Finch's Ice Cream and Novelty T-Shirts	Sault Ste. Marie
Amanda Benggawan	Decadent Dreams	Mississauga	Adam Filiatrault	Adam Filiatrault Contracting	North Bay
Lhisha Bennett	Camp Froglets	Kinmount	Derek Flear	The Flea Circus	Barrie
Amanda Bentley	Sharky's Backyard Swimming	Aurora	Judson Flom	Lobster Larry	Toronto
Shalini Bhat	Cambridge Pilates	Richmond Hill	Adam Flynn	Critical Development	Hamilton
Hussein Bhujwalla	CAD Generation	Mississauga	Rosaleen Ford	Rosaleen Ford Portraiture	Oakville
Jason Binstock	Generations Video	Thornhill	Sarah Fortais	Love Nature	Sault Ste. Marie
Jaclyn Blacklock	Pickering Outdoor Cleaning	Pickering	Frank Forte	InteractiNet Networking Services Inc.	Toronto
Josh Blank	Carrot Top Organics	Toronto	Stephen Foston	Foston's First Class Landscaping	Whitby
Christopher Boardman	Starving Student Lawn Care	Aurora	Faye Francois	MUD HUT	Whitby
Faye Bontje	Skyscapes	London	Lucas Frattura	Crown Jewl	Maple
Roselle Boucher	Heaven's Budget Spa	Sudbury	Wade Friesen	Se Krit Skateshop	Fort Frances
Colin Bowser	Truecote Student Driveway Sealers	Shanty Bay	Erik Gemeinhardt	Fellers of Meadow Fox	Midhurst
Riley Boyd	Magic of the Imagination	Hamilton	Monique Gielis	Monique Gielis Enterprises	Burgessville
Dustin Bradley	Fire Fingers	Sudbury	Lucas Gjos	North Shore Waste Disposal & Cottage Services	Desbarats
Jeffery Bradshaw	Refuse Design	Guelph	Sarah Gjos	The Scoop	Desbarats
Angela Brown	Angel's Inc.	Waterloo	Alison Gledhill	Bricolage	Toronto
Jeremiah Brown	University Audio Productions	Hamilton	Jesse Glowinsky	That's My Line	Toronto
Bianca Brown	Binky Tee	Toronto	Andrew Goodridge	Ghetto Grocery	Kingston
Jonathon Brown	Complete Coaching	North York	Neal Goomar	Reflections Car-Detailing	Toronto
Josh Brown	Josh Brown Photography	Kemptville	David Grabiec	Northern Lakes Chairs	Elliot Lake
Julie Brown	Quality Clean-All	Peterborough	Elliot Grabish	Paintball Headgear and Accessories	Aurora
Austin Browne	Grounds Maintenance Service	Brantford	Scott Green	Locals Ink	Kenora
Gwynne Burgess	Gwynne Burgess Imaging	Seaforth	Mark Gribbon	Ribbon Painting Services	Georgetown
Jennifer Cajucum	Pink Party Princess	Brampton	Sacha Gudmundsson	SplashySashy Photography	Belleville
Sarah Caldwell	SNAP Adventures	Kenora	Jacob Guenkel	Fun-Guy Mushrooms	Omeme
Julian Camastra	Julian's Cottage Care and Maintenance	Toronto	James Hagger	Clown Around Children Entertainment	South Porcupine
Ryan Campbell	Road Suds	Thunder Bay	Gavin Halucha	Gavin's eBay Store	Warton
Jenni Campbell	Wordsmith Communications	Ottawa	Shelagh Hare	Under Wraps	Kenora
James Carpenter	James' Lawn Aeration	Toronto	Derene Harrietha	Derene's Digital Imaging	Toronto
André-Rock Cayen	Entretien Cayen	Hawkesbury	Alex Harris	Endelea Software Distributions	Oakville
Eliza Chandler	Mad Crepes	Toronto	Tyler Hartwick	Cybermedics	Stratford
Jonathan Chau	Chau Productions	London	Rebecca Haslam	Becca's Body Art	Whitby
Cody Chenier	CHENCAN	Nepean	Austin Hatch	Candyshop Skates	Sleeman
Ethan Chiddicks	Chiddicks Technical Services	Guelph	John Hawke	Hawke Productions	Christian Island
Emmett Chisholm	Warm Wood	Lunenburg	Hugh Helferty	Black River Art	Pictou
Myles Chisholm	Hierloom Productions	Lunenburg	Jordan Hellyer	Hellyer Video	North York
Kathryn Christensen	Ear-Resistible	Oakville	Dave Hendry	DH Lawn Care and Landscaping	Tiverton
Craig Chung	Remember When...	Markham	Megan Hillman	BlueTurtle Studios	Bracebridge
Rachel Clayton	Learn and Grow Day Camp	Peterborough	Jasmin Hofer	Energrow Ltd.	Newton
Christian Condon	Clean Cut	Oxford Mills	Michael Hong	Zen Apparel	Richmond Hill
Aspen Conlin	Aspeniculars	North Bay	Lance Hudgin	Lance's Backyard Swimming	Markham
Kari Cook	Kari's Phat Tats	Samia	Winnie Hui	Sakura Wigs	Mississauga
Jodi Cooper	Foot in the Door Management	Belleville	Julia Hussman	Jewel Disc	Toronto
Jonathan Covato	Illuminox Design	Toronto	Derek Hutchuk	Hutchuk's Landscaping	Courtice
Dean Cowan	Radioactive Cowman Retail	Ignace	Josh Inkpen	Cornwall Buy and Sell	Long Sault
Corey Crabb	Perth PC	Perth	Peter Irvine	Prestigious Landscaping	Grand Valley
Mariah Craig	The Receipts Filer	North Bay	Amber Irwin	Hot Off The Press	Cobourg
Ashley Crawford	Timeless Used Furniture	Marmora	Brayden Jaspers	Jaspers Lawn Care	Thunder Bay
Laryssa Curd	DAT-ASSIST	Mansfield	Ashley Johnston	NutriLife Health Solutions	Kincardine
Jeffrey Dale	Millbank Summer Festival Theatre	Milverton	Derrick Johnstone	124 Paintball	Sundridge
Ryan Davies	Northland Contracting and Landscaping	North Bay	David Jones	Lost Villages Productions	Morrisburg
Kyle Davis	The Splat Shack	Shelburne	Tina Jones	Tina's Creative Corner	Barrie
Kathryn Dawe	Whispering Waters Pool	Aurora	Krista Jorgensen	Memories of a Lifetime	Cobourg
Jordan De Jong	Fin-natic Sport Fishing	Oakville	Igor Kagan	Tech Rescuers	Toronto
Niko de Jonge	Student Interior and Exterior Painters	Wellington	Bryan Kam	Open Access Garage Doors	Mississauga
Alissa Deck	Girl Friday	Peterborough	Artyom Katsaga	Artis Digital	Richmond Hill
Eric Denis	ED Solutions	North Bay	Sina Keivani Boroujeni	Ax Framing	Richmond Hill
Sajjan Deogon	Kyora Technologies	Mississauga	Blaine Jr. Kennedy	Spiffy's Car Care	North Bay
Heather Dietz	Heather Dietz Photography	Sault Ste. Marie	Cody King	Pick-Up Truck 4 Hire	Brockville
Geoff Dillon	Muskoka Paint and Maintenance	Bracebridge	Jessica King	Jess's Flower farm	Lucknow
Evan Dinsmore	Concord Design	Oakville	Sean Kirk	Student Lawncapers	Campbellville
Brandon Doering	Brandon's Gates and Welding	Cobden	David Klassen	Newport Landscaping	Vineland
Natalie Doiron	Toronto T-Party Designs	Toronto	Steven Klickermann	Klickerman Computer Repair	Alexandria
Daniel D'Silva	Otter Lawn Care	Kitchener	Brianna Knowles	Try-Hard Rugby	Oakville

Name	Company Name	City	Name	Company Name	City
Julie Kocsis	Education Talks	Minesing	Patricia Petrie	R!OT Clothing & Accessories	Port Carling
Desiree Kohlman	Henna by Dez	Peterborough	Hasmik Petrosian	UNI-Prep	Scarborough
Jason Kolarich	Jigsaw Clothing	Toronto	Lauren Petrucco	FLAVOUR	Guelph
Tara Krebs	Vintage Earth	Thornhill	David Phillips	Philliton Solutions Website Design	Toronto
Griffin Lacey	Griffin Kid Event Services	Guelph	Curtis Pinnegar	CPro Services	Guelph
Jennifer Laengert	Summer Music Experience	Newmarket	Justin Pitre	Just in Time Yard Services	Noelville
Rebecca Laidlaw	RHL Rocks & Minerals	Madoc	Christopher Postill	Candor Media	Toronto
Maxime Lalonde	Service D'entretien Max	Wendover	Brandon Postuma	Postuma's Landscaping Solutions	Thunder Bay
Karen Lam	Ish Designs	Scarborough	Jesse Prebble	Dridius Technologies	Bowmanville
Rachel Lambo	Rococo	Brampton	Anna Pshenichny	IXTLAN.DESIGN	Richmond Hill
Brenna Lanktree	The Itsy Bitsy Spider	Vineland	Tom Ptycia	Tom's Turf Trimming	Orleans
Jordan Laporte	Greener Solutions	Napanee	Jeff Radecki	Buy Greenergy	Penetanguishene
Kate Larson	Kate's Dance Academy	Blind River	Johnson Rae	Burbank Clothing Company	Brighton
Andrew Lauzon	Centennial Studios	Burlington	Taynia Rainville	Pillow Pageant	Sudbury
Virginia Laxton	Virginia's Nursery and Fruit/Vegetable Market	Dundalk	Nikita Ramdahani	Teensvillage.com	Brooklin
Alexandra LeBlanc	Roseland Lawn Care	Carrying Place	Lacie Rempel	Sing-A-Long With Lacie	Wroxeter
Hyein Lee	HyeinPain Sock Monsters	Brampton	Sarah Renna	This is Me	Cambridge
Tim Lichti	Clean-Cut Lawn and Property Maintenance	Waterloo	Nathan Reynolds	NJR Conversions	Brockville
Azim Lila	Pivotal Enterprises	Toronto	Robert Rice	Rob The Handy-Student	Napanee
Michael Liu	ShopFront.ca	Markham	Jeff Richard	Mowbile	Kingston
Jordan Lloyd	3rd Wheel Creative Studio	Toronto	Gregory Ricker	XL Power Washing and Painting	Belleville
Rebecca Lowery	Sew Fun	Bowmanville	Davin Riedstra	Davin's Websales	Stratford
Matthew Lumley	Lumley Irrigation	Ingleside	Brittany Robson	Brittany's Summer Dance Camp	Marmora
Michael Luubert	Bug Busters	Markham	Karla Rodriguez	J Salon & Spa	London
Amy Lynch	Perceptive Perspective Images (P&P Images)	Chesterville	Marsha Rose	Jenelle Esthetique	Toronto
Ricky Lytle	Sharp Cutters	Belleville	Taras Rosocha	Aquatic Development Centre	Toronto
Michael MacDonald	Limestone City Bookkeeping	Kingston	Blake Rowsell	Team Fun Water Sports	Oshawa
Arlie MacDonald	Arlie's Driveway Sealing	Burlington	Ian Rumpf	The Open Source	Sault Ste. Marie
Jacob MacMillan	JDM Music Services	Perkinsfield	Paul Rusheleau	The Arnprior Ice Shack Inc.	Renfrew
Andrew Maconachie	Custom Landscapes	Midhurst	Sajmun Sachdev	Bombay Bounce	Toronto
Aaron Maloney-Roos	ACONA HOUSEING AND DEVELOPMENT INC.	Ottawa	Alicia Santamaria	Alicia's Art Classes	Timmins
Sameh Mansour	The Computer Phix	Ottawa	Cody Schindel	Quickpics Photography	Delaware
Meri-Beth Manuel	MeriBeth Lawn Cutting Service	Sault Ste. Marie	Alex Schuldt	Alex Schuldt Photography	Oshawa
Paul Marai	Oakville Tutoring Services	Oakville	Mark Sherwin	Husky Homes	Kingston
Jesse Marchand	Alternative Apparel	Penetanguishene	Catherine Shields	Cat's Cleaning and Clutter Company	Erin
Jonathan Marler	Ship Shape Yacht Detailing and Underwater Repair	Toronto	Mackenzie Sinclair	Wood Eh!	Sundridge
Oliver Marler	Cleaner Image	Oakville	Noelle Hamlyn Snell	Handsum	Mississauga
Armani Martel	Professional Greetings	Windsor	Philip Spoelstra	IE Painting and Installations	Hamilton
Corbin Mathany	Grassroots Lawn Maintenance and Landscaping	Dresden	Jessie St. John	Lux	Sault Ste. Marie
Carolyn Mayne	2Dye4	North Bay	Rosalinde St. Thomas	Spark Illustration	Peterborough
Matthew McCartney	Winning Wheels	Kingston	Tanisha Stephen	Art of da Rootz	St. Catharines
Brendon McCullough	Varsity Maintenance	Nephton	Matt Stevenson	M.S. Property Maintenance	Owen Sound
Andrew McFarland	Loyalist Construction	Odessa	Brooke Stewart	Art in the Barn	Canvar
Kallum McIntosh	Festival City Alternative Tours (FCAT)	Stratford	Hayden Stewart	Oliphant Island Services	Warton
Duncan McLean	The London Green Team	London	Samuel Strain	Rural Computer Solutions	Milverton
Sean McNeil	North London Deckhands	London	Genevieve Stringer	Adele Productions	Midland
James Medeiros	Zen Computers	St. Catharines	Caroline Sudak	The Card Shark	Newmarket
Fabian Mejia	2 Brushes Up	Toronto	Caitlin Sullivan	Catalyst Designs	Richmond
Satyam Merja	Math Tutoring Service	Toronto	Brian W. Summers	Summers Contracting	Pembroke
Scott Metherell	BigRedWorks	Burlington	Chris Svoboda	Muskoka Sound Waves	Brampton
Brianne Metzger	5zer0	Pembroke	Corey Swiergosz	Let Us Lift It Moving and Cartage	Kirkland Lake
Veronica Miernicki	SplashAquatics	Guelph	William Sze	William's Print Shop	Richmond Hill
Austin Miller	Over The Top Paintball	Thornton	Andrew Tarzwell	InTouch Computer Services	Belleville
Marc Milton	Marc's Home and Yard Care	Stratford	Mustapha Taylor	Bite Entertainment	Toronto
Mark Moir	Rural Roots Landscape and Design	Chatham	Courtenay Telford	Courtenay's Horse Services	Frankford
Joseph Moncada	Sweet Tooth	Wasaga Beach	Jared TerMarsch	Golden Wake Water Ski and Wakeboard School	Pembroke
Jayne Moorcroft	Moorcroft Student Painting	Mississauga	David Thompson	OK Computers	Thessalon
Patrick Moore	BiteMe Barkery SSM	Sault Ste. Marie	Aaron Trudeau	Country Brothers Painting	Haydon
André Moreau	André's Sweets and Treats	Penetanguishene	Miles Tsang	Heartfelt Art Designs	Ajax
Natalie Moreau	Green Bananas	Kirkland Lake	Douglas Tsoi	Sharp Theories	Woodbridge
Blair Morrison	The Wood Chucker	Lucknow	Lindsay Ulrich	Lemon Emma Designs	Toronto
Evan Moses	Dividual Design	Toronto	Michael Upshall	The Cutting Edge Vinyl Graphics	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Mona Mreiche	Paz-T'a-L'Action	Rockland	Thea Van Den Tempel	AT Bags	Poole
Kadia Mullings	Anayabi Candle Company	Waterloo	Steve Van Mierlo	Hidden City Design	Brookville
Jenna Munro	Munro Management	Toronto	Brendan Van Sickle	Tamer of Fire and the Elements Forge	Richards Landing
Ryan Murphy	Digital Arms Design	Marysville	Becky Vandekleut	Treat Yourself	Cumberland
Paul Myers	Paul's Yard Works	Penetanguishene	Michael Varrin	Man In The Middle	Brampton
François Nadeau	Formation d'échecs Nadeau	Kapuskasing	Michael Verney	Verney Tennis	Ottawa
Kelsey Nash	Eco-Clothes	Sault Ste. Marie	Jesse Lee Wadon	Rocky Racoon Proofing	Toronto
Vanessa Newby	Vanessa Newby Aquatics	Aurora	Taylor Walker	Walker Windows	Dundas
Nhien Nguyen	Daily Venture	Peterborough	Jennifer Wallace	Bare Bum Studio	Bayfield
Joshua O'Connor	Josh's Lawn Care	Killaloe	Kenneth Walton	Prism Painting	Toronto
Kevin Oribhabor	Wonder Car Care & Auto Detailing	Thornhill	Pei-Shing Wang	Informative Legal Research Services	Toronto
Marc Ouellette	5Horizons Designs	St. Catharines	Browen Weeks	Browen's Auto Detailing	Kingston
Adam Parent	Essential Service Providers	West Guilford	Allison Wells	Papersnake	Toronto
Marcus Parente	Mr. Marcus' Landscaping	Hamilton	Matt Weston	Swamp Songs	London
Lindsay Park	Kick & Splash Swim School	Nobleton	Jesse Whitney	J & F Firewood	Sundridge
Josh Pascoe	Cottage Country Online	Maynooth	Matt Whitteker	Final Round Boxing	Ottawa
Nicholas Pasowisty	From the Pit Productions	Lyn	Victoria Williamson	Island Treasures	Little Current
Anne-Sophie Pelchat	Synchro Summer Camp	Sudbury	Clarissa Wilson	Singtown Swimmers	Singhampton
Casey Pender	Pennlock Landscapes	Munster	Alexander Winkelmann	Rubbish Rascals	Brampton
Victoria Pennell	The Pixie Dusters	Nepean	Blake Wu	Vie Fitness	Toronto
Jessica Penney	Kids at Play	North Bay	Jonas Young	Outdoor Renovation Company	Toronto
Charith Perera	PerEra	Toronto	Levi Zettell	Ground Works Landscape Maintenance	Brantford
Jennifer Perry-Lupenette	Fini Home	Plainfield	Nancy Zheng	Inspiret	Toronto
			Rebecca Zigelman	Healing Heart Designs	Toronto

Durham's promising future

Minister Takhar congratulates young entrepreneurs

By Isabelle Jaroszynski

OSHAWA — Rebecca Lowery learned to sew at the age of 10. By Grade 8, she made her own graduation dress. Dino for high school prom. With such a young start, it should come as no surprise to learn Ms. Lowery is running her own company, Sew Fun, teaching her craft to others — and all at the age of 17.

"It is so much fun," the young entrepreneur says of her job. "It doesn't feel like work at all."

Ms. Lowery is one of nine Durham students participating in Summer Company — a program funded by the government of Ontario that gives grants and provides mentors to students between the ages of 15 and 29 to start their own business for the summer months. Designed to give youth the opportunity



Photo by Rob Mitchell

Rebecca Lowery practices in her home sewing studio. She received funding to start her own business through a provincial government program for young entrepreneurs.

Young entrepreneurs ready to make their mark

Nine Durham students selected

DURHAM — A new crop of young entrepreneurs are getting ready to launch their businesses this summer.

Nine Durham students have been selected by the government

of Ontario to take part in Summer Company — a program that provides hands-on coaching and mentoring from local business leaders and awards start-up grants of up to \$3,000.

Krista Jorgensen from Ajax, Alex Schuch from Oshawa, Derek Blazhuk from Clarington, Aaron Trudeau of Haydon, Miles Tsang

from Ajax, Rebecca Lowery from Whitby, Rebecca Lowery of Bowmanville, and Jesse Prebble also of Bowmanville, are the students participating in this year's program.

Selected applicants will receive a stipend to set up and promote

the competitive program.

With company's ranging from landscaping to photography, the students receive ongoing help and support from the Business Advi-

opportunities offered by his chosen profession: landscaping.

"It is an ever-growing industry," he said. "There is no limit in what you can do in it."

Thus far, Mr. Hutchak's biggest challenge with his landscaping company has been figuring out how to handle so many custom-

It was this combination of enthusiasm that greeted Harinder Takhar, the minister of small

business, when he visited the

Young entrepreneurs set up their summer companies

BY JEN MCNEIL

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Vanessa Mirvis of Spanish Lakes of Guelph gives swimming lessons to Mickey McLaughlin, 8, in his parents' backyard pool in Guelph.

next year to study for a semester in Japan.

She's been an enthusiastic swimmer since childhood, learned swimming techniques the municipality of Toronto, guarding through the Natatorium Society. She is a qualified lifeguard and life-saving instructor through the Royal Lifesaving.

"I'm a very athletic person," she said. She's a competitive swimmer and a water polo player. She's also a water polo player and a water polo player.

Not owning a car would be difficult for most people to take swimming lessons, but Mirvis just has a bike where her clients, some away as far as Barrie, can't pick her up.

"There's a lot of fitness I want to maintain," she explained.

She also likes to teach swimming at parties and camps, any kind of get-together where people want to learn swimming and lifeguarding.

It isn't her earnings alone that take her periodically to her bank — she's a part-time teller when she isn't working for herself.

"I'm very busy — but I like it that way," Mirvis said.



SPRINGFIELD: Jesse Prebble and his dog, Hugo, sit in front of a sand pile while in Guelph. Although Jesse Prebble is a student, he is also a lifeguard and a water polo player.



WINDY: Vanessa Mirvis of Spanish Lakes of Guelph gives swimming lessons to Mickey McLaughlin, 8, in his parents' backyard pool in Guelph.

There, they're aware of the dangers." Mirvis, who can be reached at 646-822-4777, is already booked for the summer, but said she'll be hiring other instructors because calls keep coming in, particularly from parents.

Raised in Toronto, Mirvis is working toward a bachelor of commerce degree, with a major in marketing management, and expects to graduate in December 2007.

She's on an exchange program

mirvis@spanishlakes.com



Find out more about *Summer Company*
and the location of the Small Business
Enterprise Centre or program provider
nearest you. Call 1 800 387-5656 or visit

www.ontario.ca/summercompany