



Summer Company Yearbook

Read about the many exciting ventures launched by young entrepreneurs across Ontario through the Summer Company Program.

Summer Company is a program of the government of Ontario that helps young people between 15 and 29 years old start and run their own summer business by providing funding of up to \$3,000, advice and services.

The province's Small Business Enterprise Centres and selected non-profit organizations deliver the program.

This yearbook features inspiring young entrepreneurs who built businesses in a variety of fields, including landscaping, drone photography, skin care, auto detailing and software.

Summer Company Yearbook 2016

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the 2016 Summer Company Yearbook. This has been a record year for Summer Company, with 935 students launching summer businesses through the program.

Since 2001, Summer Company has helped almost 7,000 students turn their big ideas into big businesses. The program allows entrepreneurs to become job creators, rather than job seekers. It helps young people tap into a mentor network, access capital and get the training and skills they need to run a business in this competitive world.

This yearbook showcases 28 inspiring young entrepreneurs who built businesses in a variety of fields, including landscaping, drone photography, skin care products, auto detailing and graphic design. Each one of these exciting start-ups is an opportunity to grow Ontario's future economy and help the province gain an advantage in the highly competitive global economy.

I would like to congratulate each one of this year's participants. I applaud your creativity, your drive and your passion to explore diverse opportunities, unlock new solutions to complex problems — and shape the economy of the future.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development and Growth

Success stories

Brandi Sokil — Doggone Delicious

Belleville



Meeting new challenges

Brandi Sokil's goal with Summer Company was to seek out options for her future as a person living with a disability, and Doggone Delicious is helping her meet that goal.

Brandi is an 18 year-old with Down syndrome, who has just finished her fourth year in the life skills program, integrating into regular classes. Brandi's passions are swimming and her pets. She's been in the pool since she was a baby, and with Doggone Delicious, she's following her other passion, with a successful business.

Brandi sells a vast selection of unique home baked dog treats in flavours including cheeseburger, peanut butter, sweet potato, salmon, and pumpkin, along with chicken, fish and liver. All treats contain only safe and healthy ingredients, and are baked and packaged in her home. Brandi also made DIY Peanut Butter dog treat kits which came with all the ingredients, an easy recipe, and two cookie cutters.

Brandi's product displays attracted a lot of positive comments from customers, venue personnel, and other vendors. She sold her treats at a Trenton trade show, and secured a spot in the Wellington Farmers Market for the entire summer.

As Brandi's mom Barb Sokil notes, the Summer Company program has provided her with many benefits. "It's increased her social skills, and her life skills in many areas," says Barb. "There's everything from baking and

cleaning up to setting up and tearing down, sitting at venues for long periods of time without a complaint, and her interaction with her favourite animals.”

Mahad Shahzad — Wrap’d

Brampton



Wrapping up a new market niche

Subscription box services that deliver new products every month are still growing in popularity. Specialty foods, beauty products, pet treats, wine—the list of subscription box products is long. The business is also very competitive, so finding a niche market is now the key to success.

Mahad Shahzad found that key, with a head scarf subscription service that has proven itself as a business concept in a very short time. Once he had settled on his unique concept, Mahad quickly set up his supply chain and started marketing.

Wrap’d, his Summer Company, definitely filled a need in the market, attracting 10 clients in its first month. Mahad had tight deadlines to fill orders, sometimes working until three a.m. He ships his Wrap’d Box on the last business day of each month, and subscribers receive them the next week.

Subscribers are surprised with each month’s selections. To pique their interest, he offers hints about each box on a theme page on the Wrap’d website. For example, January’s theme is “Surprise: Get Wrap’d up in this winter weather with two randomly selected high quality hijabs from our collection.”

Subscribers are asked to provide feedback to help Wrap'd select products with wide appeal. This attention to detail and customer service has helped Mahad build a strong and growing brand.

Jacob Nyyssonen — Strategic Films

Brantford



All in the family

When 18 year-old Jacob Nyyssonen heard about Summer Company from his brother Mac (who started a Summer Company business a few years ago) he was immediately hooked.

“I thought it was a great idea,” says Jacob. “I wanted to set my own work schedule this summer, and do something I really love, and Summer Company definitely gave me that opportunity.”

Jacob operates Strategic Films, providing small independent businesses in the Brantford area with short video commercials. Jacob’s commercials run 30 to 50 seconds, and are ideal for a company’s website or Facebook page.

Jacob is now attending Toronto’s Centennial College, and Summer Company allowed him to have a job related to his career path. “I’m going to film school for film making,” he says. “I wanted a summer job making movies, and this is a way I can do that.”

Jacob hopes to continue his business next summer. “I definitely would recommend this program,” he says. “Plus it’s really easy to do; you just have to put in the work.”

Thomas Kambadzi — In-Your-Home Vegan Restaurant**Brantford**



A virtual vegan restaurant

As a vegan, Thomas Kambadzi was having trouble finding high quality food options that fit his diet. His solution: start a private-chef service that specializes in vegan offerings.

“I’m trying to make healthy eating practical, but also tasty,” says Thomas. With the success of his Summer Company, In-Your-Home Vegan Restaurant, Thomas has achieved his goal.

As his company name says, Thomas gives his customers a virtual vegan restaurant in their homes. He arrives with groceries, cooking supplies, and dishes, and prepares elaborate vegetarian fare over several hours. Thomas provides a complete catering service. He serves the meal, and provides information about the menu. After dinner, he washes all the dishes and leaves the kitchen spotless.

Thomas immigrated to Brantford from Zimbabwe four years ago. He’s now back at his studies in the Bachelor of Science nursing program at Hamilton's McMaster University. If the business continues to grow, he plans to keep it running after he graduates.

"It's been a very fulfilling experience," he says. "I’m getting to meet people I never would have met if I didn't have this business opportunity."

Lauren Irwin — Infused

Cobourg



Turning a hobby into a business

“Providing natural everyday alternatives” is the motto for Lauren Irwin’s hobby-turned-business. Her passion for essential oil-infused body products and aroma-therapy jewelry has spawned Infused, a successful Summer Company. Lauren’s unique custom products are handmade and chemical free.

Lauren grew the company by addressing her clients' unique needs. She expanded her product line from jewelry infused with essential oils to include other products, such as deodorant, lip balm, sun screen, insect repellent, bath bombs, and headache sticks.

The Infused product line can be found at farmers' markets, local vendor festivals and events, and on Facebook and Etsy. Since starting her company, she has expanded her distribution to clients at the popular Ste. Anne's Spa, often recognized as the top spa in Canada.

Lauren largely credits her Summer Company experience for her success. Through the program, she learned how to build a business plan, developed a client base network, and strengthened her financial management skills.

"I've always loved jewelry design and creating handmade body products," she says. "But to turn my passion, my education, and talent into a dream, with the guidance and assistance from Summer Company has made me realize I am capable of anything!"

Sydney Woodhouse — Country Canning

St. Thomas



Positive partnerships produce results

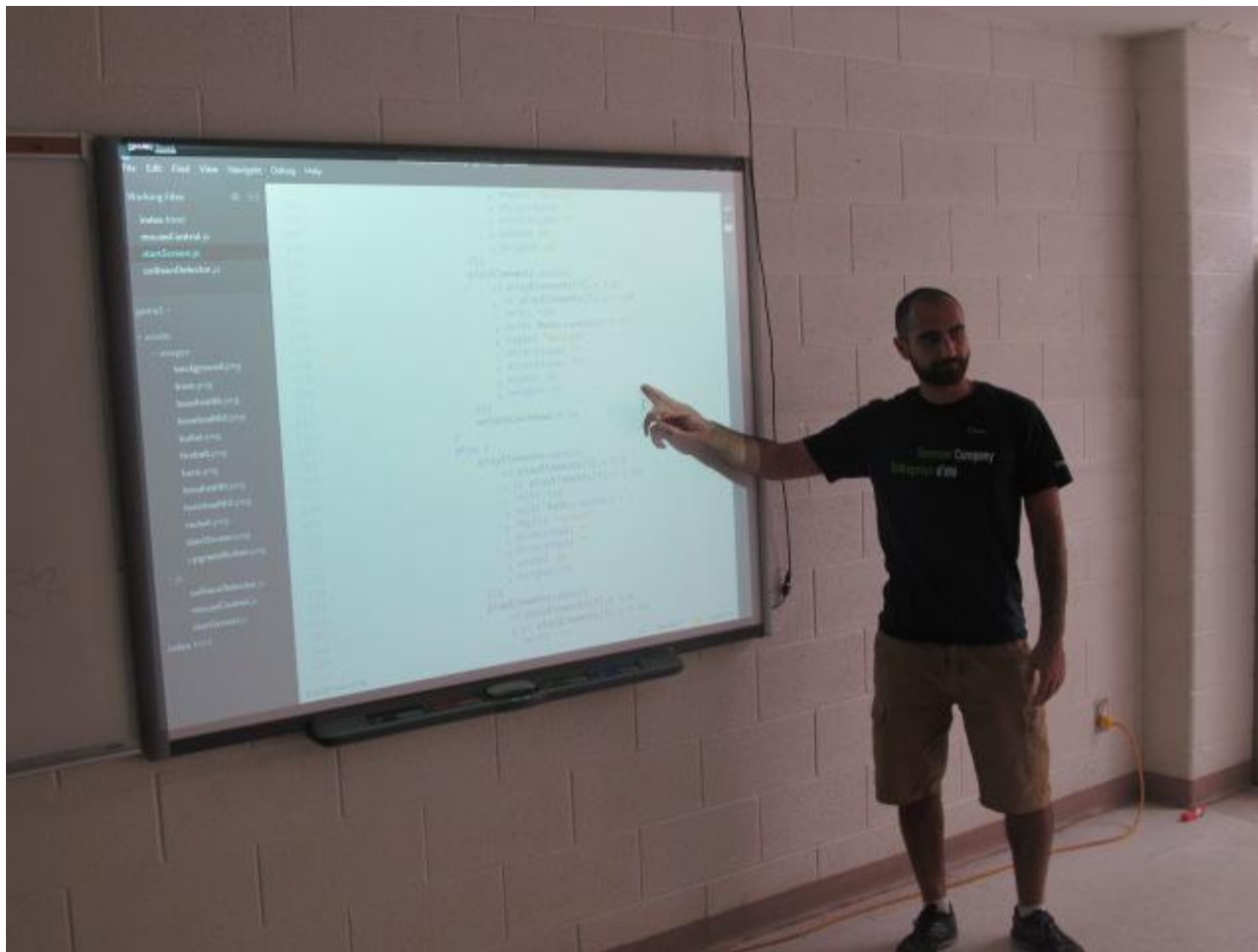
Partnerships can produce some very positive business results, as Sydney Woodhouse showed with her Summer Company, Country Canning. Sydney processes, preserves and cans local fruits and vegetables, and sells them at festivals, the Horton Street Market and KJ's Bakery in St. Thomas.

Consumers love local food, as Country Canning proved. Sydney used locally grown produce in her products, and solidified her brand as a great example of buying and selling local. She excelled at creating partnerships with local businesses, especially her farmer/suppliers, and the results speak for themselves.

Sydney exceeded her Summer Company sales projections, and plans to continue to sell her goods through to the Christmas season. Sydney definitely had a busy summer, concurrently completing a summer co-op while running Country Canning. Her mentor notes that this was especially impressive, because she didn't rely on anyone else to set things up. Instead, she took the initiative and got all of the relevant players involved.

Arsham Eslami — Design Camp Studios

Richmond Hill



Coding for Kids

Arsham Eslami has never been one to settle for 'it can't be done'. His intent to push past boundaries is evident in everything he does, from studying machine learning at York University, to opening a summer camp that teaches children how to create their own video games by coding in JavaScript.

Design Camp Studios inspires young minds (ages 9 – 14) to be the best they can be, teaching them the wonders of programming and graphics design. Teaching a wide range of programming languages and instilling design processes, Arsham ensured that his students were sufficiently challenged. The program teaches programming and digital media fundamentals, while encouraging creativity and time management.

As he notes, Design Camp gives its students industry-standard knowledge, which they can use to build anything they wish. Arsham also has some advice for those who want to start their own business. “Start now. Whatever you can do today to give yourself a head start, do it.”

This action-first attitude was what propelled his company to a very successful start. This is just the beginning for Arsham, however. With his relentless work ethic and uncanny ability to think outside the box, Design Camp Studios has a bright future.

Jin Lee — Visual Ex Company

Hamilton



Capturing the world's beauty

Jin Lee is the owner and operator of Visual Ex Company, a design company providing photography, videography and graphic design services. Jin says that his company's goal is to “capture our world as we don't know it, in all its beauty and mystery.”

Summer Company gave Jin the opportunity to turn his passion for photography and creating quality designs into a viable business. Jin's photography experience includes shooting professionally with two wedding media services, on-location portraiture, and fashion work for brands such as Bench Canada and Le Chateau.

His goal is to tell stories and capture timeless memories in photos and video, in a breathtaking way. Jin's clients this summer were very pleased with his carefully executed media, whether it was celebrating a marriage or designing start-up company logos and graphic designs.

Over the summer, he learned there was a lot more to his business than just taking beautiful and unique pictures. Jin gained various entrepreneurial skills after participating in Summer Company. He learned the importance of time management, scheduling clients, maintaining the books, and effective networking. Jin plans to continue operating his business and capturing special moments for people in the years to come.

www.visualexco.com

www.facebook.com/visualexco

www.instagram.com/visualexco

Samuel Cameron — Top Bunk Design

Nottawasaga



Modern and affordable graphic design

Samuel Cameron started the summer wishing for a job that used more of his mind than his hands. As he says, “I wanted a summer job that used my strengths, instead of just having me mindlessly stocking shelves all day.” The Summer Company program allowed Samuel to do just that.

Samuel started Top Bunk Design, a company providing modern (and affordable) logo designs and websites. “My idea was to use a do-it-yourself website template,” he says, “to quickly and inexpensively create websites for clients who didn’t time to create one themselves.”

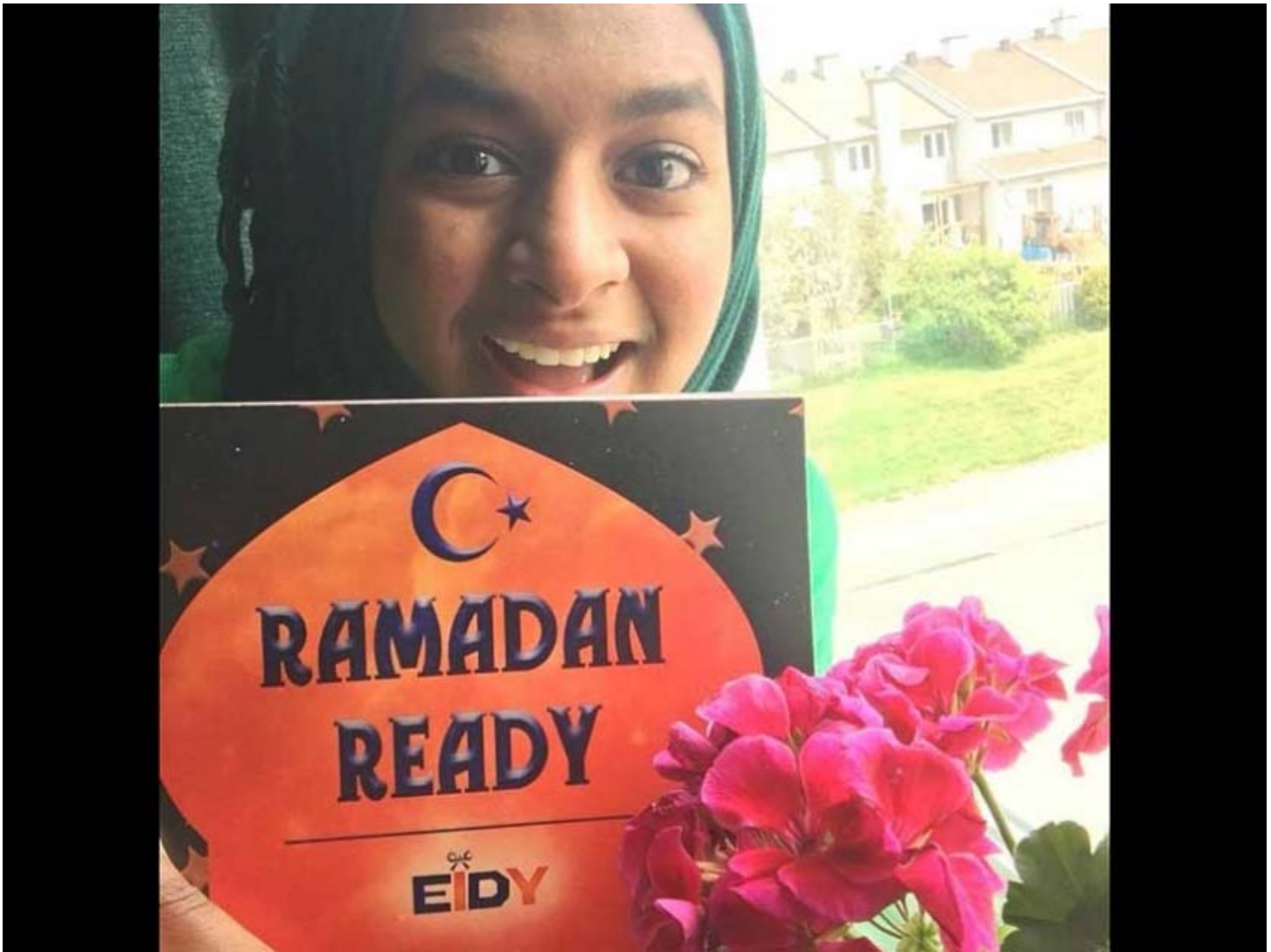
Starting with the business plan in the Summer Company application process, Samuel learned that there are many facets to running a business. “Self promotion was the hardest for me; I tend to be more shy when it comes to talking to people face to face,” he says.

Samuel also gradually learned how to better price his services, with help from his mentor. “He helped me understand the value of my services,” he says. “He suggested I might charge royalties for my designs, which is something I will need to consider for the future.”

Samuel says that Summer Company was a very valuable experience, since it let him explore his talents in a real-life business venture. “My final client meeting was much more confident than my first one. And it sure beats stocking shelves.”

Nayaelah Siddiqui — EIDY

Ottawa



Combining two passions in a new company

Nayaelah is a student at the University of Ottawa, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Management with an option in Entrepreneurship. An aspiring entrepreneur, she decided to start a company bringing together two things that she is really passionate about: children and Islam.

Having worked with children and youth for the past few years, Nayaelah put her experience and knowledge to work and created EIDY. The company focuses on educating children about Islam, in a fun and loving way.

First, she created fun and educational gift packages that loved ones could purchase for children. Next, she expanded her business into holding workshops that teach the basic concepts of Islam. This proved useful to the parents who were looking to pass on Islamic knowledge and values to their children.

Nayaelah credits Summer Company for helping her pivot her original business model. She was able to easily find another opportunity within her target market to successfully run her business. The strong support network of Summer Company peers was also uplifting, she says.

In the upcoming year, Nayaelah plans to continue creating and selling EIDY packages and teaching workshops, with long term plans to extend the product line and workshop content to reach a larger audience.

Twitter handle: [@Nayaelah](https://twitter.com/Nayaelah)

Website: www.eidy.ca

Bronwyn Berry — Cold Water Decks

Port Elgin



Getting art out on the streets

Artists share their work in many ways. It is typically in the form of paintings, sculptures or murals on a wall. But Bronwyn Berry isn't a typical artist, and sharing her artwork through a conventional medium was never part of the plan. Bronwyn wanted to get art out on the streets, literally.

Her passion sparked the creation of Cold Water Decks, offering custom hand-painted longboards and skateboards (decks).

She worked hard to find her own niche of customers that appreciated the boards on a whole new level, nestled somewhere between avid riders and art-fanatics.

"A deck design is an outlet for expression," says Bronwyn, "and with a hand-painted original design, no two decks would look the same. I want to keep the board as unique as the rider."

She found most of her sales through networking and connections on social media, using local markets to build interest in custom orders and increase brand awareness. Dedicated to her business, she even loaded up an extra suitcase and flew her boards to British Columbia to sell at the local market in Tofino while on vacation with her family.

“The program is so great because throughout it all, our mentors reminded us that small businesses take time to become successful, and to stay positive,” she says.

Continuing with her business, Bronwyn plans to outfit students at the University of British Columbia with custom decks for the new school year, as she returns to her undergraduate studies in Engineering.

Teal Manners — Sarnia ROCKS!

Sarnia



Rocking the souvenir world

Lambton County is known for its many beautiful beaches, a fact that Teal Manners used as inspiration for her business, Sarnia ROCKS! Teal found stones from local beaches, and saw them as the perfect canvas for her handmade souvenirs. When she realized that Sarnia had an open market for handmade souvenirs, she began creating one-of-a-kind designs on the rocks, using paint markers. Always creative, she incorporated designs into the irregular rock shapes to create unique pieces.

Teal started out by focusing on designs like mandalas, lotus flowers, and Aztec themes. Later, she listened to the market, and is now creating designs based on local popularity. These include designs like flowers, birds, and others from nature. She has also begun creating commissioned pieces for customers looking for something specific.

Teal sold her creations at local events and farmers' markets. Her first big event was the Canada Day event in Sarnia, where she sold almost all of her inventory. By listening to the community and offering a product that is unique, Teal found success in the souvenir market of Lambton County.

Connor Laroque — Life is Motivation Enterprises

Sudbury



Making a positive impact

Connor exemplifies many traits of the true entrepreneur. An energetic motivational speaker and twice-published author, Connor strives to make a positive impact on the people he encounters. Inspired by his own challenges, he says he was able to overcome obstacles that deterred him from his passion: helping others.

His company, Life is Motivation Enterprises, offers public speaking, consulting, and strategizing services. He specializes in teaching small businesses how to effectively sell to millennials, using branding, marketing, and social media. Connor's message to his captive audiences is to withstand uncertainty and triumph over failure. A sample quotation from his website sums it up: "If you can't find a job, do some charity work! This way you'll feel great, and be helping the community. Watch, I bet someone will hire you after this."

Connor is a recent graduate student who studied Law at Laurentian University, and is now starting his Master's degree in Business Administration. Connor has the ability to communicate his vision effectively, while exuding self-confidence to deliver his message. Often underestimated because of his youth, he's developed the ability to be flexible and adapt, enabling him to respond to changing opinions and market conditions.

More info: connorlarocque.com

Ashley Whistle — Ashley's Little Rabbitry

Thunder Bay

Sales are hopping

What's more exciting than a pen full of rabbits? According to Ashley Whistle – not much! After a successful summer for Ashley's Little Rabbitry, her happy customers agree.

Ashley has raised and bred rabbits for a number of years. She put her experience to work last summer with a rabbit petting zoo for birthday parties, events and animal therapy. Ashley brings her own pen to events, allowing people to hold the rabbits and play with them. Ashley has up to 20 rabbits, and tries to bring enough for each individual to hold one at the party. She also uses these parties to educate people on proper rabbit and animal care.

A high school student, Ashley worked toward a co-op credit this summer by participating in the Summer Company program. Her business started to take off after a local newspaper featured her in a story about a business trade show.

Her next marketing move was attending the annual "Teddy Bears Picnic", which proved to be the perfect venue for rabbit lovers. There was a constant line up in front of Ashley's Little Rabbitry. An added benefit was the exposure her company received, with bookings for kids' birthday parties multiplying like the proverbial rabbits.

Ashley has a passion for animals, and it shows in how she runs her business. She plans to continue to cater to parties part-time while she is attending school.

Shanelle Guillemette — FroGurt Xpress

Timmins



Frozen yogurt on the go

Shanelle came up with her business idea on a trip to North Bay, where she saw someone selling frozen treats from a camper. After a lot of research, she decided that the most efficient plan was to offer the service from a tricycle. A true self-starter, she bought a tricycle, and designed and built a custom wooden box to store her treats. Her prep work included getting approvals from the local health unit and the city, and buying liability insurance.

The next step was marketing. Shanelle created her own marketing materials, contacted local businesses to offer her services, and was a strong presence at local events. The hours were long, but Shanelle was soon motivated by all the encouragement from family and friends, positive feedback from her clients, and steady profits.

Along with some significant revenue to help fund her education, Shanelle learned a lot over the summer, including how to create a business plan, budgeting, tracking sales, and licensing requirements. She admits that her biggest challenge was to step out of her comfort zone and recruit clients. "It is not easy being in sales, and you need to push through," she says.

It wasn't all hard work for Shanelle. She worked with a film crew from TFO (Télévision française de l'Ontario) and sold her frozen yogurt at the first annual Timmins Bacon Fest.

Alexandra Newhook — The Beach House Goodie Shack

Amherstburg



Doubling sales projections

At just 15 years-old, Lexi Newhook was the youngest entrepreneur in the 2016 Summer Company. She was also the most successful by one measure. Her company, The Beach House Goodie Shack, produced the most revenue of any company in the program. Sales were double what she had forecast at the start of the program.

Located on historic Bois Blanc (Boblo) Island, The Beach House Goodie Shack quickly became a popular destination for both locals and tourists. The store offers a wide range of products, including island-inspired gifts, home décor, handmade skincare products, apparel, jewelry and other accessories. Lexi also developed additional revenue streams, by partnering with several businesses which sell their products from her storefront location. She has garnered widespread community support by attending numerous events in the region.

The Goodie Shack currently operates only during Boblo's busy summer tourist season, but that is about to change. Lexi is now developing an online store to operate year round, continuing to build her brand for a future full-time venture. As Lexi says, The Beach House Goodie Shack is here to stay, and as she develops her business skills through education and experience, there's no doubt her business will continue to grow.

Anahita Hassanpour — HarmoScent

Windsor



Clean and responsible beauty products

Can environmentally responsible beauty products be made and sold at an affordable price? Anahita Hassanpour thought so, and proved it with the success of her Summer Company, HarmoScent. Anahita is a 25-year-old

University of Windsor student who's providing natural, cruelty-free and fair trade beauty and skin care products, at a competitive price. Using ingredients that occur in nature, HarmoScent helps reduce the use of cancer-causing chemical ingredients, while being environmentally conscious.

HarmoScent's product line includes all natural-body lotions, deodorants, sugaring wax, lip balms, facemasks and face creams, with new products being developed. Continuing with its socially-responsible values, the company donates 10 percent of its revenue is donated to MAHAK charity, a children's cancer hospital in Iran.

Anahita is using a number of creative marketing techniques to sell her products, which has proven very effective with international sales as far as Australia. She's also active in the Windsor-Essex community, attending a large number of events to promote her business and products.

Anahita supplemented her Summer Company training by attending every Starter Company training session. Always looking ahead, she has a growth strategy in place to take her business to the next level.

Obaidullah Mahosh — Neoterix Health and Fitness

Toronto



Mobile training brings fitness home

What started off as a bright idea has become a reality that is changing lives. Obaidullah Mahosh observed that many people with chronic diseases have difficulty staying motivated on their training programs, simply because they have mobility issues.

To remove the mobility barrier, Obaidullah designed a specialized boot camp to not only help treat chronic diseases, but also increase the social benefits from fitness training. Using an at-home solution, Neoterix Health and Fitness supports patients with mobility issues, mental health challenges, musculoskeletal disorders, weight management problems, and physical fitness barriers.

Obaidullah says Summer Company's wide range of mentors very helpful, especially since he could connect with them after the mentoring sessions.

"Youth Employment Services and Summer Company have given me the ability to speak to people about my business in a confident way," says Obaidullah. "The program has connected me to events, and to a network that I could not have built on my own"

Neoterix Health and Fitness will soon be looking to expand, and hire other students to help build the business and service a wider network.

Marina Saad — Curly Crown Canada

Toronto



Embracing their natural hair

Marina Saad has curly hair. And like many people with curls, she struggled to find hair care products designed specifically for her. A positive thinker, Marina figured she might as well help others with the same problem, and create a business at the same time. The result was Curly Crown Canada, a company with a mission to help curly-haired men and women embrace their natural hair and learn how to care for it.

Marina chose two sales streams for her business, a monthly subscription service and an online store for curly hair products. Curly Crown Canada supports Canadian suppliers, sourcing most of their products from Canadian hair product makers.

With a solid business model in place and mentorship from Summer Company, she grew her service from no subscribers to more than 100 members, in just two months.

“The Summer Company program really helped get my business off the ground,” says Marina. “My mentor was a great resource and guide throughout, and he made this experience fun, easy and so full of life. And the workshops and panel discussions were exactly what I needed to excel.”

Curly Crown Canada’s next goal is to continue to grow the curly community, and work towards having partnerships with major hair care brands.

More info: curlycrowncanada.com

Jade G Greaves — Community Arts Adventure

Toronto



Offering affordable arts programs

Arts and culture have always been a part of her life, but Jade's local community often lacked the programming she needed to support her interests and expand her horizons. Growing up, Jade noticed that the arts got far less attention than sports. She had participated in many summer arts programs, but like most entrepreneurs, she believed that she could create better ones.

When she learned about Summer Company, Jade saw her opportunity. Her mentors note that from the moment she came in, it was easy to see that her passion was not only for the arts, but in providing creative minds with accessible programs to explore their talents.

Jade's solution was Community Arts Adventure, a small business that provides affordable arts and adventure programs to youth in low-income areas. Jade established a strong partnership with her local library, and collaborated on the staffing and space used for programming. The results speak for themselves. She has had up 25 participants in her programming daily. She offered low (or no) fees, and local youth responded enthusiastically.

"The mentors were always in my corner," says Jade. "The entire Summer Company program served as a catalyst to create my new love of entrepreneurship."

Jade is now working out a deal with her local community centre to run her program year-round, so young creative minds can continue to grow their skill sets.

Ezekiel Puckerin — Zeke's Bees

Sunderland



Preserving the bee population

Bees are vital to human existence, and they are becoming increasingly endangered. With “colony collapse” and other threats, skilled beekeepers are more important than ever. The aging population of beekeepers is adding to the problem. Ezekiel Puckerin is part of a growing group of young people who are doing something to solve it.

Ezekiel has a long history of working with bees, and has been trained by industry professionals who are members of the Bee Keeper’s Association. He put his knowledge and experience to work with Zeke’s Bees, which sells local raw honey and lip balms, and helps educate the public about bees.

Zeke’s Bees is already a local success story. It is now a familiar name with products for sale at Nexus Coffee, a busy café in the heart of downtown Uxbridge. While Ezekiel had the technical training to work with bees, he needed very different skills to set up and run his own business, and that’s where Summer Company came in.

“Summer Company taught me many skills to run a successful business,” says Ezekiel. “Networking is just one example. The mentors helped to teach me about it, and now I can proudly say I have the confidence to go up to any business owner and tell them about my products.”

Emily Dawson — Canadian Cuties Reborn Dolls

Bowmanville



Dolls that meet many needs

Dolls can provide a lot more than a plaything for a child or a prize for a collector. Made with only the highest quality materials, “reborn” dolls are designed to closely resemble a newborn baby, with as much realism as possible. Reborn dolls are collected in the same way as regular dolls, and are also used for therapeutic reasons.

Bowmanville’s Emily Dawson crafts reborn dolls, and sells them through her Summer Company, Canadian Cuties Reborn Dolls. Emily’s dolls not only look real, but they are made to feel real, as their soft bodies are filled with glass beads. The dolls are hand painted to meet the unique customization needs of each client.

Emily’s dolls have had an uplifting emotional effect on many of her clients. Over the summer, Emily saw many of her clients use her dolls to help them cope with issues, including infertility, miscarriages, anxiety, depression, and even Alzheimer’s disease.

Many reborn dolls are sold online, but Emily used a different business model that proved to be very effective. She identified leads working at several vendor shows over the summer. Emily’s mentors also advised her on adjusting her price point to substantially boost revenues.

By the end of the summer, Emily was busy wrapping up four custom orders. She’s also been spreading the word about the benefits of reborn dolls, working with nursing homes and the Alzheimer’s Society.

facebook.com/canadiancutiesreborndolls

Katarina Poletto — Dolled Up Desserts

Hamilton



Desserts just like mom used to make

Summer Company gave Katarina Poletto the opportunity to turn her love for baking into a viable business. Dolled Up Dessert's recreates nostalgic "just-like-mom-used-to-make" homemade treats, with ingredients that

align with modern nutrition standards. Inspired by Katarina's personal experiences and love for baking, all desserts are organic, gluten free and/or vegan, and healthier than regular treats.

Katarina always wanted to sell her sweets, but never had the opportunity to explore a business venture. Her baking skills were well-established, but the world of entrepreneurship was new to Katarina. Her vision is to bake for a community where people with dietary restrictions, health concerns and allergies can feel confident eating sweet comfort foods.

Before Summer Company, Katarina had never taken a business course. The training and mentoring aspects of the program taught Katarina about the importance of bookkeeping, insurance, marketing, and networking. Katarina gained numerous entrepreneurial skills through Summer Company that helped her business grow to become an established company.

After her Summer Company success, Katarina is now selling her treats online, at McMaster University, events and festivals, and local coffee shops. Katarina plans to grow her business even further and share her 'classic treats for the modern sweet tooth' with a broader client base.

dolledupdesserts.com

[instagram.com/dolledupdessertsbaking](https://www.instagram.com/dolledupdessertsbaking)

Erika Anderson — Black Bark Studio

Kenora



Art is business!

Erika Anderson didn't let her lack of business experience stop her from setting up and running a successful Summer Company. She simply followed her passion for art and teaching, and with some help from the Summer Company program, everything fell into place.

The Lakehead University graduate (Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts) insists that there is an artist in every child. She proved her point over the summer, by working with young artists from Kenora, through the Art of the Woods Camp.

Art of the Woods Camp was offered from June 27 to August 26 to different age groups from 5 – 13 year olds. Children participated in a wide variety of activities, with camp themes including clay week, drawing, action art, buttons and thread and outdoor creations. The kids proved Erika right, creating finger puppets, bark owls, garden stones, bird houses, stuffed creations and even self-portraits inspired by the great Pablo Picasso. Rounding out her experience, Erika also taught some adult classes. Combining her passions of business and art, she also led an

afternoon art class for a group of young entrepreneurs attending the Youth Entrepreneurship Day Camp in Kenora.

Erika returned to Lakehead University this year to take ceramics classes and create a portfolio for grad school admission. After her Summer Company success, she plans to operate Art of the Woods Camp again in 2017.

Nicholas DiGiacinto — Nick D's Lawn & Property Care

Petawawa



Scheduled for success

The people of Petawawa needed a versatile lawn and property maintenance service company, and Nick delivered. When he opened “Nick D’s Lawn & Property Care” as a Summer Company, Nick quickly let potential customers know that he would complete any property maintenance jobs they wanted. As the summer progressed, his customer-focused services created a growing demand. Many of his job requests created new opportunities to add more services to his company’s roster.

Scheduling is crucial to lawn and property care services, and sometimes keeping it simple is the best approach. Nick says his best capital investment was purchasing a whiteboard, which allowed him to easily track all of his jobs and clients. Putting his work schedule on the whiteboard helped him with time management and

organization. Whenever he received a customer call, a quick glance at the whiteboard let him immediately schedule the job in a quick and professional manner.

As with most small businesses, Nick found networking to be invaluable in growing his customer base. Using all of his contacts to the fullest extent enabled him to grow his business swiftly over the summer.

Nick plans to re-open his business in the summer of 2017 when he returns from his post-secondary studies.

Michael Boden — Boden Contracting

Peterborough



A starting point for a full-time business

Michael Boden chose Summer Company as the starting point for what he plans to be a full-time business in the future. He created Boden Contracting, which offers deck and dock building, as well as providing small improvements to homes and cottages. Designing and building wooden outdoor planters is another specialty, and Michael provides complete service by delivering mulch and garden supplies.

While Boden Contracting first focused on small home repairs, Michael believes the future of his company will involve more of his specialty: deck and dock building – projects that he particularly enjoys. The Summer Company funding, paired with guidance from Peterborough Economic Development, helped Michael to expand his tool inventory, ensuring that he can complete jobs efficiently and professionally.

He has already completed some complex projects. For one client, he removed the existing decking and railings, replaced and added joists, installed new decking and railing. A key feature of the deck is the new fireplace pad installed flush with the decking. Another job involved building a new front porch on a cabin.

Boden Contracting has very satisfied customers: “reliable and friendly service, finished on time and within budget” as one posted on Facebook. Michael has simple but solid advice for all young entrepreneurs: “Work very hard in whatever business you attempt.”

facebook.com/bodencontracting/

bodencontracting.wordpress.com

Mitch Sawyer — Smugglers Getaway

Kingston



Combining luxury and location

Entrepreneurs can see opportunity where others see ruins. To Mitch Sawyer, a ramshackle riverfront cabin on his parent’s property near Thousand Islands National Park offered great potential to create a luxury rental property. With a variety of local attractions, the region is also home to Thousand Island boat cruises, Boldt and Singer castles, the Thousand Island Playhouse, and Shorelines Casino.

In Mitch’s vision, the cabin, located in the historic Smugglers Cove on the St. Lawrence River, could offer guests private, comfortable accommodations, within a stone’s throw of the Waterfront Trail. To transform it, his

renovations included laminate flooring, fresh paint, bathroom upgrades, and window repairs. Mitch also invested in top-quality bed linens, towels, and toiletries, and hired a professional photographer to capture the cozy two-bedroom rental. The reservations poured in as soon he listed Smugglers Getaway on Airbnb and other vacation rental sites.

“Hosting guests at Smugglers Getaway helped me develop customer service skills for a wide variety of people,” says Mitch, an Environmental Studies student. “For example, in July I hosted 15 guests from 7 cities in 6 different countries. They had diverse expectations, preferences, and interest, and meeting those needs gave me international experience in customer service.”

Despite some unexpected start-up expenses, Smugglers Getaway was turning a profit by mid-July. Eager to grow his business, Mitch hopes to winterize the cabin, and rent it year-round.

More info: <https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/13136104?sug=51>

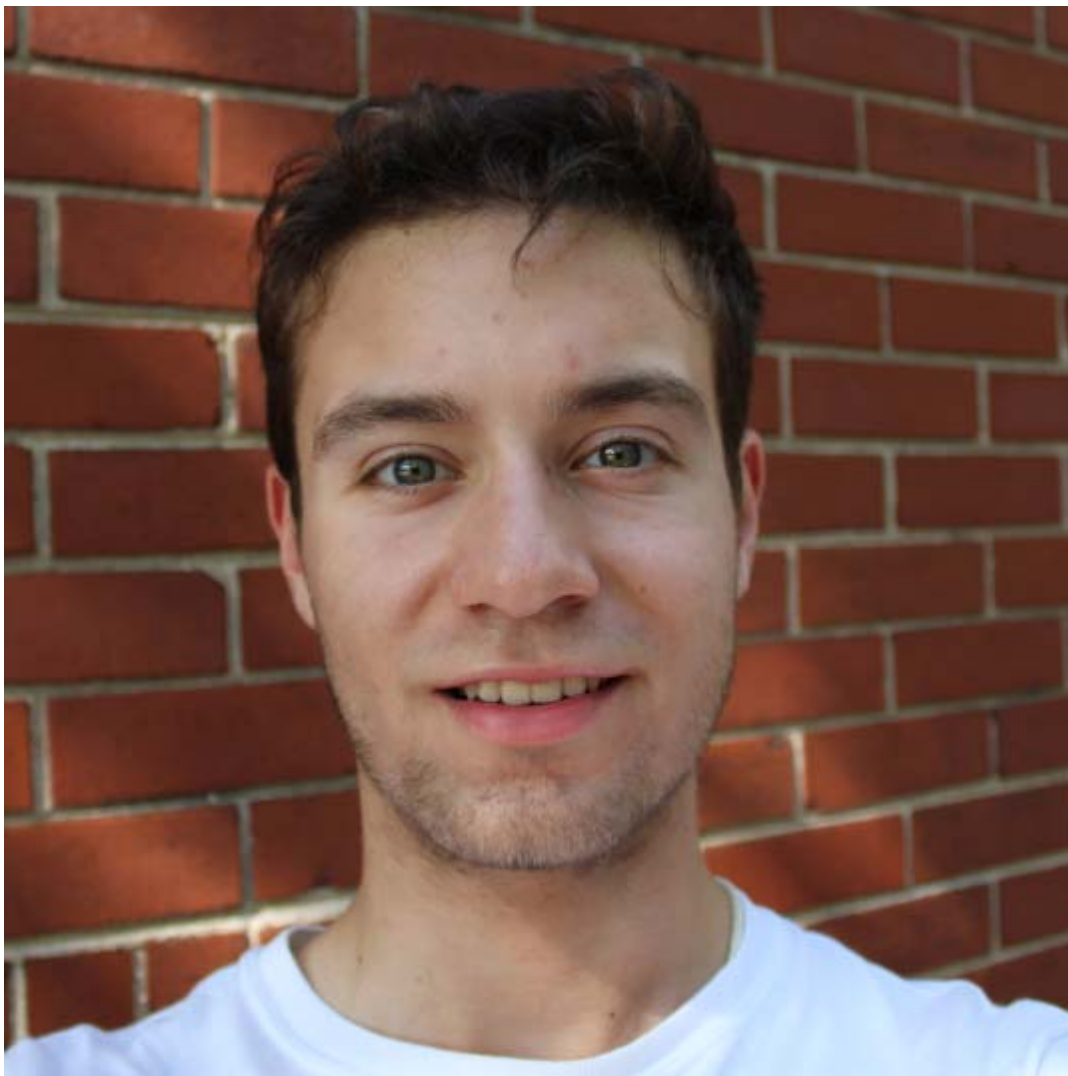
<https://www.facebook.com/SmugglersGetaway/>

<http://www.travel1000islands.ca/directory/smugglers-getaway>

<https://www.bbcanada.com/9762.html>

Eric Sammut — DisTech Automation

Kingston



Creating a successful Kickstarter campaign

Summer Company helped Queen's University student Eric Sammut lay the groundwork for a wildly successful Kickstarter campaign that spawned a new tech company.

Dis-Tech's Prometheus System expands the capabilities of any low-cost 3D printer. Users can produce multi-colored objects made from various materials, with the simplicity of a single "hot end" or printing nozzle. Summer Company gave Eric the time and money he needed to develop the system.

"I knew right away that Summer Company was exactly what I needed," says Eric, who's studying mechanical engineering. "I wanted to launch a new product at the end of the summer, and this program offered me the funding that I needed to achieve my goals."

Eric spent the first three months of the summer prototyping the Prometheus System. He built a functional prototype, and finished his Summer Company project by developing a pre-launch marketing program.

By early September, he was ready to launch a Kickstarter crowd funding campaign to fund the first manufacturing batch of the Prometheus System. The prep he did through Summer Company paid off, big time, with deliveries of the system now set for January, 2017.

"I raised 400% of my \$10,000 CAD funding goal in the first 24 hours," says Eric. "I managed to secure a total of \$76,215 by the end of the 30-day campaign."

Alumni success stories

Diana Goodwin — AquaMobile Swim School

Toronto

Summer Company 2003



Solid planning drives exponential growth

Summer Company participants who like to dream big can look to the amazing success of Diana Goodwin for inspiration. In 2003, Diana was a typical Summer Company student, with a \$3,000 grant and a plan for her at-home swim school business. Today, AquaMobile has 1500 instructors working across Canada and in 25 U.S. states, and continues its expansion.

Effective use of technology was crucial to the company's early success. AquaMobile customers go online, enter their swimming pool's address, and quickly see a selection of available certified instructors who will travel to their home for lessons.

An innovator and widely respected thought-leader in "bootstrapping" (cost-effective ways to scale a business model), Diana has been profiled in numerous media outlets, including Forbes, Inc., Huffington Post and

Techvibes. She's pitched on CBC's Dragon's Den, and has won several business awards, including Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year and the \$100,000 Small Business Challenge.

Diana used the \$100,000 Small Business Challenge prize to help fund expansion to other areas of Canada and the U.S., and to hire a full-time recruiting manager. The company also continues to grow by increasing its presence in current markets, and is looking at new at-home instruction areas such as yoga and fitness.

Along the way, Diana also completed a Bachelor of Commerce and an MBA. Her entrepreneurial talents and education have created a dynamic company that continues to grow.

Rylan Schwarze — Rynestone

Brockville

Summer Company 2009



Practical magic

Rylan Schwarze was hooked on magic at 13, after reading an autobiography of one of magic's most influential performers. Rynestone (his stage name) started his first business performing at birthday parties, retirement homes and community events.

Seven years after his debut, after completing a university degree in business administration, he was recognized nationally as one of the top young entrepreneurs in the country, and on the road to success.

Summer Company was an important part of the process. As Rynestone says, “I owe a lot to Summer Company. It really set me on the right path to turn my passion for magic into a career.”

Combining the art of magic with various circus skills, Rynestone wows audiences across the country. With thousands of performances to date, he is an experienced professional who has showcased his magic in all sorts of environments. From corporate events to theatre stages, college campuses to national festivals, and wedding receptions to sporting events, Rynestone has drawn thousands of people into his world of imagination.

He won the Regionals for the Enactus Cup (worldwide competition for business innovation and entrepreneurial action) in 2014, and also recently won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award from the Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre.

More info: rynestonemagic.com

Summer Company program providers

The Ministry of Economic Development and Growth would like to thank all our program providers and mentors for your contribution to the success of the Summer Company program.

Nottawasaga Futures
Alliston

Greater Barrie Business Enterprise Centre
Barrie

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka
Barrie

Small Business Centre
Belleville

Muskoka Small Business Centre
Bracebridge

Brampton Small Business Enterprise Centre
Brampton

Brantford-Brant Business Enterprise Resource Centre
Brantford

Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre
Brockville

Caledon Small Business Enterprise Centre
Caledon

Waterloo Region Small Business Enterprise Centre
Cambridge

Chatham-Kent Business Enterprise Centre
Chatham

Business Advisory Centre Northumberland
Cobourg

South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre
Collingwood

Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre
Cornwall

Windsor-Essex Small Business Centre
Essex

Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre
Guelph

Enterprise Temiskaming
Haileybury

Hamilton Small Business Enterprise Centre
Hamilton

Prescott-Russell Entrepreneurship Centre
Hawkesbury

Northwest Business Centre
Kenora

KEDCO Small Business Development Centre
Kingston

Waterloo Region Small Business Centre
Kitchener

Kawartha Lakes Small Business & Enterprise Centre
Lindsay

Small Business Centre
London

Markham Small Business Centre
Markham

Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre
Mississauga

York Small Business Enterprise Centre
Newmarket

Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre
Niagara Falls

The Business Centre — Nipissing Parry Sound Inc.
North Bay

Enterprise Toronto
North York

Halton Region Small Business Centre
Oakville

Orangeville & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
Orangeville

Invest Ottawa Entrepreneurship
Ottawa

Business Enterprise Centre
Owen Sound

The Business Centre — Nipissing Parry Sound Inc.
Parry Sound

Enterprise Renfrew County
Pembroke

Business Advisory Centre
Peterborough

Business Enterprise Centre Saugeen Shores
Port Elgin

Enterprise Renfrew County
Renfrew

Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre
Richmond Hill

Prescott-Russell Entrepreneurship Centre
Rockland

Business Enterprise Centre of Sarnia-Lambton
Sarnia

Business Sault Ste. Marie
Sault Ste. Marie

Enterprise Toronto
Scarborough

YMCA of Greater Toronto
Scarborough

Huron Business Centre
Seaforth

Small Business Advisory Centre
Smith Falls

St. Catharines Enterprise Centre
St. Catharines

Elgin / St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre
St. Thomas

Stratford Perth Centre for Business
Stratford

Regional Business Centre
Sudbury

Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre
Thunder Bay

Business Enterprise Centre
Timmins

Enterprise Toronto
Toronto

JVS Toronto
Toronto

Ryerson University
Toronto

Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC)
Toronto

Youth Employment Services (Yes)
Toronto

Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre
Vaughan

Waterloo Region Small Business Centre
Waterloo

Business Advisory Centre Durham
Whitby

Windsor-Essex Small Business Centre
Windsor

Woodstock & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre
Woodstock

Summer Company Yearbook 2015

Message from the Minister

It has been said that the best way to ensure your future is to go out and create it. This year, 865 Ontario students did just that: they used their ideas, creativity and drive to launch their own summer businesses.

I am pleased to present the 2015 Summer Company Yearbook, which showcases 28 of these young entrepreneurs. These are the Ontario youth who chose to become job creators rather than job seekers, with businesses ranging from eco-friendly social enterprises to new ventures in drone photography and software development.

Ontario's future prosperity depends on our youth having the right skills, experiences and supports to participate actively in the economy today and tomorrow. Our investment in the Summer Company program supports a new generation of entrepreneurs with hands-on opportunities in business training, mentorship and start-up grants. Since 2001, over 6,850 businesses have been started by program participants.

Congratulations to all of this year's participants. Your entrepreneurial spirit is inspiring. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure

Amy Kocher, Sew Cool by Amy, Stratford



The art of keeping customers in stitches

Amy Kocher's first foray into the world of retail sales at a local farmers' market did not go well.

But if there was one thing the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) student learned during Summer Company, it was how to adapt and meet obstacles head on.

"I was in a building in a remote location and I was disappointed with the results," says Amy. "I realized changes were necessary."

The next time she went to market, she secured an outdoor location with a greater volume of traffic and spread the word about her custom sewing business, **Sew Cool by Amy**, through social media.

Amy said she learned she needed to create positive experiences out of negative ones – like the changes she made after her initial disappointing experience at the market – so she could stay motivated to stick with her business.

The program not only gave her an opportunity to run her own business but also to earn credits toward her SHSM seal through the Summer Entrepreneurship Co-operative pilot.

"Being in complete control of all decisions was stressful at times but a valuable learning experience," says Amy, who plans to continue her business part-time during the school year in order to expand her product line to reach a greater target market; and increase brand awareness.

facebook.com/sewcoolbyamy

[Twitter: @sewcool_byamy](https://twitter.com/sewcool_byamy)

Anna Dalcin, Anna's Lawn Care, Hornepayne (Timmins)



Change the oil and check the books

Some may say a small town of 1,000 people off the main track is not an ideal location for a new business, but young entrepreneur Anna Dalcin saw an opportunity.

Backed by careful observation, thorough market analysis, and experience maintaining family and neighbours' lawns, Anna decided to start **Anna's Lawn Care**, a business offering quality and reliable lawn care services to her community.

At first, she capitalized on the high demand from a largely retired population of seniors often away on travels. As word spread of her services, Anna diversified her business to include commercial contracts as well as residential work. She increased her revenue streams by adding garden care and hedge trimming. Rainy days offered a pocket of time for bookkeeping and marketing.

Anna advertised via flyers and Facebook, but the outdoor-loving young woman found her most effective marketing was simply being seen hard at work.

Her biggest challenge? Learning to maintain her lawn equipment. "Now I know how to change oil and fuel filters *and* calculate profit margins."

She credits her Summer Company program provider, mentor and other business advisors. "I was able to overcome all of my roadblocks," says Anna, who plans to continue her business part-time during the high school year, and next summer.

facebook.com/annaslawncafe

Avery Campbell, Awarding Canada, Kingston



Ingenuity takes flight

Avery Campbell loves to travel. The third-year Queen's University Law student also loves to save money. Applying ingenuity to the travel points reward process, he came up with a way to travel to more than 50 countries for much less than the average ticket price. In the process, and with the help of Summer Company, a business idea took flight.

Awarding Canada offers two services: award bookings and credit consultations. *Award bookings* processes travel requests based on the client's inventory of frequent flyer points and miles. *Credit consultations* advises individuals and businesses on how to structure their credit card portfolio to maximize return on credit spending.

"Consumers are frustrated with how difficult it is to redeem frequent flyer points and miles", says Campbell. His company helps passengers avoid the expensive fees charged to redeem points for travel.

Avery also writes a popular travel blog on frequent flyer points and miles. He's been buoyed by the rapid success of **Awarding Canada**, which has garnered clients from across North America and achieved significant revenues in its first few months.

"Summer Company provided the funds I needed to start the company, without which, I would not have started due to risk aversion," he says.

"It offered education and supervisory services that helped me start and grow the business", which he plans to continue.

www.awarding.ca

facebook.com/dctaca

dcta.boardingarea.com

Cassie Wilson, Cassie's Southern Kitchen, Manitoulin Island (Sudbury)



A recipe for success

Cassie Wilson is a young entrepreneur who brought authentic Louisiana cuisine to Manitoulin Island with her food truck, fittingly named **Cassie's Southern Kitchen**.

"Cooking has always been a part of my life and when I had the opportunity to take part in Summer Company and start my own food truck, I was thrilled," says Cassie, a third-year student at Redeemer University College.

Her family's roots are in the Southern United States, and her relatives helped by sending key ingredients – mainly authentic spice mixtures – for her recipes.

Most days, she could be found serving up mouth-watering fare in the town of Mindemoya, but with a travelling "restaurant", she was able to bring her business to special events elsewhere on the island, such as her Canada Day opening, when she invited islanders and tourists via her business Facebook page to "come get a hot bowl of gumbo and a fresh biscuit to keep you going all Canada Day long!"

With the start-up support she received from Summer Company, Cassie plans to keep her kitchen rolling along for at least a couple of more seasons. "This makes perfect sense" she says, "since there is a shortage of both summer jobs, and places to eat, on Manitoulin Island."

facebook.com/cassiessouthernkitchen

Cavan Laferriere, Temiskaming Kayak Academy, Temiskaming



Finding smooth waters

With four paddles nested below eagle's wings, pointing east, west, north and south, the **Temiskaming Kayak Academy's** logo is an apt image for the way Cavan Laferriere has guided his company since launching with Summer Company's support.

Describing what he teaches with words like "edging" and "bracing", you might guess that Cavan Laferriere was in the construction business.

Instead, you'd find the University of Guelph student demonstrating these skills in the crystal waters off the shores of Temiskaming, where he spent the summer teaching and promoting the sport of kayaking to adults and kids alike through his popular day and weeklong camps.

Seasonal businesses can be challenging. Using skills he learned from the Summer Company program, Cavan promoted his business through multiple channels, including colourful brochures to advertise his courses and a Facebook page filled with images of paddlers of all ages.

He also diversified by forming strategic arrangements with other local businesses, such as a popular adult kayak and yoga weekend retreat collaboration, and programs for guests of nearby hotels, as well as his core after-school kid's programs and adult lessons.

"I have learned a lot about running my own business, especially the importance of good bookkeeping and accounting," said Cavan, who plans to continue his business next summer.

facebook.com/TemiskamingKayakAcademy

tsacc.ca/m/listing/view/TemKayakAcad

Charlee Johnston, NakdBasics, Owen Sound



Creating a healthy bottom line

What goes onto your skin can also have a big effect on what goes into your body.

Inspired by her background in the health and supplements field, 25-year-old Georgian College nursing student Charlee Johnson decided to launch **NakdBasics**, her own line of all natural skin oils, scrubs, and spritzes, to give customers a natural, effective alternative to the harsh chemicals found in many beauty products.

She found success by listening to her clients' unique needs and adapting quickly to create custom versions and new lines of her products, resulting in a large spike in sales shortly after starting her company.

Nominated for the Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce's New Business of the Year *and* the Young Entrepreneur Award, Charlee largely credits her Summer Company experience for her success. She learned how to build a business plan and developed bookkeeping and financial management skills through the program.

"All progress takes place out of your comfort zone", she says. "I had no idea what to expect when going into Summer Company. I turned down a summer job to take a chance and I am so grateful that I did."

I am truly humbled by this experience and can't wait to push forward. This is the feeling I was craving: success."

facebook.com/NakdBasics

[Twitter: @NakdBasics](https://twitter.com/NakdBasics)

nakdbasicsos.wix.com/nakdbasics

Daniel Pfingstgraef, MMD Data Systems, St. Thomas-Elgin



Time is everything

When Western University computer science student Daniel Pfingstgraef started off in the Summer Company program, he had full intentions to launch a web development company. What he learned along the way, though, led him to expand into a healthcare solutions business as well.

MMD Data Systems started off by creating websites for businesses in the St. Thomas area, including healthcare providers. He saw that many healthcare professionals were spending a large amount of time on paperwork, especially appointment booking and follow up, so he developed *appointmentmaker.ca*. This technology gives medical and dental patients the ability to book appointments, set up automated reminders and complete healthcare forms online. By the end of the summer, MMD Data Systems had achieved 150% of its financial projections.

Daniel says the various accounting and resource management skills he learned in the Summer Company program have been a real asset going forward.

"I also learned how to speak with others in a professional setting, and I've found that this is much more important than I ever imagined it would be," says Daniel.

Daniel's experience demonstrated how Summer Company gives participants an opportunity to develop and adapt their business plans, through the mentoring and expert advice provided by the program.

Daniel's business has continued to grow. He now provides services to clients in Manitoba and has hired an employee to help him take his business to the next level.

mmddata.website/company.php

Emma Arnott, Two Sisters Fruit & Vegetables, Niagara Falls



Harvesting passion

Emma Arnott has a great appreciation for what the Niagara Region has to offer – especially its exceptional fresh produce. She's also a big believer in buying locally.

With the help of the Summer Company program, the Niagara College student was able to combine those passions in her own enterprise, **Two Sisters Fruit & Vegetables**.

Bolstered by the business skills she learned from the program, such as sales and marketing techniques, Emma beautified a roadside stand and acquired a refurbished delivery van to get her produce business growing.

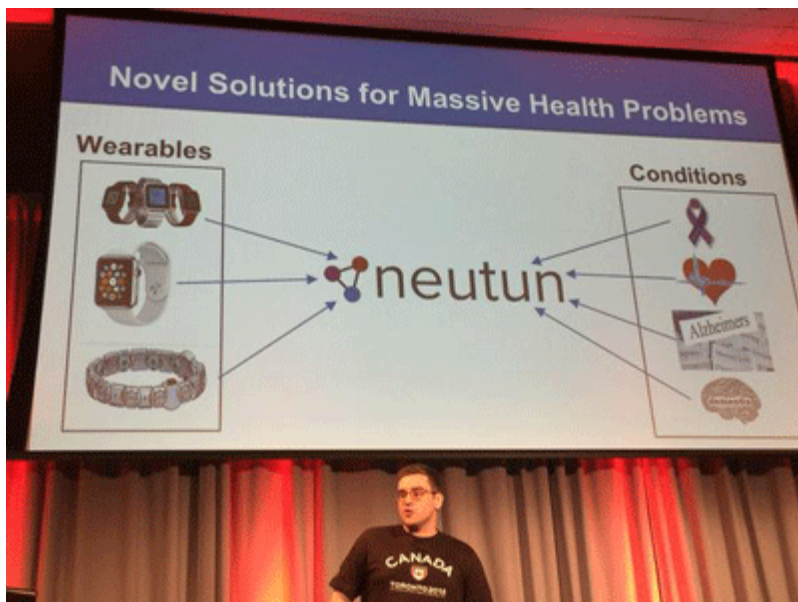
Receiving daily shipments of fruits and vegetables from local farmers, Emma's fresh produce quickly became a major hit with tourists and locals alike.

With repeat customers visiting the stand to stock up, she was able to exceed her sales targets and develop personal relationships with many people in the community.

Emma ensured that none of her unsold product was wasted, giving back to the community by making an arrangement with a local food bank that purchased her day old produce at a discount.

Inspired by her summer experience, she continued selling her produce into the fall, setting up a weekly booth at a local Farmers' Market. Emma intends to run **Two Sisters Fruit & Vegetables** again next summer and hopes to open a second location as well. Her dream: to own a farm of her own one day!

Eric Dolan, Neutun, Vaughan



Inspiration creates aspirations

As much as Eric Dolan's mother was the inspiration for his business, it would be fair to say the Summer Company program was the catalyst that helped turn his aspirations into reality.

As a student watching his mother struggle with epileptic seizures, Eric started researching the condition and found very little data existed on how epileptic seizures happen in real time.

He also discovered that there was no system or device in existence to capture data and provide an early warning to those suffering from epileptic seizures.

Through Summer Company, Eric developed **Neutun**, an app that works with smart watches and wearable devices to warn the wearer when a seizure is imminent. But that was just the beginning.

Over the summer, Eric secured new business partnerships and developed a user base, and then went on to expand into his current endeavour of creating wearable technology that will work with products such as the Apple Watch to monitor a range of chronic conditions in addition to epilepsy. Eric was so successful that, mid-way through the summer, he was accepted to a major incubator in Philadelphia, completing Summer Company remotely.

A postgraduate student at The John Hopkins University, Eric says the program created an environment where he could think about how to expand and grow, like the idea of partnering with local hospitals.

"Why go to Silicon Valley when there are opportunities here at home?"

neutun.com

[Twitter: @neutunlabs](https://twitter.com/neutunlabs)

Giselle Groskleg, French Hill Stables, Renfrew



Tall in the saddle

No matter what trail she ends up taking with her business, Giselle Groskleg can ride tall in the saddle for what she's done so far.

Giselle took her hobby of riding and caring for horses, and with the help of Summer Company, turned it into **French Hill Stables**, a business that provides horse training and riding lessons to students of all ages and levels, but mostly children.

A francophone, Giselle says her business was unique because she was the only riding instructor in her area who offered bilingual riding lessons.

The riding instructor/trainer gave private and semi-private lessons to large numbers of young students over the summer. She also attended horseshows with her students and helped them prepare to compete, even going as far as providing competition-level tack for their mounts.

Giselle appreciated having the opportunity Summer Company gave her to talk to other young entrepreneurs and share experiences about how they handled some of the same challenges she was facing.

"You get to hear about other people's journeys and you start to realize running a business is not as scary as you thought."

Giselle plans to continue her business sometime in the future, but for now she's focused on her studies at the University of Ottawa, where she is a first-year student working toward a Major in Psychology and a BA in French.

Glen Reavie, Entostatic: Insect Taxidermy, Barrie



Shadowboxing Mother Nature

Aspiring entomologist Glen Reavie took a life-long fascination with all things insect, and with Summer Company's help, found a way to combine his passion with his desire to start a business.

Through the Summer Company program, Glen launched **Entostatic**, an insect taxidermy business selling hand crafted, colourful and esthetically pleasing pieces of framed insects and shadowboxes.

As he learned the finer points of running a company and executing a business plan, Glen noted that he found it interesting to see how the theoretical plan matched up against reality in areas such as time management and the most effective marketing techniques.

"I learned what works and what doesn't work in given situations," said the first-year University of Guelph environmental biology student. "I loved Summer Company. It was the best decision I ever made in my life."

Just as the ubiquitous ant is capable of moving freely around the world, Glen purposefully buys insects for his taxidermy creations from international farms located all over the globe. "This promotes the beauty of global insect biodiversity, and protects the population of insect species."

With this wide array of species, good quality materials, and hand crafted components, Glen has been able to stand out from local competitors and create a thriving, successful business, which he plans to run for the foreseeable future.

Greg DeLaunay, Tron-Club, Toronto



Business logic outside the box

Greg DeLaunay can tell you anything you need to know about building logic circuits and electronic games, but before he joined the Summer Company program, some of the basics of doing business simply did not compute for him. That changed during the summer as he learned about everything from social media to time management for his mail order circuit building kit club, **Tron-Club**.

The club delivered a new project every month to subscribers, allowing them to learn the inner workings of each "black box" device and build their own from scratch or receive the completed version if they preferred.

"One of the challenges was I had higher demand than expected, and the program instructors gave us great direction on so many things to do with management and financing."

While Greg welcomed the start-up funds he received and the legitimacy he gained in the eyes of friends and family when he was accepted into the program, he cites the experience he gained and exposure to other business people as a key turning point.

"The nicest thing was we had group sessions where entrepreneurs would come in, and it was great to hear from people who were going through the same thing," says the third-year engineering physics student at McMaster University, who plans to continue his overwhelmingly successful business.

"Now I live by one little motivation: 'Every day, every day, every day, no days off!'"

tronclub.com/

facebook.com/tronclub

[Instagram: tron_club](https://www.instagram.com/tron_club)

[Twitter: @TronClub_Com](https://twitter.com/TronClub_Com)

James Juras, Hol Food, Toronto



The whole package

The brainchild of James Juras, a recent Neural Science graduate and current Master's degree candidate in Artificial Intelligence, **Hol Food** was born out of the desire to create holistic meal replacement options as an alternative to traditional formulas.

Inspired by the health benefits of his own active lifestyle, and perceiving a niche opportunity in the holistic foods market, James developed his business plan and launched his company with support from the Summer Company program.

Marketing **Hol Food** as "one of the first companies in Canada to provide holistic meal replacement options and one of the first in the world to provide customized-nutritional solutions", James further differentiated his company by adding a humanitarian objective to his bottom line.

"Since the beginning, the spirit of nutritionally complete food has been embedded with the idea that it has the power to change the world for the better," says James.

His goal in that sphere has been "to determine the positive impact nutritionally complete foods could have in disaster relief and other food insecure situations", and says he is in talks with a major disaster relief organization that has expressed interest in using **Hol Food** specifically in disaster situations.

James plans on continuing his business, hoping that **Hol Food** will ultimately become a renowned industry brand.

holfood.com

[Twitter: @holfood](https://twitter.com/holfood)

[Instagram: holfood](https://www.instagram.com/holfood)

Jonathan Turco, SociusPro, Toronto



The big picture

There's a saying in business that the customer is always right. Jonathan Turco decided to test that theory by using technology to capture the true "face" of customer feedback through a video sharing platform.

SociusPro, the business Jonathan developed through Summer Company, uses a touch-screen TV and web camera to allow companies to collect customer testimonials, experiences, stories, and reviews in real-time on their premises. This specialized software application has a face recognition system that automatically categorizes the feedback as positive or negative.

SociusPro has already achieved success with clients such as Second City; and Jonathan hopes to penetrate the hotel industry next. The system was also showcased at the PanAm and Parapan Am Accessibility Conference at the MaRS Discovery Centre, a business incubator that helps entrepreneurs launch and grow innovative companies.

Jonathan credits his Summer Company experience with giving him the perspective he needed to deal with the day-to-day challenges of running a business.

"The biggest thing was realizing there are other people out there in the same boat," says Jonathan, a 25-year-old MMSc student at Ryerson's Ted Rogers School of Management.

"As a student trying to start a business, you see others who were facing the same struggle, and you realize if you just keep going, it can all pan out, because it's a marathon, not a sprint."

sociuspro.ca/about.php

Josiah and Mattea Lodewyk, Tasty Turkeys (Josiah); Rapha Ridge Rabbitry (Mattea), St. Catharines



Sibling harmony

Teen siblings Josiah and Mattea Lodewyk share an entrepreneurial spirit and love of agricultural life. Josiah has had a turkey farming passion since age 10, and Mattea, an interest in rabbits since childhood. With help from Summer Company, they found themselves becoming the youngest farmers in the Niagara region as they turned their business ideas into reality.

"Farming is definitely a commitment," explains Mattea. "But it's really enjoyable. I love the agricultural way of life and seeing the life cycle of animals from beginning to end."

With some research, the 17-year-old discovered the rising demand for rabbit meat among both local and immigrant communities in the Greater Toronto Area, and established **Rapha Ridge Rabbitry** to provide lean, locally-grown, low calorie rabbit meat in a marketplace that lacked similar options.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Josiah found a niche market with significant demand for his pasture-raised, antibiotic-free turkeys. Launching his business, **Tasty Turkeys**, he was able to pre-sell his entire flock to customers interested in purchasing these premium-priced birds.

Both teens have wholeheartedly taken to farming life and the opportunity to be their own boss. They plan to continue scaled-down versions of their businesses during the school year.

"You'd be tied down working at Tim Hortons, too, where you have shifts," Josiah said. "Running your own business, being at the farm, it's beautiful."

Keigan Goetz, Goetz Fabricating, New Hamburg (Waterloo Region)



Iron work takes steely resolve

Keigan Goetz has been helping his father in the metal shop since he was a young boy, so it was only a matter of time before he turned his hobby into a business.

He quickly learned, though, that he would need more than craftsman skills to make a go of his custom iron work business, **Goetz Fabricating**. That's where Summer Company came in.

"The Summer Company program helped me a lot with my confidence," says Keigan. "Before the program, I wasn't a very good salesman, and to be honest, quite shy when talking to people I didn't know."

Keigan learned different techniques and approaches for talking to others and networking, making him more self-assured when dealing with customers and running his business.

He sold several pieces at markets but found his true success in creating custom made to order items. He saw the revenue for his **Goetz Fabricating** business almost double month to month over the course of the summer, and he now has a waiting list for his custom iron work.

He plans to refine his techniques at welding school, so that next summer, he can offer customers an even greater range of work.

Kyrstan Edmondson, Take A Break, St. Thomas



The special perks of running a business

Kyrstan Edmondson learned a lot about running a business with her coffee shop enterprise, but the greatest insight she gained may have been what she discovered about herself.

As her mother Denise notes, Kyrstan's **Take a Break** business project selling coffee beans at the historic Caso Station in St. Thomas was a new and unknown experience that posed a special challenge for her developmentally disabled daughter, a student at Arthur Voaden Secondary School.

But with the help of her mother, program mentor and others in the Summer Company program, Kyrstan discovered what she already had inside her.

"I believe the best reward was proving to herself that she can do anything she wants when she puts her mind to it," says Denise.

Through the program and her experience running the coffee shop two days a week, Kyrstan learned a host of entrepreneurial skills, including how to partner with other businesses, deliver quality customer service, adapt her plans on the fly and polish her math and accounting skills.

And with the support of her mother, Kyrstan plans to continue her business by handing out flyers and selling specialty coffee beans on a per order basis.

"She has shown great growth in her self-esteem and confidence and has proved that her abilities are truly stronger than her disabilities."

Leslie Ashworth, Suite Melody Care©, Halton



Scaling the heights with musical gifts

An upbeat pop hit from the past urged everyone to enjoy the good feelings from singing a song.

In a sense, Leslie Ashworth is channeling those sentiments today with **Suite Melody Care©**, a volunteer program that encourages musically-talented youth to give back to the community by performing in hospitals, retirement homes and long-term care facilities across the GTA.

Summer Company was instrumental in helping Leslie, a homeschooled Grade 12 student, who takes online learning courses, get her business off the ground. With the marketing and networking skills she developed during the summer, she was able to attract the interest of new venues, students and sponsors while garnering praise from the community. In fact, she was recently awarded The Lieutenant Governor's Community Service Youth Award for her dedication to the community.

"The Summer Company Program was an incredible experience that enabled me to take my ideas for the **Suite Melody Care©** program to the next level," says Leslie.

"It gave me the tools, confidence and knowledge to build an organization that positively impacts our community and inspires others, young and old, to give back."

With more than a dozen volunteer performers and hundreds of attendees so far, **Suite Melody Care©** performances continue to be scheduled in venues across the region, and audiences can relive the performances through a complimentary CD/DVD produced by Leslie.

suitemelodycare.com

Louise Marchand, Aura, London



Good work by design

The situation of foreign garment workers in countries with little or no labour standards weighed heavily on Louise Marchand.

So the fashion design student at London's Fanshawe College set about offering an alternative for consumers with her company **Aura**: a full service sewing and design company that specializes in socially conscious women's ready to wear and customized apparel. All of the **Aura** brand products are sweatshop free, made in Canada, and certified organic, ensuring a positive impact on society.

"Summer Company really showed me all the components necessary for the day-to-day running of a business," says Louise.

"They offered a safe environment to attempt, fail, learn, and adapt. I knew so many more things at the end of just four short months. And for starting a business, that is invaluable knowledge."

Louise really enjoyed networking and learning from other students in the program, which she notes helped keep everyone's successes and failures in context.

Many times during the summer when she felt like she was doing "a terrible job," she'd turn to those meetings with her peers for support and feedback.

"The biggest lesson I learned was that as an entrepreneur, you just have to persevere and stay optimistic," says Louise, who plans to continue her business. "We can all be our own worst critic, and I learned how to give myself the credit I had earned."

Candace, Natasha and Sabrina Pardo, Candace Piano Magic; Natasha Solutions; Party Adventures, Brampton



All in the family

The family business has long been a staple of the community, but the Pardo sisters gave it a whole new meaning through Summer Company.

Natasha was the first to apply to the program when the family saw a Summer Company sign on the road, then Candace and Sabrina joined in too. Now they help each other run their respective businesses. Sabrina and sister Isabella helped Natasha administer **Natasha Solutions**, her first aid and swimmer certification business.

Candace added "umph" to her home-based music lessons business, **Candace Piano Magic**, by encouraging clients to invite friends and family for a giant jam session that often included Natasha, Sabrina, Isabella and brother Alex playing along and helping teach younger clients as well.

Sabrina's **Party Adventures** business grew out of a family practice of having play dates for each of their seven siblings that mushroomed into neighbourhood events. During the summer, Sabrina offered themed parties "without the frazzle"; her siblings pitched in with ideas and helped with the legwork.

Homeschooled until the end of Grade 12, all three sisters are now enrolled full-time in Athabasca University, which specializes in online distance education. All three are continuing their businesses.

"Our program provider gave us all so much support and information about everything from advertising to insurance," says Candace. "We can't thank them enough."

natashasolutions@outlook.com

candacepianomagic.net/

partyadventures.biz/

Samantha Luck, Sam Luck House and Cottage Portraits, Sault Ste. Marie



She paints houses. Really.

Working towards her Bachelor of Illustration degree at Sheridan College, 19-year-old Samantha Luck used to paint just for fun, until she realized – after some encouragement from family and friends – that she could turn her passion into a successful business.

Creating vivid, beautiful painted portraits of area homes for fun and gifting them to her neighbours, Samantha would attach a contact card to the mailbox, and quickly realized she was on to something from the delighted response to her paintings.

Narrowly missing the deadline to participate in the previous year's Summer Company program, time was on her side this year, and she enthusiastically pursued her niche business, **Sam Luck House and Cottage Portraits**, creating custom portraits of people's homes and cottages.

"People have a strong connection with their homes", says Samantha. "My business gives me so much pleasure because it's making other people happy, and that makes me happy," she says.

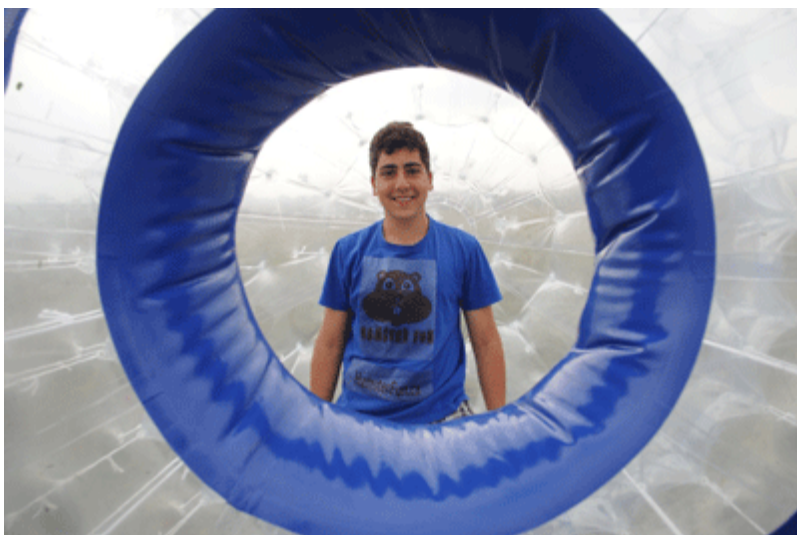
"The Summer Company experience taught me a lot about operating my own business, including how to create a business plan, advertise, and manage cash flow." And as a result: "I got even more clients than last year."

Having returned to college this fall, Samantha hopes to continue her business, confident in the realization that she can have an enjoyable, viable career as both an artist and an entrepreneur.

samluckhouseart.com

facebook.com/Sam-Luck-Home-and-Cottage-Portraits-741862142544684/

Sari Abukhadra, Hamster Fun, Mississauga



Embrace the rat race

Most people get stressed out when they feel they're just running in circles and getting nowhere fast. Sari Abukhadra not only got them to embrace that feeling, but to pay for the experience too.

Through Summer Company, Sari started **Hamster Fun**, a recreational sport activity that lets people take a ride in a plastic transparent orb, also known as a zorb ball.

Marketing through Wagjag, Buytopia, and Groupon home pages, local newspaper ads and in over a dozen email newsletters allowed him to create buzz and generate significant sales.

Success also created new challenges, like developing customer service skills and building relationships. There were also unexpected costs he had not allowed for in his business plan because of insurance requirements and government safety regulations with which Sari's business needed to comply.

The University of Toronto engineering student also had not expected to deal with the kind of demand his business generated, and eventually had to expand from four hours a day to ten or twelve hours a day because he had sold so many vouchers and had made a commitment to customers. By the end of the summer, he had generated the highest revenue and net profit of all the participants at his local program provider.

"The Summer Company program was amazing," says Sari, who plans to continue his business. "Through Summer Company I was able to be around motivated people and problem solvers who had faced some of the same problems I was facing."

hamsterfun.ca

Spencer Douglas-Hill, Right Hand Man Services, Hamilton



Handy around the farm

High school student Spencer Douglas-Hill grew up in a rural area and was well-acquainted with the long hours and hard work that are typical of life on a farm.

Spencer also had a keen sense of what type of jobs farm owners would want done, how long they would take, and how he would properly and successfully complete each task.

At just 15 years of age, Spencer decided to take a risk and start his own business providing farm hand services to Caledonia residents through his company, **Right Hand Man Services**. Giving true meaning to the phrase "right hand man", he focused on helping aged, disabled or otherwise in-need local farmers with a wide variety of work.

Spencer credits Summer Company for introducing him to the world of entrepreneurship. He maximized the experience, learning to network with clients, mentors and other students in the program to build his connections and improve his communication skills. He used his intuitive time management skills to schedule his clients accordingly, and paid close attention to the business's financials.

A cornerstone of his business success was the great relationships he built with the many farmers he helped in his community over the summer.

An entrepreneur at heart, Spencer says: "I plan to revamp my business plan and continue operating my company for many years to come!"

Tina Square, Tasty Creations, Cornwall



The force is with food

Young entrepreneur Tina Square dreamed of owning a business where she could combine her artistic flair with her love of healthy food to create a unique culinary experience for her clients.

With Summer Company's support, she launched **Tasty Creations**, creative food art that, as her marketing material says, "will get your tastes buds on high alert!"

Tina created stunning, healthy custom food orders using special fruit cuts and carving techniques. Her food artistry seems unbounded. Many of her creations are showcased on her company Facebook page, with themes ranging from highly intricate wedding centrepieces to a Star Wars "Death Star."

Summer Company's mentoring and training helped Tina learn and solidify the business skills needed to start, grow and sustain a successful business. Recently featured in Cornwall's Entrepreneurs in Action (an initiative to profile new small to medium-sized businesses), Tina had clear, well defined goals for her business.

"I want to provide food orders prepared in a reasonable time frame to meet the needs of different events, and our clients' cravings," says Tina, who is originally from the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve.

And she believes in giving back, recently donating a percentage of sales to Beyond 21, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping developmentally challenged young adults in Cornwall and surrounding areas.

facebook.com/tastycreations3

Waish Paypompee, Lake of the Woods Phone Repair, Kenora



Friending a business niche

Waish Paypompee originally planned to rely on old school word-of-mouth to advertise his high-tech repair business, **Lake of the Woods Phone Repair**, specializing in Apple products such as iPads, iPhones and iPods.

The Summer Company program helped him identify a better version of his original plan: marketing on social media. His Facebook page now has hundreds of likes, more than 10 company reviews, and customers posting about how happy they are with his service.

Self-taught by watching videos on YouTube and practising on his friends' and family's personal devices, Waish soaked up every Summer Company lesson he learned and applied this knowledge to his business. He also worked hard to find the right suppliers.

"I probably learned to price myself better through a combination of class instruction and experience," says Waish, a high school student

t originally from Nootkamegwanning First Nation Reserve who now lives in Kenora.

"Ordering was also challenge - I didn't know how much to order and how to order - but kind of through the experience of doing, I was able to get a better handle on it."

Through the social media version of "word-of-mouth," Waish's customer base has spread from Kenora to as far away as Winnipeg and Saskatchewan. He hopes to expand into fixing Samsung products as well. Not surprisingly, Waish plans to continue his business. In fact, he'll probably be an entrepreneur for life, always thinking of new business ideas and keen to learn anything he can about business!

facebook.com/lotwphonerepair

Wyatt Brauer, Layton Designs, Belleville



Cleaning up the coach's corner

Drawing on a repertoire of skills – designer, inventor, and amateur athlete – **Layton Designs** founder and owner Wyatt Brauer entered the Summer Company program with an idea for an innovative product that fit a need in the sporting world.

After noticing that his hockey coaches always had stains on their jackets from wiping off marker from the dry erase boards *and* were fumbling for their practice notes, Wyatt invented the "Tensor Towel".

The Tensor Towel answered both problems. The comfortable armband gave coaches of all types a place to store their practice notes and game lineups for easy access *and* doubled as a dry board eraser with a quick swipe of the arm.

A student at Hill Academy, Wyatt credits his Summer Company mentor for coaching him through the challenges of the design and manufacturing process.

Applying the business skills he learned in Summer Company, he expanded his network of professional sports contacts, leading to valuable experience and sales.

"I would attribute my success to the contacts I made while I was in the program", says Wyatt. "Our guest speakers, my mentor, and other business professionals gave me the advice I needed to get my product ready for the market."

Wyatt plans on continuing to market the Tensor Towel and is determined to introduce new products to his line of sporting gear.

laytondesigns.org/#the-kitchen

Yiyi Liang, ii's Kitchen, Markham



Hard work makes it easy

As a relative newcomer to Canada, York University student YiYi Liang never dreamed she would have the opportunity to open her own business here.

Starting with only an "unclear" idea that she wanted to sell food at an outdoor booth, she approached her local Summer Company program provider and ended up launching **ii's Kitchen**, selling homemade Chinese food at local farmers' markets.

Her delectable noodles, spring rolls and dumplings had eager locals lining up as she built a loyal customer base, and catering enquiries inspired her to consider how to diversify her business.

Unfamiliar with the Canadian market, she researched possible products, spent months scouting business locations, navigated civic and public health requirements for becoming a food vendor, and then worked at a commercial kitchen from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. each day preparing her food fresh, before taking it to market to begin selling at 8 a.m. Even when she lost all her paper noodle containers to heavy rains and winds at one street festival, she remained upbeat.

Successful entrepreneurs learn to persevere through myriad challenges, and YiYi's success reflects that. "All things are difficult before they are easy," says YiYi, who also won the Seneca First Place prize in the Markham Business Plan Competition.

She credits Summer Company for helping her gain business and life experience, as well as entrepreneurial skills and confidence. Her advice to other young entrepreneurs? "Overcome your doubts and go the distance."

Zaheem Riberdy, Kustom Kicks, Windsor



Fancy footwork

Like many teenagers, Zaheem Riberdy is obsessed with footwear. Unlike most of his peers, however, this 17-year-old entrepreneur and finalist in the Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch competition turned a hobby customizing sneakers and refurbishing old ones into a global business.

Through Summer Company, Zaheem launched **Kustom Kicks**, a company that sells fashionable, custom-made footwear and counts everyone from local retailers to UCLA's basketball team among its customers. Zaheem's custom sneakers have been featured internationally on U.S. and Japanese websites, and he has thousands of followers on social media.

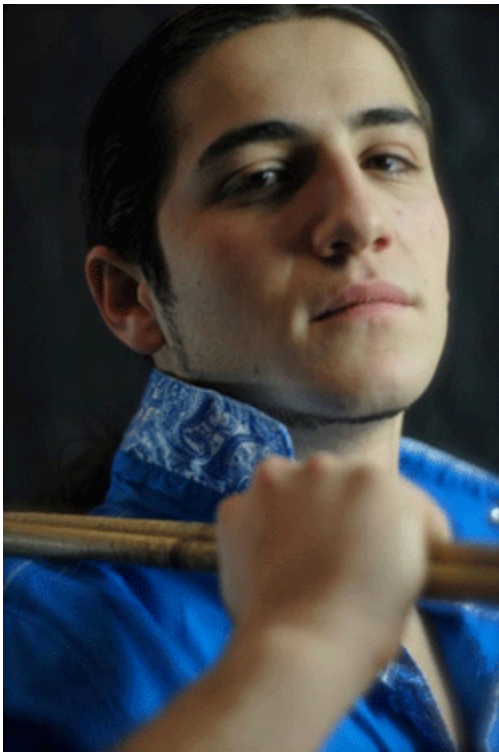
While his one-of-a-kind shoes have become a trendy fashion statement, he credits the Summer Company program for helping him build a marketing strategy that helped him reach influential people in the fashion industry.

He says the program also enabled him to purchase the tools he needed to create his unique, handcrafted shoes.

Zaheem plans to continue his business while he completes his last year of high school. He intends to pursue a post-secondary education with the goal of establishing a career in the fashion industry.

With his growing assortment of fancy "footwork" and the experience he got from the Summer Company program, that is a goal that seems to be a good fit.

Vadim Korolitsky, VProductions, Vaughan



Music to my ears

It's easy to get carried away with the excitement of a new enterprise and chasing sales, but even a business veteran like Vadim Korolitsky says it took some time to learn to temper enthusiasm with a more prudent approach to finding and securing customers.

Active in the entertainment industry since 2005, Vadim started *Vadim's Drum Method*, a live entertainment company, as a Summer Company participant in 2013.

Buoyed by the success of his Summer Company business, in 2014, Vadim took advantage of another Ontario youth entrepreneurship program, Starter Company. He launched **VProductions**, a company that specializes in audio visual productions for events. In 2015, he returned to the Summer Company program as a mentor.

Chief among the lessons he learned in Summer Company were managing his time more efficiently and making client deals official by getting a signed contract, rather than relying on a handshake or an informal exchange of emails.

He could be excused for reminding a few friends how skeptical they were about the program when he joined.

"They thought it sounded too good to be true, and they didn't believe it, even though they were trying to start their own businesses."

Now, of course, they should know better. After all, seeing is believing, even if you're not in the audio visual business.

vproductions.ca/

Emma Halenko, Off the EJ, Toronto



Fashion industry, meet Emma Halenko

The 20-year-old activist was determined to combine her knowledge of design with her commitment to the environment.

In 2014, with the support of Summer Company program, Emma started **Off the EJ**, a business focused on creating eco-friendly jewelry from hand-selected salvaged goods.

The third-year University of Waterloo architecture student relied on her design background and skills to find inventive ways to recycle everything from old CD fragments to discarded license plates for her one-of-a-kind creations.

Her target demographic was predominantly young adult females who identified with the environmentally sustainable practice of turning discarded materials into unique, handcrafted accessories. Not to mention, a beautiful and interesting conversation piece.

Beyond marketing through social media, **Off the EJ** is vying to be a vendor at various artisan festivals in the Toronto area, with the ultimate aim of becoming the brand for individuals who want to create a style that represents their values.

The Summer Company alumni also plans on building a men's brand for young professionals looking to make a fashion statement that has a story behind it.

em-ha.tumblr.com/tagged/Off+the+ej

[Instagram: off_the_ej](#)

Summer Company program providers

The Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure would like to thank all our program providers and mentors for your contribution to the success of the Summer Company 2015 program.

Nottawasaga Futures

Alliston

Greater Barrie Business Enterprise Centre

Barrie

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Barrie

Small Business Centre

Belleville

Muskoka Small Business Centre

Bracebridge

Brampton Small Business Enterprise Centre

Brampton

Brantford-Brant Business Enterprise Resource Centre

Brantford

Leeds and Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre

Brockville

Caledon Small Business Enterprise Centre

Caledon

Waterloo Region Small Business Enterprise Centre

Cambridge

Chatham-Kent Business Enterprise Centre

Chatham

Business Advisory Centre Northumberland

Cobourg

South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre

Collingwood

Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre

Cornwall

Windsor-Essex Small Business Centre

Essex

Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre

Guelph

Enterprise Temiskaming

Haileybury

Hamilton Small Business Enterprise Centre

Hamilton

Prescott-Russell Entrepreneurship Centre

Hawkesbury

Northwest Business Centre

Kenora

KEDCO Small Business Development Centre

Kingston

Waterloo Region Small Business Centre

Kitchener

Kawartha Lakes Small Business & Enterprise Centre

Lindsay

Small Business Centre

London

Markham Small Business Centre

Markham

Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre

Mississauga

York Small Business Enterprise Centre

Newmarket

Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre

Niagara Falls

The Business Centre — Nipissing Parry Sound Inc.

North Bay

Enterprise Toronto

North York

Halton Region Small Business Centre

Oakville

Orangeville & Area Small Business Enterprise Centre

Orangeville

Invest Ottawa Entrepreneurship

Ottawa

Business Enterprise Centre

Owen Sound

The Business Centre — Nipissing Parry Sound Inc.

Parry Sound

Enterprise Renfrew County

Pembroke

Business Advisory Centre

Peterborough

Business Enterprise Centre Saugeen Shores

Port Elgin

Enterprise Renfrew County

Renfrew

Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre

Richmond Hill

Prescott-Russell Entrepreneurship Centre

Rockland

Business Enterprise Centre of Sarnia-Lambton

Sarnia

Business Sault Ste. Marie

Sault Ste. Marie

Enterprise Toronto

Scarborough

YMCA of Greater Toronto

Scarborough

Huron Business Centre

Seaforth

Small Business Advisory Centre

Smith Falls

St. Catharines Enterprise Centre

St. Catharines

Elgin / St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre

St. Thomas

Stratford Perth Centre for Business

Stratford

Regional Business Centre

Sudbury

Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre

Thunder Bay

Business Enterprise Centre

Timmins

Enterprise Toronto

Toronto

JVS Toronto

Toronto

Ryerson University

Toronto

Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC)

Toronto

Youth Employment Services (Yes)

Toronto

Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre

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