



A DRAGONS' DEN INSPIRED EVENT

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2023

Over \$36, 000 in investments and loans invested at the Hawks' Nest!

WOW, what a show!

The third Hawks' Nest drew a crowd of 225 people at the Roxy Theatre in Owen Sound for a very entertaining evening!

The "Dragon's Den" inspired competition, covering the areas of Grey, Bruce, Wellington North, Minto and the City of Owen Sound, saw seven entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to the Hawks, our local angel investors. Hawks, Tony Solecki from Caframo Ltd. (Warton), Howard Sher from Quality Homes (Wellington-North), Amanda Farrell Walsh from Miller Insurance (Kincardine), Ed Bosman from Bosman Home Front Ltd. (Minto), Rhonda Kirk from Home Décor and More by Rhonda Kirk (Owen Sound/Hanover), Craig Beck from The Beck Auto Group (Kincardine/Owen Sound). Wow! Their commitment to entrepreneurialism is remarkable. We cannot thank them enough for sharing their expertise, their time and providing financial assistance. Each Hawk committed to invest \$5,000 in the entrepreneurs during the evening, totalling a minimum of \$30,000. But after hearing the presenting entrepreneur's pitches, negotiations resulted in \$36,000 in investments as well as mentorships and more. As well, Olivia Schlosser, (Mutts About You), tied with Youth Finalist Olivia, Sierra and Cole Griffin (Griffin's Sweet Sensations) for the People's Choice Award Winners! They were presented the People's Choice Award, which included a cash prize of \$565 each and \$500 advertising certificate from Shoreline Radio each.

Entrepreneurs:

Olivia Schlosser, "Mutts About You" (Hanover), received \$5,000 in investments, mentorship and was one of the winners of the People's Choice Award and will receive \$565 cash and \$500 of Free Advertising on Shoreline Radio. Mutts About You provides organic, single ingredient pet treats. Visit her website www.muttsaboutyou101.com

Amy Caperchione, “iSUP Saugeen” (Sauble Beach), received \$3,500 in investments, as well as mentorship and marketing assistance including a feature article in Miller Insurance Magazine. iSUP Saugeen is a mobile surf shop, specializes in rentals, aquatic recreation and outdoor swim lessons and water education. Check out everything they offer at isupsaugeen.ca

Julia Downer and Sharon Black, “Black Forest Eco Oasis” (Priceville) received \$2000 in investments, marketing assistance, insurance, mentorship, and assistance with zoning and building permits processes from the hawks. They are hoping to provide off-grid, eco-friendly accommodations.

Nicole Ireland, “Stilara” (Kincardine) received \$4500 in investments, marketing, mentorship and supplier sourcing assistance. Stilara is a local artisan shop that showcases handmade, and sustainable products. Visit her store’s website www.stilarakincardineshop.com

Monique Travale, “Dill Doughs” (Kincardine), received \$7000 in investments, coverage for marketing costs, and mentorship. Dill Doughs provides handcrafted, internationally themed and inspired, artisan bread mixes. Check out what the products at www.dilldoughs.ca

Jennifer Osborn, “EcoWool Canada Inc.” (Ayton), received \$10,000 in investments and mentorship. EcoWool initiates sustainability and supports farmers by upcycling wool and fiber waste into valuable products. See everything they offer www.ecowool.ca

Youth Entrepreneur siblings **Olivia, Sierra and Cole Griffin**, “Griffin’s Sweet Sensations” (Tiverton), received \$3000 in investments, advertising, insurance and two hawks made standing 1-year orders for their products. Griffin’s Sweet Sensations provides high quality baked goods specializing in brownies and blondies. griffinssweetsensations.com

Barb and Rose had one special presentation for a second Youth Applicant. 12-year-old **Keegan Hill**, “KH Carpentry” (West Grey) was invited onto the stage to receive investment of \$500 from Rose Austin of SEDC and Barb Fisher of Bruce CFDC. Hawk Craig Beck decided to match theirs with his own \$500 investment! Find Keegan on Instagram @keeganscarpentry

The seven entrepreneurs walked away with valuable advice and feedback from the six high profile business leaders.



Back Row Left to Right: Finalists Olivia Schlosser (Mutts About You) Hanover, Cole, Sierra and Olivia Griffin (Griffin's Sweet Sensations) Tiverton, Amy Caperchione (iSUP Saugeen) Sauble Beach, Nicole Rae Ireland (Stilara) Kincardine, Monique Travale (Dill Doughs) Kincardine, Jennifer Osborn (EcoWool Canada Inc.) Ayton, Julia Downer and Sharon Black (Black Forest Eco Oasis) Priceville.

Front Row Left to Right: Hawk Investors Tony Solecki from Caframo Ltd. (Warton), Craig Beck from The Beck Auto Group (Kincardine/Owen Sound), Home Décor and More by Rhonda Kirk (Owen Sound/Hanover), Howard Sher from Quality Homes (Wellington-North), Ed Bosman from Bosman Home Front Ltd. (Minto), Amanda Farrell Walsh from Miller Insurance (Kincardine).

The third Hawks' Nest competition was deemed a huge success by the presenting partners. Rose Austin, General Manager for Saugeen Economic Development Corporation is pleased with the new partnerships formed with the Hawks and the participation of the sponsors. "Partnerships are of vital importance to any project, they are the reason for success. Small business is the backbone of our communities and with all the people involved in the Hawks' Nest, we can't fail."

"We're thrilled with the results and hope to do it again. More than 25 entrepreneurs took part in free business planning, all contestants attended expert pitch training, which definitely helped with their live presentations – they were all great, making difficult choices for the Hawks. It was an entertaining evening, and we believe everyone was a winner", commented Barb Fisher, General Manager for Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation.

Rose and Barb would like to congratulate all the entrepreneurs and thank everyone who helped to make this event a success.

Thank you to our generous Corporate and Partner Sponsors and everyone who participated.



We would also like to Thank our Partner Level Sponsors!



The SEDC and the Bruce CFDC offer a wide variety of programs and services supporting community economic development and small business growth. In particular, they provide:

- Community strategic planning and socio-economic development
- Support for community-based projects
- Business information, training and planning services, and
- Access to capital for small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises.

The SEDC and the Bruce CFDC are not-for-profit organizations that have partnered to provide an avenue for existing businesses looking to expand and entrepreneurs wanting to start a business.

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Resources:

[Federal Economic Development Agency of Southwestern Ontario](#)

[Saugeen Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation](#)

The Saugeen Economic Development Corporation and the Bruce CFDC are two of 36 CFDCs in southern Ontario funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) through the Community Futures Program. CFDCs are independent, not-for-profit organizations delivering programs and services that support rural economic development and small business growth. They employ local staff and are each governed by a volunteer board of directors, made up of local residents representing the community.