



## INAUGURAL HAWKS' NEST COMPETITION

WOW, WHAT A NIGHT! We had a full house and the social hour was a great networking opportunity. The event: I don't know what to say! The Hawks committed to a minimum of \$25,000 to invest last night; and they doubled it!! The entrepreneurial spirit is alive in our communities.

I would like to congratulate all the entrepreneurs:

- Kathy Ackerman & Tina Artuso; Best Friends Bakery, Hanover & Kincardine
- Renata Peto; **The Halliday House Senior's Lodge**, Arran-Elderslie
- Elly Ward; **No Nuts About Us**, Georgian Bluffs
- Patrick Lahey; **Work Hard Dream Big**, Kincardine
- Melinda Leifso; **Chesley Daycare**, Arran-Elderslie
- Deb Summers & Danielle Valiquette; **Pony Express Girls**, Grey Highlands
- Kayli Hall Elwood & Sarah Martyn; **Penetangore Wellness**, Kincardine

I am so very grateful to the Hawks, their commitment to their communities, to this area, their willingness to give advice, to offer mentorship, to partner and to invest in these entrepreneurs and their business is overwhelming, thank you!

- Ashley & Lesya Chapman; **Chapman's Ice Cream**, Markdale
- Kevin Kelly; **Bruce Power**, Kincardine
- Dr. Bob McFarlane; **McFarlane Health Facility Ltd.**, Mount Forest
- Tony Solecki; **Caframo Ltd.**, Wiarton
- Sandy Gott; **Ice River Springs Water Company**, Feversham

**Deb Fawcett**, our project coordinator, wow! Does she know how to get the job done? Yes, she does! Great job, Deb, it is always a pleasure working with you.

To the corporate sponsors: **Bruce Power, TD Bank, Scotiabank, Meridian Credit Union, Municipality of Brockton**, a great big thank you! You understand the importance of small business in our communities; your regional thinking is so refreshing and so required in our rural communities.

To the gold, silver and bronze sponsors, thank you, thank you! Your support is also greatly appreciated.

To the regional advisory committee: **Jim Halliday**, Grey Highlands Chamber; **Dan Bailey**, Hanover Chamber; **Kelly McDonald**, Kincardine Tourism; **Roslyn Fortier**, Mount Forest Chamber; **John Miller**, Saugeen Shores Chamber; **Belinda Wick-Graham**, Town of Minto; **Christine Brandt**, Walkerton BIA - these people work so hard for all of us, we can't thank you enough!

To the **SEDC** and **Bruce CFDC** board members, your contributions to our communities go unrecognised, you volunteer your time, your entrepreneurial advice, and so much more. Your support enriches the economic development of rural Ontario. We would not be here without you.

Thank you to the local communities - the people that came out to support this event, we hope you enjoyed your evening.

To my colleague, **Barb Fisher**, I don't know where you get your energy from, your unselfish contributions to our communities are too vast to mention, I am honoured to work with you. Thanks to everyone who made the first ever **Hawks' Nest** a success! Wow, what a night!

***"Working in Partnership for the Communities' Future"***

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*"The SEDC is a private, non-profit organization whose mandate is to actively pursue and encourage the development, implementation and maintenance of local initiatives that promote community development, job creation and the growth of small businesses."*