



## A DRAGONS' DEN INSPIRED EVENT

### News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neustadt, ON

### Over \$53,000 in donations and loans invested at the Hawks' Nest

WOW, what a show!

The second Hawks' Nest drew a crowd of over 200 people at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Walkerton 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 or local angel investors. Hawks **John Fowler** from Supreme Cannabis Company (Tiverton), **Sandy Gott** from Ice River Springs Water Company (Feversham), **Brian Hilbers** from Bruce Power (Tiverton), **Joel Koops** from MSW Plastics (Palmerston), **Tony Solecki** from Caframo (Warton) and **Susan Wright** from Amazing Assets (Walkerton), 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 over \$ 53,000 in investments including grants, loans and partnerships. As well, **Jesse Topp** was presented the People's Choice Award, which included a cash prize of \$930, five hours of consulting from BDO and a \$500 advertising certificate from Bayshore Broadcasting.

#### Entrepreneurs:

**Michelle Bauman**, "Growing Abilities" (Mount Forest), received \$3,000 in donations and a \$5,000 interest-free loan to expand and provide day programs and supports for adults, in Wellington North, who live with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

**Tarah Coates**, "SurfSup Eco Shop and Rentals" (Kincardine), received \$2,000 in donations, \$5,000 loan, legal advice, as well as mentorship. SurfSup rents and sells surf boards as well as develops the culture through lessons, retreats and community development events.

**Cooper Loblaw**, “The Urban Chick” (Heathcote/Meaford). The Urban Chick will help reconnect this generation and others back to their food roots by building and selling chicken coops to city dwellers in Toronto. Cooper received \$3,000 in donations towards paying the tuition of another student at his academy, as well as \$1,700 for the purchase of one of his chicken coops by a Hawk.

**Sherry-Lynn McRobb**, “Family Home Health Care Centre” (Palmerston), is a business that sells mobility and medical products which includes rentals and service. Sherry-Lynn received a \$5,000 loan, as well as mentorship.

**Ruth Montgomery**, “The Maven Project” (Lucknow) is a collection of personal development events, including workshops, retreats and camps. Ruth received a loan ranging from \$5,000-10,000, as well as the purchase of tickets to her weekend camp at a value of \$4,800, and the chance to be introduced to the Bruce Power Leadership Development Program.

**Ranjan Pradhan**, “Shrimp Canada” (Palmerston), supports the development of a shrimp farm that will initiate sustainable farming and sale of whiteleg shrimp. Ranjan received a \$5,000 loan and mentorship as well as building supplies to assist with the construction of his new building.

**Jesse Topp**, “Topp Performance” (Port Elgin), received \$9,000 in grant/ donations towards free memberships for students of need. Jesse was the recipient of the People’s Choice Award and he received a cash reward of \$930. Jesse also received \$500 for advertising on Bayshore Broadcasting as well as 5 hours of business consultation from BDO. Topp Performance’s mission is to provide a unique training experience custom tailored to each client’s individual goals. They strive to provide fitness training that is an enjoyable experience – not a daily burden.

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



Left to Right: **Sherry-Lynn McRobb** (Family Home Health Care Centre) Palmerston, **Ruth Montgomery** (The Maven Project) Lucknow, **Cooper Loblaw** (The Urban Chick) Heathcote/Meaford, **Tarah Coates** (SurfSup Eco Shop and Rentals) Kincardine, **Michelle Bauman** (Growing Abilities) Mount Forest, **Jesse Topp** (Topp Performance) Port Elgin, **Ranjan Pradhan** (Shrimp Canada) Palmerston

The second 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."

Barb Fisher, General Manager for Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation, addressed the audience saying, "We're thrilled with the results and hope to do it again."

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 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.*