

SPECIAL FEATURE

6TH ANNUAL

40

Under Forty

Business Achievement Awards





Judith Beam

Judith is the owner of The Dog Lady Training. As a professional pet sitter and certified dog trainer, Judith offers a wide range of services, whether it's providing daily care for farm and companion animals, teaching obedience classes or taking care of properties while her clients are on vacation.

Since she was a young girl, Judith has always felt a deep connection with animals. Judith graduated with honours in the Horse Groom Apprenticeship Program as well as from the Animal Behaviour College. In October 2008, she transformed that love into a rapidly growing business. Originally serving Fort Erie, she now holds training sessions and serves clients throughout the Niagara Region.

A Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce member, Judith is deeply involved with the community, donating thousands of dollars, and volunteering close to 500 hours of her time with several organizations including the Pomeranian and Small Breed Rescue, the Fort Erie SPCA, and the I CAN Therapeutic Equestrian Riding Association of Niagara. Judith is also a member of Pet Sitters International, the All Canadian Pet Services Network, the Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers, and the Eastern States Working Dog Association.

Judith is currently in the planning stages of organizing seminars featuring animal health professionals and working dog handlers as a financial benefit to some of our local animal charities.

Company Name
The Dog Lady Training

Address
1137 Sunset Dr.
Fort Erie, ON.

Telephone
905.871.7419



Renee Bermel

Renee is the founder and president of Life Coach Financial—a holistic financial coaching practice. She began her practice as a home business in 2008 before growing into a new office in downtown Grimsby. Renee has become successful by always putting her clients first.

Renee is constantly training and enhancing her skills through seminars, networking and research so she can provide her clients with the highest degree of service. Having worked in the wealth management industry for over 15 years, she also has a broad range of experience and knowledge to draw from.

A proud supporter of the Grimsby Chamber of Commerce, Renee has won several honours including the 2008 Reader's Choice Award for Financial Planner of the Year, and has been a member of the Million Dollar Round Table for the past 3 consecutive years. This is an industry award that recognizes the top financial advisors in the world. She is also President of the Greater Hamilton Chapter of ADVOCIS, is a Planned Giving Representative with City Kidz of Hamilton, Founder of Women into Networking and Founder of the Like Minded Business Networkers Group. Renee is also a volunteer on the parent council at her children's school and was the President for 5 years.

Renee looks forward to working with her clients and helping them to build a plan that will perfectly fit their financial life.

Company Name
Life Coach Financial

Address
53 Main St. W.
Grimsby, ON.

Telephone
289.235.9776



Clarke Bitter

Clarke is the President & CEO of P&C Compostech Inc.—a firm that imports and distributes 100% compostable food service products.

Clarke is committed to educating the public and local companies about the benefits of using environmentally friendly products. And the word is getting out. As president, Clarke has witnessed sales doubling each month over the first year. Their sales continue to grow and Compostech has been so successful that Clarke recently expanded the sales force.

Volunteering several hours a week, Clarke is a big supporter of various community organizations including Hospice Niagara, Wellspring Niagara, Communities in Bloom, Poverty Action Coalition for Change, and Project S.H.A.R.E. He's also been active in Niagara Falls' revitalization efforts with the "Celebrate Old Downtown" Community Corporation and the Springlicious Festival.

Clarke brings passion and enthusiasm to his work and we commend his dedication to helping organizations promote environmental initiatives here in Niagara.

Company Name
P&C Compostech Inc.

Address
5881 Thorold Stone Rd.
Niagara Falls, ON.

Telephone
905.358.5881



Maureen Bonham

Maureen is a broker with Reuter & Reilly Insurance in Welland. Graduating from Conestoga College and Mohawk College, Maureen has also obtained her Canadian Accredited Insurance Broker and Chartered Insurance Professional designations.

Over the years, her dedication and perseverance has really paid off. Maureen began her career in the service department and it was evident that her strength is in dealing with people. Recognizing her strength, Maureen was recently promoted to the sales department, selling both personal and commercial lines of insurance. Here, she's always eager to learn and helps educate her clients and help create a policy together that will perfectly fit their needs.

Maureen loves being active in the community. She is a secretary and volunteer with the Niagara Timberline Riders, cleaning up the East Side Trail from refuse—is a volunteer with the OFTR and is a member of Idea Share Niagara and several networking groups. She also supports several charities including the Humane Society, the Niagara Wildlife Haven and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Company Name
Reuter & Reilly Insurance

Address
515 Niagara St.
Welland, ON.

Telephone
905.714.2324



Greg Bonito

Dinnerhound.com is the number one website for information on restaurants in Southern Ontario and Western New York. Since launching Dinnerhound.com in 2008, Greg has used his years of experience in sales, customer service and retail management to help promote local restaurants and to provide valuable info to their patrons.

Working in partnership with his wife, Greg oversees all aspects of their business—from advertising and bookkeeping to design and administration. Dinnerhound.com has grown steadily and is currently adding staff to their sales team.

A member of the Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce, Greg is currently exploring sponsoring opportunities with local youth sports and racing events. He also provides free advertising for several local charities such as the Fort Erie SPCA.

A graduate of the Durham College Sports Administration Program, Greg has been involved with local sports for five years and was a founder, operator and coach of Fort Erie Minor Basketball.

The Niagara area offers a wealth of dining opportunities for the community—and Greg looks forward to helping Niagara's restaurant owners to prosper and grow.

Company Name
Dinnerhound.com

Address
225 Bertie St.
Fort Erie, ON.

Telephone
905.994.7672



Bryan Bridgett

Bryan is one of Niagara's greatest ambassadors of the sport of bowling with 26 years of experience in the industry. Starting as a frontline employee at Pla-Mor Bowling Lanes in the 1980s, he has learned the sport and the business from top to bottom. Having risen from a part time student to his current position of General Manager, Bryan is in charge of daily operations at Pla-Mor and is always striving to enhance the business. Since Bryan became the General Manager 4 years ago, Pla-Mor has seen a 12% increase in sales. He is currently overseeing upgrades to his facility of close to \$100,000 to keep Pla-Mor at the fore front of the bowling industry.

His dedication to the industry is also second to none. Bryan attends a number of seminars and conferences on his own time to keep abreast of industry developments such as the Bowling Management Marketing Seminar and the Bowl Ontario annual convention.

He's also involved with several organizations such as the Bowling Proprietors Association of Ontario, Youth Bowling Canada and the Ontario & Canadian Five Pin Bowlers Association to help promote the sport. Bryan is also the Zone President for Bowl Ontario/Canada, a volunteer for the Special Olympics and a Ladies Softball umpire.

Bryan also coaches Youth Bowlers on a weekly basis, traveling with the team to various area competitions and events.

Company Name
Pla-Mor Bowling Lanes

Address
106 Main St.
Port Dalhousie, ON.

Telephone
905.935.6711



Bill Buchanan

As the Owner and President of Buchanan Expert Tree Care, Bill offers a complete array of arboricultural services, specializing in tree care and preservation.

Bill graduated from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and has a 1st Class Standing in his Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. An ISA Certified Arborist, Bill began his forestry career in the New York City area with Sav-A-Tree where he was promoted several times—rising from field operations to District Manager.

Bill moved back to the Niagara area to be close to family and launched his own firm in 2006. Since that time, Bill has continued to expand his operation. In the first two years alone, his company experienced a 90% and 50% growth in sales respectively and this past year he added a satellite location for their office manager. Bill recently upgraded his certification and is now a Board Certified Master Arborist—one of only three in Ontario.

He's also an active member of the community, giving speeches to children at several Niagara schools about trees and the environment, planting trees at local churches and is an active member of Networking Niagara.

Company Name
Buchanan Expert Tree Care

Address
58 Timber Creek Cres.
Fonthill, ON.

Telephone
905.892.6579



Laura Chatterton

As Recreational Director and Learning Institute Manager at White Oaks, Laura is responsible for implementing experiential education and social recreation programs that are top quality—and incorporating the fundamentals of corporate teaming. She is also in charge of designing and budgeting all recreational programming, and overseeing the purchase and maintenance of all recreational equipment and facilities.

Attending Niagara College and Seneca College, Laura has a Human Relations Diploma, a Special Events Management Post-Graduate Diploma and an Outdoor Recreation Post-Graduate Certificate.

Laura is a committed and hardworking individual. Since 2001 she has been promoted from Lead Facilitator to Program Coordinator to Recreational Director/Learning Institute Manager. While in her current position, Laura's sales have grown by 22%. Through the Learning Institute program, she has worked hard to expand her services beyond White Oaks, offering community building programs at several high schools throughout Niagara and has created the teambuilding program "Casino Olympics".

Laura supports several charities including Scouts Canada, the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation, Cancer Society, Canadian Diabetes Association and the David Suzuki Foundation. Laura has also been an active player and coach with the Niagara Rapids Volleyball Club and the Niagara District Volleyball League.

Company Name
White Oaks Conference
Resort & Spa

Address
235 Taylor Rd.
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

Telephone
905.688.2550



Gregory Darte

As Vice President & Funeral Director of George Darte Funeral Chapel Inc., Gregory oversees all marketing and technological systems, funeral directing, funeral planning and arrangements of this 4th generation family business.

A licensed funeral director for the past four years, Gregory has been a part of his family's funeral home ever since he was 16 years old and was recently promoted to the position of Vice-President. Gregory is excited to play a key role in the further expansion of the company, which is currently underway.

Gregory is an active member of the community, acting as Chair of the Hospice Niagara 5 Car Draw Sweepstakes, a Board Member of the United Way of St. Catharines & District, Rotary Club member and President of the Niagara District Funeral Service Association. Add to that, 150–250 hours a year which Gregory volunteers to various organizations and charities.

Gregory exemplifies excellence in funeral service. His compassion and understanding exceeds the needs of all the families he serves. And with Gregory's strong business acumen and passion for the local community, he clearly has a bright future in the funeral industry.

Company Name
George Darte Funeral
Chapel Inc.

Address
585 Carlton St.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.937.4444



Ron Doi

Ron is a Franchisee/Operation Partner of the Ontario St. and Glendale Ave-Pen Centre Boston Pizza franchises in St. Catharines. Ron is in charge of hiring, recruitment and retentions, finance, sales and community relations. Always looking to excel in the hospitality industry, Ron has attended several training seminars offered through Boston Pizza International as well as various continuing education courses.

Ron has been integral to the success of his franchises and has seen his sales steadily grow at a rate of 14% per year over the last few years.

Ron supports the Niagara area as much as possible, sponsoring several local children's and adult sports teams and supporting organizations like Brock University and Alexandra School.

Ron is a member of the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce and regularly supports dozens of local charities including the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Kids Help Phone, Wise Guys Charity and the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre, where he sits on their annual Celebrity Dinner board. Ron offers a 10% cash back program on all food sold during the year to give additional support to these and other organizations.

Having relocated his young family here from Alberta in 2001, Ron is positive proof that it's possible for today's young entrepreneurs to prosper and thrive in the Niagara Region.

Company Name
Boston Pizza

Address
221 Glendale Ave.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.687.1991



Dave Edward

As an Account Manager with Brand Blvd., Dave has shown tremendous growth at an early age with the firm. In 2008, his first full year in the industry, he generated over \$350,000 in sales revenue and is on pace to almost double that figure in 2009. Dave has developed a wide client base with companies that stretch as far away as Bermuda. Most recently, Dave was recognized industry wide as a top 5 producer in North America for the month of March. In that 31 day span, Dave accumulated sales of over \$100,000.

Dave is a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Course and received an outstanding speaking award.

Dave's leadership and drive has afforded him the responsibility of dealing with some of the company's largest clients.

Dave continues to give back to Niagara, spending the past 6 years as a coach with the St. Catharines Jets, an active volunteer for Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold and a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Society.

Dave is a real leader and an influential member of the Brand Blvd team.

Company Name
Brand Blvd. Inc.

Address
261 Martindale Rd. Unit 5
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.682.5215



Dino Fazio

Since 2004, Dino has been General Manager of the Winter Festival of Lights—Canada's foremost illumination festival.

Under his stewardship, the festival was selected as a Top 100 Internationally Known Event from 2007 to 2009. It was also selected as a Top 50 Event in 2006 and 2007 and Top 100 Events in 2008 and 2009 by Festivals & Events Ontario. In 2007, Festivals & Events Ontario recognized the festival as having the Best Overall Promotional Campaign among Ontario festivals with budgets over \$500,000.

More recently, the Winter Festival of Lights won the prestigious Misty Award for Progressive Development in 2008, which is presented to an establishment that has contributed to the advancement of tourism in Niagara Falls through change or innovation.

Dino is active with many local organizations where he sits on the Board of Directors for the Niagara Falls Public Library and Niagara Falls Museums. He also volunteers with the "Out of the Cold Program," where he feeds the homeless once a month and created the Comedy for Kidneys benefit show to raise money for the construction of a new Kidney Dialysis Centre in Niagara Falls.

Dino was also the personal recipient of the Stella Howlett Hospitality Award, which honours individuals that best exemplify hospitality in the city's tourism industry.

Company Name
Winter Festival of Lights

Address
5400 Robinson St.
Niagara Falls, ON.

Telephone
905.374.1616



Mark Georgiev

■ Mark is the Clinic Director at Lifemark Health, one of Canada's largest providers of physiotherapy, rehabilitation and occupational health services. Here, Mark is in charge of everything from financial and staff management to treating patients and offering seminars throughout the community.

Over his career, Mark has worked with several medical centres including Concentra Medical in Tuscon, Arizona and the Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Since starting with Lifemark's Fonthill location as a staff therapist in 2007, Mark has experienced great success, receiving several company accolades including the Rookie Director of the Year Award in 2008 and the Business Excellence Award in 2009. Mark has played an integral role in the growth of the company over the last few years and has helped generate a sales increase of 15% in just 9 months.

Mark is active with the Notre Dame High School Football Team, the YMCA, and the Junior "B" Welland Lacrosse Association. For the past five years, he has also acted as a minor football coach and team therapist—and gives thousands a year to local youth sports teams.

Mark is a proud supporter of the MS Walk, Canadian Diabetes Association and the Cancer Society.

Having grown up in the Fonthill area, Mark always had a dream to be able to service his hometown community and to give back to the people that helped him get his start. And he's proud to see that dream become a reality.

Company Name
Lifemark Health

Address
209 Hwy 20, Unit 6
Fonthill ON.

Telephone
905.892.4431



Tyler Green

■ As an Estimator and Coordinator with Cotton Inc., Tyler exemplifies success. A member of the Cotton team for the past decade, Tyler has several responsibilities including sales, estimating, contract administration, field coordination, ordering, quality control and supporting his co-workers.

Recently celebrating their 30th Anniversary in business, Tyler and Cotton have seen a 25% increase in sales over the last year.

Tyler is an active participant in several local charities including the Boys & Girls Club of Niagara, the Grimsby Hospital, and the Heart & Stroke Foundation. He's also been heavily involved in the Community CARE's Christmas Food Drive and Cotton's Annual Golf Tournament which raises \$10,000 a year for charity.

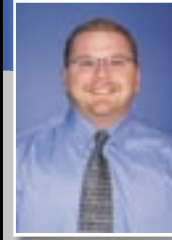
A Vice-President of the Niagara Construction Association, Tyler recently attended the Niagara Region Planning Workshop in 2008 to help do his part to develop the vision for Niagara's next 15 years.

Having grown up in Niagara, Tyler decided to put down roots here because he loves the community and believes in the future of Niagara.

Company Name
Cotton Inc.

Address
2125 Fruitbelt Pkwy.
Niagara Falls, ON.

Telephone
905.262.2000



Rob Hill

■ As an Account Manager with Hub International, Rob is responsible for maintaining his current book of business while obtaining new clients. A Commercial Lines Producer, Rob is never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get the job done, which has helped him achieve a 30 to 40% growth in sales each year.

Rob understands customers fuel the business and has made his clients a top priority. He also believes that coverage needs to be correct and inexpensive. Rob's high level of integrity allows him to maintain a large client base and to continue increasing his sales through client referrals.

In order to improve himself, Rob attends an average of 10 industry seminars annually and is also Dale Carnegie graduate and assistant coach. Rob has a long line of community involvements including acting as Public Relations Chair with the Rotary of St. Catharines Sunrise, Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara, Habitat for Humanity, Project Share and Director of Manufacturers and Suppliers with the Niagara Construction Association. Rob regularly donates 10-12 hours per week to various charities and organizations.

Rob defines the word "success"—and believes that the growth possibilities for an entrepreneurial-minded person here in Niagara are unlimited.

Company Name
Hub International

Address
63 Church St. Ground Floor
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.688.1534



Suzanne Janke

■ Born and raised in the Niagara area, Suzanne is the Director of Hospitality with Stratus Wines. Suzanne is responsible for the management and operations of Stratus including retail operations, staffing, customer experience, media relations and marketing initiatives.

Since joining Stratus in 2005, the company has seen strong growth—increasing sales by 15-35% over the last 3 years, expanding their office and hiring additional staff.

Over her thirteen year wine career, Suzanne has committed her time, resources and expertise to support numerous charities including the Niagara Community Foundation, the St. Catharines General Hospital and The Rotary Club of St. Catharines and Niahara-on-the-Lake.

Suzanne has also served on many committees specific to the greater Ontario tourism industry and is committed to promoting the quality and integrity of the Niagara Region. These include her involvement with the Wine Council of Ontario, the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake marketing Committee, Niagara College's Special Events Advisory Board and the David Suzuki Foundation.

Company Name
Stratus Wines

Address
2059 Niagara Stone Rd.
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

Telephone
905.468.1806



Joe Jones

■ Established in 2001, Symetric Productions is a world-class graphic design firm. As the Owner and Vice-President of Symetric Productions, Joe offers the very best in design, creativity and customer service—and boasts a worldwide clientele, serving clients everywhere from Africa to Australia.

Since Joe Jones and Ryan Trinder launched Symetric Productions in 2001 they have purchased and renovated their own building and launched a photography division which has expanded into 2 locations—one in St. Catharines and the other in Lethbridge Alberta.

Joe is an active supporter of the Niagara International Worship Centre. Here, he has given over 200 hours of his time in the past two years, leading the Congregation in music during Sunday worship and running a monthly workshop called "Deeper." He's also volunteered for over 15 years with Love Haiti Missions as a Co-Founder and Board Member.

Joe was the recipient of the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce Young Entrepreneur Award in 2007. Joe is always helping out organizations and individuals, and is a great asset to our region and our business community.

Company Name
Symetric Productions

Address
196 King St.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.933.4910



Terry Kadwell

■ For the past five years, Terry has been working as the Community Economic Development Manager, splitting his duties between the South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation and the Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation.

In this role, Terry assists clients, municipalities and stakeholders on community based economic development projects, strategic planning, and obtaining funds to help stimulate local economies and individual firms.

Terry and his team have helped to dramatically raise the profile of the organization and help businesses to prosper here in the Niagara Region.

Terry also volunteers over 300 hours a year with several organizations and local community projects. He's currently President of the Rotary Club of Port Colborne Centennial, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Port Colborne Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and the Port Colborne Gateway Association.

Terry also acted as Public Relations Chair for Habitat for Humanity's first build in Port Colborne and played a key role in helping draw awareness to this important charity.

Company Name
South Niagara Community
Futures Development

Address
508 Steele St.
Port Colborne, ON.

Telephone
905.834.2173

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 40 UNDER FORTY



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Call (905) 688-0273 333 Ontario St. St. Catharines, ON	Call (905) 687-1991 221 Glendale Ave. St. Catharines, ON	Call (905) 371-1898 7190 Morrison St. Niagara Falls, ON
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CONGRATULATIONS TO MY FELLOW 40 UNDER FORTY WINNERS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES AT SUCH A "TENDER" AGE.

Dino Fazio - Fellow Recipient




Winter Festival of Lights
NIAGARA FALLS • ONTARIO • CANADA

For more information on this year's Winter Festival of Lights visit www.WFOL.com

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info@chrisbeardphotography.ca 905-892-1644



Phil Kirwin

Phil is Partner at Chimpanzee—one of Canada's foremost creative communications agencies. A creative designer that never settles for second best, Phil has done work for many of the world's most prestigious brands including Disney, Panasonic, AT&T and British Airways.

Phil and his team were the recipients of the 2008 OTMP bronze award for the best integrated marketing campaign and the 2008 EDAC award for best newsletter design. They have also seen a 50-60% increase in sales year-on-year since 2005.

A passionate member of the Niagara community, Phil stays active with several local organizations including Community Care, Community Leaders, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Niagara Wine Festival, Royal Canadian Henley Regatta and Chorus Niagara. He regularly acts as a guest lecturer at Niagara College and sponsors the St. Catharines / Niagara Falls Business Plan Competition.

Over the past three years, Phil has given his all for the community—donating over \$350,000 in man hours over the past 3 years, helping raise \$30,000 for Big Brothers / Big Sisters, and over \$120,000 for the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in grants and sponsorships. He was instrumental in developing a new website for Breast Health Niagara and event creative for the Small Business Club of Niagara. He also initiated greening initiatives for the Niagara Wine Festivals and Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

Company Name
Chimpanzee

Address
16 Lock St. Suite 201
Port Dalhousie, ON.

Telephone
905.228.0700



Paul Lalama

As a real estate broker with RE/MAX, Paul provides customer service excellence and always acts in the best interests of his clients—helping them with contract negotiations, home inspections and the closing process.

Paul started buying investment properties ten years ago and quickly fell in love with the real estate profession. Since becoming a realtor in 2005, he has experienced great success, and has received RE/MAX's 100% Club Award four times for his outstanding level of sales. Over the last 2 years Paul has experienced a 30-40% increase in sales.

Paul is passionate about everything he does—whether it's helping his clients or coaching his boys' sports teams. Paul is active with several charities including the Niagara Wine Festival, Italian Festival, Ride for the Cure, and is also on the Public Relations Board for Habitat for Humanity.

Paul is also a multi-talented musician, winning the Mix99 Songwriting Competition and the 97.7 Rock Search Competition. His band often plays for local charity events.

Company Name
RE/MAX Garden City Realty

Address
Lake Carlton Plaza
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.325.5066



Brent Larocque

Brent has been involved with his father's surveying business ever since he was nine years old. Years later, he made the decision to follow in his father's footsteps and become a surveyor. Unfortunately, he was involved in a serious boating accident in 1988 which left him in a coma and unable to attend university.

Following his recovery, Brent joined The Larocque Group and has developed into an integral part of the management team becoming a Partner in 1990.

Commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor and Ontario Land Information Professional in 1996, Brent has been a leader in introducing new cutting edge technologies to the firm. To help their team stay at the forefront, Brent helped develop and launch Larocque's company website. He also works closely with homeowners, developers and property owners to help promote Smart Growth principles and develop a Niagara we can all be proud of.

Nominated for the Niagara Entrepreneur Award in 2007 and recognized as a finalist in the Family Enterprise Award Category, Brent has been involved with numerous charities over the years including Bethlehem Place, Club ROMA, Community Care, Niagara Community Foundation, Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre, the United Way, the Children's Discovery Centre, WellSpring Niagara and is currently Treasurer on the Board for the AOLS Hamilton & District Regional Group.

Company Name
The Larocque Group

Address
12 Lyman St.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.688.1413



Bobbi-Joan Lococo

Bobbi-Joan is the owner and manager of Sweet Thoughts—a chocolate specialty store in Ridgville. She started making chocolate as a hobby for family and friends—and her hobby quickly grew into a burgeoning business. With her friendly personality and boundless energy, Bobbi-Joan manages everything from administration and accounting to product design and displays.

Bobbi-Joan has truly embraced the entrepreneurial spirit, working tirelessly to market her products. Her business has grown substantially—which caused her to put an addition on her building to make a larger kitchen and work area to increase efficiency. She has also expanded her product lines, offering them at retail outlets outside Niagara and as far away as Goderich.

Bobbi-Joan is active on several fronts in her community which includes volunteering and supporting the Pelham Business Association, CFIB, Breast Cancer Society, Teen Challenge Saskatchewan, March of Dimes, Pelham Friends Church, Boy Scouts, and many local schools, sports and fundraising endeavours.

As a business owner, community volunteer, wife and mother, Bobbi-Joan is a true asset to the local business community.

Company Name
Sweet Thoughts

Address
310 Canboro Rd.
Ridgville, ON.

Telephone
905.892.9891



Paul MacIntyre

Paul is General Manager of the Pillar & Post Inn, Spa and Conference Centre and an Executive Director of Vintage Hotels. A graduate of Brock University and the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration, Paul has been a member of the Vintage Hotels Group Executive Team since 2000.

Paul is currently responsible for the operation of six hotels, over 800 employees, and creating competitive business strategies that deliver results.

Team morale and development are two of Paul's highest priorities. He's a firm believer that if the team's morale is high, revenues and profit will follow—and his philosophy has proven extremely successful. For example, The Pillar & Post consistently scores highest on the company's annual Team Member Opinion Survey.

Paul is a previous Board Member for Premier Spas of Ontario, committee member for Leading Spas of Canada and President with the Hampton Bay Condominium Corporation. Through Vintage Hotels, he is also a strong supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, The United Way and the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Always looking to volunteer and take on new responsibilities, Paul recently taught Hospitality Supervision at Niagara College in 2008.

Company Name
The Pillar & Post—
The Vintage Hotels Group

Address
48 John St. W
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Telephone
905.468.6085



Melissa Macoretta

Melissa is the co-owner of Imaging on Demand and Director of Design and Marketing. Melissa understands that in order for a small business to succeed, you need to give 100%. That's why she gives her all in every aspect of her business.

Melissa is always putting the client first, making sure everyone receives work of the highest quality and each project is completed in a timely and professional manner.

Since Melissa came on board, sales at Imaging on Demand have exploded—increasing by over 300%. Due to this growth, Imaging on Demand has broadened its horizons, expanding its offices and getting into more advanced areas of custom graphic design.

Melissa is proud to serve her community, donating her time and knowledge to several not-for-profits and community organizations such as Women Addiction Recovery Mediation.

She also plays an active role with several business associations including BNI, the Meet-up Group, Referral Quest and Women Into Networking.

Company Name
Imaging on Demand

Address
51 Woodruff Ave.
Welland, ON.

Telephone
905.788.1616



Dr. Patrick Maddalena

Patrick is a dynamic individual with a clear vision for his business. As the Director of the Accelerated Health & Wellness Centre in St. Catharines, Patrick is focused on total wellness—and has created a unique multi-disciplined facility that offers a variety of services to help achieve that goal.

In the past ten months, Patrick has demonstrated a high level of business excellence, winning the St. Catharines—Thorold Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2008 and increasing his patient volume by 700% and revenues by 350%.

Patrick supports a number of charities such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Niagara, the United Way, and the Rotary Club—and contributes to several local youth sport teams. He also serves over 30 hours per year on the International Board of Electro Diagnosis.

Patrick looks forward to giving back to the people of Niagara and helping his clients to lead healthier, pain-free lives.

Company Name
Accelerated Health &
Wellness Centre

Address
22 Geneva St.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.684.2000



Sean Moffett

As General Sales Manager at Performance Lexus Toyota, Sean leads a team of sales managers, sales people and support staff while maintaining a customer focused and service-based approach to the business.

Sean has progressed up the ranks rapidly at Performance from Sales consultant to Sales Manager to his current position of General Sales Manager and under Sean's leadership, his teams have won several major awards including the 2008 Toyota Pinnacle Award for Customer Satisfaction, the 2007 Lexus Award of Excellence for Overall Business Achievement and the 2006 Masters Award BMW.

He has also helped to grow the market share at Performance Lexus to the highest in the country at 22% while maintaining the highest customer service rating in Canada at 99.1%.

Sean believes in leading by example in his approach to business, community service and family. He always puts service above self and encourages his colleagues to do the same. Often giving up his time and talent, Sean supports a wide range of charities including Canadian Food for the Hungry, Southridge Community Church, the Southridge Homeless Shelter, GCM and the United Way.

Company Name
Performance Lexus Toyota

Address
262 Lake St.
St. Catharines, ON

Telephone
905.934.3336



Kithio Mwanzia

As Policy Coordinator at the St. Catharines—Thorold Chamber of Commerce, Kithio is in charge of writing and researching policies on behalf of the Niagara business community and helping to build strategic relationships at the federal, provincial and municipal level.

A graduate of Brock University, Kithio held several positions with Brock's Students' Union including President, CEO and Chair of the Board of Directors. During his tenure as President, he successfully led a team that raised \$1-million towards the Matheson Learning Commons.

Kithio enjoys playing an active role in the community and helping to promote the Niagara Region. He has sat on the Board of Directors and volunteered with several local organizations including the Niagara Workforce Planning Board, Brock University Alumni Association, Niagara Community Observatory, Rotary Club of St. Catharines, Niagara College Workplace Development Services, the United Way of St. Catharines, and The RAFT Niagara, a not-for-profit that assists "At-Risk" youth.

In 2008, Kithio received the David Betzner Award for Volunteer Service from The Brock University Alumni Association, which recognized his outstanding commitment to community volunteering and public service.

Company Name
St. Catharines-Thorold
Chamber of Commerce

Address
1 St. Paul Street,
St. Catharines, ON

Telephone
905.684.2362



Ruth Nixon

Ruth Nixon is the owner and chef of The Whisk & Ladle, Niagara's only culinary boutique. Since Ruth launched her business in 2006, she has continued to expand her operation, offering cooking classes in 2007.

Ruth is always looking to improve her business by embracing new cooking methods and ingredients or travelling to learn about the cuisine of different cultures.

Whether it's running and maintaining a successful retail business, teaching cooking classes or cooking menu items from scratch, Ruth is always up to the challenge.

Ruth is a strong believer in supporting local charities like The Welland Humane Society and Women's Place of South Niagara. Over the years, Ruth has given thousands of dollars to the community through gift certificates and retail donations. Currently, she is an active volunteer with several committees for local events such as the Niagara Food Festival and the Pelham Mayors Gala in support of Pelham Cares. Ruth is also a member of the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce and the Pelham Business Association.

Company Name
The Whisk & Ladle

Address
306 Canboro, Rd.
Ridgville, ON.

Telephone
905.892.9262



Cara Raich

As the Regional Sales Manager with Stincor Promotional Specialties, Cara is in charge of providing promotional consulting and product delivery to Niagara businesses and organizations.

Cara has an Honours BA from Brock University and a Certificate of Human Resources from Niagara College. She's also pursued her education by taking several industry related seminars and courses such as the Phone Factor Coaching Program.

A member of the Stincor team since 2007, Cara has developed a true pattern of success, doubling her client base and sales levels over the past year. She is also planning to bring on new reps to accommodate the growth in business.

A long-time Niagara resident, Cara is passionate about her community. In the past year, Cara has volunteered over 100 hours in the community and made \$1,000 in product and monetary donations. Over time, she has volunteered and supported several organizations including Big Brothers / Big Sisters, the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre, the Community Leaders Foundation and the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation.

Cara is a member of the St. Catharines—Thorold Chamber of Commerce, the St. Catharines Business Club, Business 4 Business and the Oakridge School Council.

Company Name
Stincor Promotional
Specialties

Address
102 Glenridge Ave.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.708.2569



Jeremy Rocca

As the co-owner of Élan Vitale Salon & Day Spa, Jeremy Rocca launched his business in August of 2007. Here, he is in charge of marketing and accounting as well as assisting with staffing, inventory and customer service duties.

Over the past year, Élan Vitale has built up a strong reputation in the community. Sales have increased by 52%—and the business has won several Readers Choice Awards for Best Day Spa, Best Nail Salon, Best Hairstylist, Best Massage Therapist and Best Beauty Salon.

Since 2003, Jeremy has also worked at Canadian Tire Financial Services. Over the years, he has quickly risen up the ranks from Customer Service Representative to his current position as Senior Associate Marketing Manager for on-line marketing initiatives.

For the past six years, Jeremy has also been actively involved in supporting the Foundation for Families and the Canadian Tire JumpStart Program that helps underprivileged children to enrol in sports and recreational programs. Jeremy is also involved with the United Way of South Niagara, Community Care and supports the Angel Hair Network.

Jeremy is a member of the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce and Networking Niagara.

Company Name
Élan Vitale Salon
& Day Spa

Address
172 West Main St.
Welland, ON.

Telephone
905.933.0502



Del Rollo

Del Rollo is the National Director of Hospitality with Vincor Canada. In Del's position, he oversees all front of house aspects at their wineries in Niagara and the Okanagan Valley in B.C. This includes everything from retail outlets and tours to restaurants and special events.

Over the past ten years, Del has been a tireless champion of the Niagara wine industry. His contribution to the community-at-large has been ceaseless, sitting on many industry-related boards and community organizations.

Del's passion, enthusiasm and dedication to the growth and development of the wine industry and its leaders has helped drive consumers both locally and from across the border to the region.

Through his dedication and leadership, Vincor Canada has experienced considerable growth and recently completed a multi-million dollar renovation of Inniskillin Winery.

Del currently volunteers on several community organizations including the Vintners Classic Golf Tournament Committee, the St. Catharines Community Torch Relay Task Force, Grape & Wine Festival, Wine Council and the Niagara Wine Auction.

He has also supported a long line of worthy charities including the Heart and Stroke Foundation, About Face, Gillian's Place, the St. Catharines Hospital Foundation, the Shaw Festival and the Sick Kids Hospital to name a few.

Company Name
Vincor Canada

Address
2145 Regional Rd. 55
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

Telephone
905.468.4637



Jason Schilstra

As the Lead Designer with Rijus Home & Design Limited, Jason works closely with each client, helping them with planning a new custom home, an addition or a new garage. Jason is always driven to go that extra mile—whether it's expanding his sales or looking for new ways to improve himself and his family's business.

With Jason's strong work ethic, their company has continued to see strong growth. Over the past few years, sales at Rijus have increased by 75%.

In 2008, Rijus Home & Design Limited was also named Best Architect / Designer by HomeStars, beating out thousands of other businesses in the building industry.

Jason is a strong supporter of Habitat for Humanity, and is currently working as the Lead Designer for an upcoming habitat build. He also offers the Habitat RESTORE Program, where he helps to get people to donate their old kitchen cupboards and fixtures for Habitat builds. Jason is also involved in RAKE (Random Acts Of Kindness).

Jason also donates countless hours as a volunteer firefighter in the Dunnville community.

Company Name
Rijus Home & Design Limited

Address
310 Queen St.
Dunnville, ON.

Telephone
905.701.1110



Barbara Sukkau

Barbara has a passion for real estate and has been a dedicated member of the Royal LePage team since 2000. Since that time, Barbara has helped 400 families in the Niagara Region to find their dream home.

Barbara never settles for second best. Each year, her sales have grown an average of 37%. As her business has grown, she has also added a business partner and a licensed assistant.

Over the years, Barbara has racked up an impressive number of company honours including the President's Gold Sales Award in 2003, 2005 and 2006, Award of Excellence in 2007 for consistent sales achievement and the Directors Platinum Award in 2007.

Most recently, Barbara's team achieved the Diamond Award, representing the top 3% in sales out of 420 real estate agents in the company.

A graduate from the University of Western Ontario, Barbara is born and raised in the Niagara Region. She prides herself in supporting a wide range of charities including the Terry Fox Foundation, the Thorold Chorus, the United Way and the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation.

She is also active with the Ontario Real Estate Association, a non-profit trade organization that represents 46,000 realtors across Ontario, is the Past President of the Niagara Association of Realtors and is the Governor on the Realtors Care Foundation.

Company Name
Royal LePage Niagara
Real Estate Centre

Address
33 Maywood Ave.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.688.4561



Tracey Turavani

Sensible Office Services is an Office Administration/Virtual Assistant firm operating in the Niagara Region. As the company's founder and owner, Tracey provides dynamic, on-demand administrative services to local business professionals.

Since Tracey launched Sensible Office Services in 2006, her business has grown by over 75%. Recently celebrating her third anniversary in business, Tracey has begun expanding her company to include bookkeeping and plans to hire additional staff to meet the overwhelming demand for her services.

Tracey constantly takes new courses on-line within her industry with other Virtual Assistants—and is always seeking out new software that will help to enhance her business. In 2007 she was presented with the Perfect Attendance Award from NABWIN which showcases the type of dedication and commitment to everything she gets involved in.

As a parent and a business owner, Tracey feels it's important to give back to the community, and regularly volunteers with the Niagara Area Business Women's Network, Women In Niagara, Christmas Toy Drives and she volunteers one day a month to her children's classrooms. She also sits on the Executive of the Meadowdale Nursery School and developed their website free of charge to help promote the school and enhance their image in the community.

Company Name
Sensible Office Services

Address
18 Roseland Ave.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.341.3982



Pauline Vanderkuip

Pauline is the owner and founder of My Bouquet Floral, an innovative florist and floral design firm that provides flowers directly from Niagara area greenhouses.

Since Pauline launched her business four years ago, she has experienced incredible growth—an increase of 50% each year. Due to the growth in weddings and corporate events, she has expanded her current location. In the past year, she has also added one full-time and two part-time employees to meet the increased client demand.

Pauline has a real passion for flowers and believes in treating her customers with the utmost respect and admiration. It's a philosophy that has helped her to reach great heights with her business in just a few short years. Pauline also regularly travels abroad to seek out upcoming floral trends so that she can offer new and innovative solutions to her clients.

Pauline is a member of the Niagara Area Business Women's Network and is an Advisor to the Lockside Cove Café—her church's outreach program.

Her community involvement includes working with the United Way of St. Catharines, the Out of the Cold Program, the Christian Children's Fund, Niagara Life and Community Care. She has also donated her time, money and arrangements towards several fundraisers for the new St. Catharines Hospital and various groups in the performing arts community.

Company Name
My Bouquet Floral

Address
337 Hunter Rd.
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

Telephone
905.321.3642



Andrew Walker

Andrew began his career with DJB in 2001 as a manager at their Welland office. Through his leadership and determination, he was promoted to the role of Partner and Chair of the Personnel Committee with the firm in 2005, and currently manages 15–20 employees, providing their clients with a wealth of professional accounting and tax services.

Over his career, Andrew has constantly strived to update his skills, attending several continuous learning programs since obtaining his professional Chartered Accountant designation. His drive for excellence is also shown in the 40% sales growth he has experienced over the last 2 years.

Andrew was the recipient of the Rotary Club's—Club Champion Award in 2007 for introducing a new and innovative program to recognize employees.

Community also means a great deal to Andrew. He's served as a member of the Board of Directors and President of the Welland—Pelham Chamber of Commerce, helping small businesses to succeed and to promote sustainable employment in our community. He's acted as a Board member and President of his local CA Association as well as a member and director of the Welland Rotary Club.

Andrew also supports and volunteers with several local organizations including the Welland Hospital Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Welland Tribune 50th Anniversary Basketball Tournament, the United Way, and the Niagara Health System Foundation.

Company Name
Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP

Address
171 Division St.
Welland, ON.

Telephone
905.735.2140

Brock University would like to congratulate all the recipients of the Business Link's 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards. In particular we would like to acknowledge our grads who were among the honourees.



Suzanne Janke
BA '92



Dr. Patrick Maddalena
BPhEd '02



Kithio Mwanzia
BA '07



Cara Raich
BA '95



Shane Weaver
BA '99



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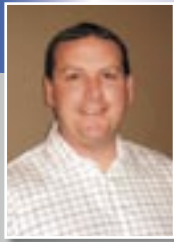
To all the 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Award Winners

Including the Chamber's own
KITHIO MWANZIA
POLICY COORDINATOR

For more information on the policy work being done in Niagara, visit:

www.sctchamber.com





Iain Watson

Iain Watson took over Flagro Industries due to his father's illness in 1992 while Iain was still in his third year of university. Over the years, Iain has transformed his father's business from a mostly retail firm into a manufacturing concern. Today, Flagro Industries serves all of North America and several markets worldwide.

As the President of Flagro Industries, Iain has developed and CSA certified several different models of heating equipment for use in the construction industry, expanding their product lines over the past 15 years. Recently, their products have been used in the oil fields of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Colorado and Wyoming.

Iain and partner Ed Baldasi have continued to develop the Brighton Business Park by purchasing the former Bazaar Novelty building on Louth Street in St. Catharines to further expand his manufacturing facility and accommodate their current growth. In 1999, along with two partners, he also helped recondition the property at 98 St. Paul Street and created The Merchant Ale House, the only brew pub in Niagara, which he currently runs with partner, John Tiffin. Iain and his wife also purchased and are operating the Feathery Pub on Vansickle Rd and have turned this business into a thriving, popular restaurant and meeting place in the West end of St. Catharines.

A founding member of the Ontario Propane Association, Iain participates in annual and regional meetings across Ontario and he regularly donates to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Company Name
Flagro Industries Limited

Address
26 Benfield Dr.
St. Catharines, ON.

Telephone
905.685.4243



Shane Weaver

Shane started boxing at the young age of 11 in order to deal with being bullied at school. Over the years, he has refined his fighting skills to become an elite martial arts instructor with a fifth degree black belt in Jiu Jitsu.

As the owner of Red Griffin Martial Arts Studio, Shane develops his clients' ability to stay focused and become goal oriented. Over the past two years, his studio has experienced solid business growth, handling a maximum complement of students.

A Niagara native, Shane has a degree in Psychology from Brock University as well as a diploma in Law Enforcement and Police Foundations.

For the past 14 years, Shane has also worked tirelessly for organizations like Rotary International—donating countless hours to Polio eradication, literacy and helping 3rd world countries, the Grimsby & District Chamber of Commerce, and works closely with local youth to help them learn discipline, respect and confidence. Shane has also been a Head Coach for Team Canada and is a current member of the National Association of Martial Arts Professionals.

Company Name
Red Griffin Martial Arts Studio

Address
104A-155 Main St. E,
Suite 115
Grimsby, ON.

Telephone
905.309.5678



Dianne Wright

As the owner and strategic partner with Chimpanzee, Dianne serves the marketing needs of clients throughout Niagara, North America and the world. Originally founding Chimpanzee in 2003 with her partner Phil, she relocated the company from Toronto to Niagara in 2005 to be closer to family. Since the relocation, Dianne has helped her company achieve a 50-60% per year growth rate. Over the past year, their staff has also increased from 4 to 7 to meet their increasing client demand.

Always working hard to better serve their clients' needs, Dianne's firm was recognized for creative excellence by winning the OTMP Bronze Award for Best Integrated Marketing Campaign and the EDAC Award for Best Newsletter Design for their "It's All In" campaign with the City of St. Catharines Tourism.

A passionate member of the Niagara community, Diane stays active with several local organizations including Community Care, Community Leaders, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Niagara Wine Festival and the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. Over the past three years, Diane has given her all for the community—donating over \$350,000 in man hours over the past 3 years, helping raise \$30,000 for Big Brothers / Big Sisters, and over \$120,000 for the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in grants and sponsorships. She was instrumental in developing a new website for Breast Health Niagara and event creative for the Small Business Club of Niagara. She also initiated greening initiatives for the Niagara Wine Festivals and Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

Company Name
Chimpanzee

Address
16 Lock St. Suite 201
Port Dalhousie, ON

Telephone
905.228.0700



Kimberly Zanko

Kimberly started with P. Mines Customs Services as a Client Representative in 2002. Kim quickly demonstrated that she was a gifted team player. Her work ethic was evident from day one, receiving many accolades from her clients and co-workers.

In 2005, Kim was promoted to Sales & Service and quickly rose to the position of Sales Manager. Kim represents P. Mines during on-site service visits to her clients as well as tradeshows and industry related events. Her enthusiasm and industry knowledge has helped the firm to dramatically grow their client base.

A Certified Customs Specialist, Kim is an active member of several associations and community organizations. She is a member of the Canadian Society of Customs Brokers, the Canadian Professional Sales Association, the St. Catharines Business Club, St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce, and the World Trade Organization Buffalo / Niagara.

Kim is a Past Secretary Treasurer of the Association of International Border Agencies, Board member of the Economic & Tourism Development Corporation and currently serves as President of the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce.

Company Name
P. Mines Customs Services Inc.

Address
28 Princess St.
Fort Erie, ON.

Telephone
905.871.7434

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To all of the 40 Under Forty winners:


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6TH ANNUAL 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards

Niagara's Young Entrepreneurs Recognized at Gala Event

Nearly 300 attendees joined The Business Link in celebrating the achievements of Niagara's top 40 Under Forty on May 13, 2008 at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre.

Jack Peets, Co-host of the 105.7 EZ Rock Morning Show was the MC for the evening and again did an outstanding job, as did our keynote speaker Vittoria Wikston, Partner at Redchair Branding Inc. Vittoria discussed her long career in the sales and marketing industry and gave several valuable tips to the crowd on the power of persistence and what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur.

The 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards give recognition to 40 individuals under 40 years of age who consistently make their mark in business and who contribute regularly to their respective communities.

A sincere thank you is extended to all who took the time to nominate these outstanding individuals.

Without your efforts, these people may not have received the recognition they deserve. To all the winners, all the best in your continuing efforts, and once again, CONGRATULATIONS!

Only with the help of many generous businesses and volunteers are these awards possible. A sincere "thank you" goes out to all who were involved. Thank you Sandra Nuccitelli of GOTCHA COVERED for once again making the room look absolutely

beautiful, Chris Beard of CHRIS BEARD PHOTOGRAPHY for capturing the excitement of the evening, Dave Rotella of DANIMA TECHNOLOGIES for the incredible multi-media presentation, and Angel Fusarelli of HERNDER ESTATE WINES for the outstanding wine.

Proceeds of this year's event will go towards scholarship funds set up for 3rd year Brock University and Niagara College students to ensure the entrepreneurial spirit lives on in Niagara for years to come.

To nominate an individual for the 2010 Awards, please call Wendy Smith at 905-646-9366 for a nomination form. **BL**

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