

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neustadt, ON (April 9, 2016)



HAWKS' NEST ANNOUNCES FIRST CORPORATE SPONSOR

The Saugeen Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and Bruce Community Futures Development Corporation (Bruce CFDC) are pleased to announce The Municipality of Brockton as the first Corporate sponsor for the first time ever Hawks' Nest competition.

The Municipality of Brockton is very pleased to sponsor the Hawks Nest initiative. Mayor David Inglis says "it is very important to support entrepreneurs of all ages, in order to attract businesses to rural Ontario communities." Mayor Inglis feels the Hawks' Nest will be an exciting event. He "especially wants to thank the SEDC and the Bruce CFDC for partnering in the organization of the Hawks Nest, and thank the five Hawks who have stepped forward with their support."

The Hawks' Nest is a 'Dragons Den' inspired competition where new and existing businesses and entrepreneurs from Grey, Bruce, Wellington North, Minto and the City of Owen Sound will pitch their business ideas in an attempt to secure financial support from local angel investors coined the "Hawks."

Interested businesses and entrepreneurs have already participated in one of seven full day business plan training sessions, created and submitted their final business plan package, and completed a personal interview to present their plan, discuss details, and gather valuable feedback from the presenting partner's Business Managers.

Of the over 60 people who have participated in the training and sent submissions to the Hawk's Nest, Rose Austin, SEDC General Manager estimates approximately \$3.2M will be invested in our communities through the owner/operator or third party lenders. "It is forecast that this investment will assist with the creation and/or maintenance of 160 jobs in the two catchment areas of SEDC and Bruce CFDC." Both Rose, and Barb Fisher from Bruce CFDC are encouraged by the response and look forward to the final event on June 21st in Kincardine where the final seven will pitch their business ideas to the Hawks.

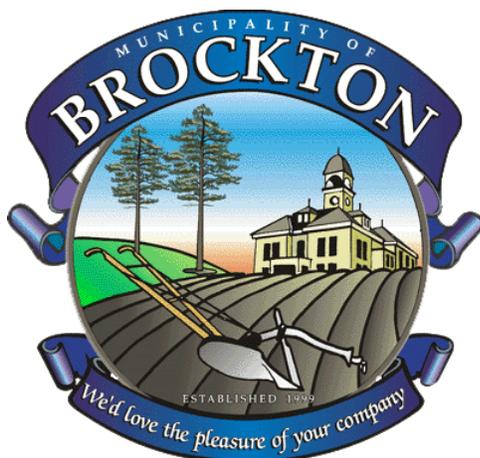
The Hawks' Nest previously announced five high profile business leaders in the local area who have committed to invest a minimum of \$5,000 on one or more of the finalists that evening. Not only is there a minimum \$25,000 up for grabs; the finalists will come away with valuable feedback, coaching, mentorship and immeasurable exposure to kick start their business idea.

“Economic development is critical in keeping our communities alive and vibrant. We are excited to see the impact the Hawks' Nest project will make in our communities, and grateful for the organizations who support the project through sponsorship to ensure the success of local businesses and entrepreneurs.”

For more information on the Hawks' Nest, sponsorship opportunities and tickets please contact SEDC toll-free at 1-877-335-7332 / www.sbdc.ca or Bruce CFDC toll-free at 1-888-832-2232 / www.bruce.on.ca.

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**Hawks' Nest
Corporate Sponsor**



Backgrounder:

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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Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario

Agence fédérale de développement
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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.