

INAUGURAL HAWKS' NEST COMPETITION

WHAT A SUPER NIGHT! The social hour provided for a great networking opportunity followed by a full house of enthusiastic attendees. I can't say enough about The Hawks – who committed to a minimum of \$25,000 investment; and they doubled it!! The entrepreneurial spirit is alive in our communities.

I would like to congratulate all of the Entrepreneurs:

- Kathy Ackerman & Tina Artuso; **Best Friends Bakery**, 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

The Hawks were super! They showed their commitment to their communities and to the large geographic area including Grey, Bruce, North Wellington and the City of Owen Sound. They demonstrated their willingness to give advice, to offer mentorship, to partner and to invest in the entrepreneurs and their businesses. This is overwhelming, and I would like to 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, is perfect in her job! She is relentless and knows how to get the job done! Deb, it was 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! 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 unrecognized! 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, **Rose Austin**, I don't know where you get your unlimited ideas from? These same ideas made this such a great event. Your tireless commitment to our project was much appreciated and your unselfish contributions must be noted. You were super to work with and I

can only hope we embark on partnerships again and again. I am honoured to work with you. Thanks to everyone who made the first ever **Hawks' Nest** a success! Wow, what a night!