

KINGSTON

— Economic Development —

Kingston Young Professionals 40 under 40

Meet the recipients





thrive

Kingston Young Professionals 40 under 40

Celebrating the exceptional achievements and contributions of individuals under the age of 40 to their profession and the community.

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— *Economic Development* —



Adam Rondeau

Daft Brewing

Adam is the CEO of Daft Brewing Company. When not busy wearing a thousand hats at Daft, he values time with his wife, Sarah, his three daughters Leah, Lily and Violet, and chillin' with the boys of his house — Koopa (Newfoundland dog) and Marshmallow (Ragdoll cat).



Alexandra (Ali) ten Hove

Sail Canada

Ali has been competing on the Canadian National Sailing Team for the past 8 years. Filled with a passion for the sport and a desire to prove herself ten Hove has continued to climb the rankings to a career high of 7th in the world. Ali had the honour of representing Canada at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and currently has her sights set on the Paris 2024 Olympics with the goal of winning Canada's first ever medal in women's sailing. Outside of her own training, Ali is a strong advocate for women in sport. She believes strongly in the pursuit of excellence and encouraging young women to embrace this culture and to champion others to do so as well. Ali also graduated in 2018 from Queen's University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Alyssa Proderick

*Amherstview
Golf Course*

Having grown up around Amherstview Golf Course, closely watching her parents operate their family business, Alyssa has started to build onto the golf course's foundation. During COVID-19 pandemic, the golf industry exploded as more people were looking to get active outdoors in a socially distanced setting. To support this growing popularity, Alyssa has created more opportunities for women and children to participate in an evidently adult male-dominant sport by offering and operating leagues, clinics and events with the goal of making everyone feel welcome at the course. Alyssa's main goal with her family's business is to create a place that fosters community and inclusivity where friends and family look forward to visiting each season, while also growing the game of golf in Greater Kingston.



Anne-Sophie Verhaeghe

Umicore

Project Manager for the planned battery materials production facility of Umicore in Loyalist. This plant will be a critical part of Canada's electric vehicle (EV) supply chain, and will bring environmentally sustainable economic growth. The fully operational facility will be a long-standing economic engine for the Greater Kingston region and East Central Ontario. The plant will provide several hundred skilled, permanent jobs to people across the region, and help support many additional spin-off jobs through partners throughout the region and province.



Braden Dragomir

Untold Storytelling

Braden is an accomplished creative director and journalist with a passion for using filmmaking to solve business challenges. He founded Untold Storytelling, a Certified B Corp and Climate Neutral production company, that helps thoughtful brands and conscious companies build deeper connections with their audiences through meaningful and compelling stories. Untold has filmed in over 30 countries—from unique locations like NASA's underwater Space Station replica to remote tribes in Papua New Guinea—Untold's films have garnered millions of views and featured in film festivals. Braden also established Outpost12 Studios to help develop Kingston's filmmaking scene through mentorship, production support, studio space, and equipment rentals.



Cedric Pepelea

*Cedric Pepelea
Consulting*

Cedric Pepelea is a passionate and driven individual who aims to accelerate the scale of energy efficiency programs across the country. As the executive director of Cedric Pepelea Consulting, he coaches organizations such as Sustainable Kingston, Envirocentre and Indigenous Clean Energy to achieve long lasting positive impact. By connecting funders and skilled technical expertise to create large scale programs from municipalities like the city of Kingston. To grow the technical abilities needed for a just energy transition Cedric also Teaches at St. Lawrence College in the Energy Systems Engineering Technology program, bringing in the next generation of climate leaders.



Connor Holway

*Royal Bank
of Canada*

Born and raised in Kingston, Connor simply loves this city. Through both his volunteerism and current role, he gets to support the business community to help this city thrive and grow. With a young family he is now raising here, a lot of pride is driven by helping make Kingston an even better place for those around him and those yet to choose Kingston as their home base.



Constantin Mugenga

*Imperial Painting
Reno, Imperial
Cleaning System*

Constantin Mugenga, is the Founder and CEO of Imperial Painting & Renovations, Imperial Cleaning Systems Inc. companies. He had spent several years in different front line and leadership roles; locally at Kingston Community Health Centres, Kingston Immigration Partnership, Pathways to Education, Immigrant Services Kingston and Area, Restart Employment Services, Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival; and internationally with non-profit organizations and retail industries in Africa, Asia and North America. Constantin enjoys giving back to the Kingston Community and its economy by creating more job opportunities for all especially for youth and vulnerable population and by volunteering with different boards including St. Lawrence College Board of Governors and Kingston Frontenac Housing Corporation Board.



Cory Firth

Neuma

Cory is a human-impact coach, consultant, entrepreneur and advocate who has spent the last 5+ years building communities in the mental wellness and health innovation space. After overcoming a 20-year battle with depression Cory has committed his career to a vision where the stigmatization of mental illness is replaced with compassion, empowerment and community connection. After successfully advocating for legal psychedelic access across the world for the last 3 years, he now dedicates my time growing the Neuma Centre For Social Wellness, an experiential learning centre specializing in integrating psychedelics into our global mental health systems.



Daniel Desjardins

Distributive

Dan is the CEO of Distributive, an ambitious and young deep tech company based in Kingston, Ontario. Distributive is reimagining how we approach computing. Dan has a PhD in Physics from Queen's University, and was formerly a military pilot and a Physics professor at the Royal Military College of Canada.



Daniel Liao

St. Lawrence College

Fifteen years ago, Daniel Liao started his career as a chemical engineer in the biofuels industry. Five years later, Daniel's focus turned to post-secondary education, and since then has held various roles in research, instructing, and administration at University of Toronto, Sheridan College, and St. Lawrence College. In 2021, Daniel was appointed Dean of Applied Science, Technology and Trades at St. Lawrence College, with responsibilities over 38 academic programs and 1,900 students. Daniel is passionate about delivering exceptional quality education that meets the needs of local employers and conducting outreach with youths in the community.



Daniel Mulder

*MD, PhD,
Kingston Health Sciences Centre*

Daniel is a pediatric gastroenterologist at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and an Assistant Professor at Queen's University. He cares for children with a wide range of diseases. He also researches the effects of the immune system on the gastrointestinal tract. Dr. Mulder strongly believes that a data-driven approach to pediatric care and research is essential improving the outcomes for young patients.



Emma Fitzgerald

*Assante Financial—
Fenlon Financial
Division*

Emma was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Economics from Queen's University and an MBA from Royal Military College of Canada. She has been working as a Financial Advisor at Assante Financial – Fenlon Financial Division since 2016 where she specializes in working with professionals on tax efficient investing and insurance strategies.



Francisco Corbett

FORWORLD

Francisco Corbett is a visual and performance artist based in Kingston. He is the director of an art studio named, FORWORLD, and his practice focuses on building community and empowering young people. Corbett has been practicing professionally for fewer than five years but promises a relentless effort of creation to viewers and fans of his artwork.



Gregory Ridge

City Councillor

Gregory Ridge was born and raised in Kingston and has lived most of his life in the King's Town district. He is a proud alumnus of Queen's University (BA), St. Lawrence College, and Laurentian University (BBA). He is currently completing his Professional Master's in Public Administration through the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University. Prior to his election to City Council representing King's Town District in 2022, Gregory was a Constituency Assistant and Legislative Assistant for former Kingston and the Islands MPP, Ian Arthur. During that time, he ran a Free Low-Income Tax Clinic that completed over 800 returns and brought over \$2 million into the community. He has served on many boards and community advocacy groups including the Board of Governors at St. Lawrence College in 2016.



Irsa Wiginton

mDETECT

Irsa is a Biochemist by training (received her Masters and Ph.D from Queen's University). She has teamed up with Dr. Chris Mueller - a cancer researcher at Queen's University to bring forward a liquid biopsy company, mDETECT that has developed a blood test to monitor how cancer patients respond to treatment. Irsa recently won the 2023 Mitacs Global Entrepreneur award. In her spare time, she plays in a few league sports including volleyball, tennis and squash.



Jacqui Collier

*Tamarack
Developments*

Jacqui has dedicated her life's work towards empowering others, and is distinguished not only by her career achievements in the private sector with Tamarack Homes, but also as a strong advocate and leader with some of Kingston's most prominent charitable sector organizations. Her volunteerism includes President of BGC South East and Big Brothers Big Sisters KFLA, Chair of Habitat for Humanity KLR, Board Director with the Great Lakes Museum and Member of the S.S. Keewatin Acquisition Project Committee. Jacqui is Past President and Builder Director of the Kingston Homebuilders Association, Past Chair and Member of the City of Kingston's Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee. Her commitment towards green building practices earned her to be the winner of EnerQuality Corporation's prestigious Builder Achievement Award for Ontario in 2018.



James McCarthy

Cunningham Swan

Originally from the Maritimes, James moved to the Kingston area twice: first in 2016 to obtain a Master's in Law from Queen's University, and then again in 2019 to join his now-husband. As a municipal lawyer, James' professional practice revolves around providing legal advice and guidance to municipalities, particularly in litigation. Not a fan of having free time, James serves on a number of boards and committees, including the Board of Directors for Trellis HIV & Community Care, is incoming Vice-Chair of the Ontario Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Division East, and co-chair of the Frontenac Law Association's Advocacy and Outreach Committee. He has also helped found and currently chairs two groups: Cunningham Swan's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, and Loqal, an organization for 2SLGBTQ+ legal professionals outside of major centres.



Dr. Jenn Bossio

Tri Health Clinic

Dr. Jenn Bossio is a clinical psychologist in the practice of Clinical and Health Psychology. She is the founder and director of the Tri Health Clinic, a multidisciplinary group practice in Kingston that focuses on sexual health. She also works at the Kingston Health Science Centre, where she developed and runs a multidisciplinary program aimed at the management of chronic pelvic pain experienced by men and women. She is Adjunct Faculty at Queen's University in the Departments of Urology, Gynecology, and Psychology.



Jennifer Ng

Templeman LLP

Jennifer Ng is a lawyer with Templeman LLP in Kingston, Napanee and Belleville, Ontario, with a broad litigation and dispute resolution legal practice, that includes recent experience in defamation, estate/trusts, contract, real estate and property matters before the Ontario Superior Court, Ontario Court of Appeal and Federal Court. She is also a sessional lecturer for the Queen's University Faculty of Law, teaching Advocacy on Motions; and, is a registered pharmacist in Ontario. Jennifer completed her Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy at the University of Toronto in 2008, then obtained her law degree at Queen's University, graduating on the Dean's Honour List in 2013.



Jessica Hellard

*Jessica Hellard
Real Estate Group*

Founder and Team Leader of award-winning Jessica Hellard Real Estate Group delivering 5 star real estate experiences with innovation and integrity. Mom of the Year loving life with the biggest light in the world, her 4 year old Lachlan, who is 1 in a billion with a rare genetic condition. Founder of Kingston Animal Rescue a registered charity where we rescue and rehome all animals.



Kailey Longhurst

Grabbing Grapefruit

Kailey is a native Kingstonian, is a shining beacon of strength and resilience in our community. She's a dedicated and active member of the WE-CAN project at Queen's University, where she aligns with fellow female founders and entrepreneurs. As the co-founder of Grabbing Grapefruit, a local women's loungewear company, she has made a significant impact within just a year, promoting inclusivity and inclusive sizing. Kailey's business success is matched by her commitment to giving back, evident through her partnerships with various organizations, mentoring aspiring students, and supporting local women's initiatives.



Kel Martin

*Yellow House,
Queen's University*

Kel is a queer, trans and non-binary educator and artist who is engaged in a vast range of work with the queer and trans community at Queen's University and broadly within Kingston. They have engaged with a variety of sexual and gender diversity focused projects such as leadership within Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) in high school and post-secondary contexts, coordinating large events for 2SLGBTQ+ folk, facilitating support groups and events for TransFamily Kingston (current chair), support of the launch of the online knowledge mobilization hub GEGI Project, and as a reviewer with Reelout Queer Film Festival. Kel also works at Queen's Yellow House Student Centre for Equity and Inclusion as a Sexual and Gender Diversity Advisor where they design and deliver programming and offer advisory services for 2SLGBTQ+ students.



Krista LeClair

*Kingston
Accommodation
Partners*

Krista LeClair is the Executive Director at Kingston Accommodation Partners, focused on advocating for Kingston tourism, and previously spent nine- years in the charitable sector, managing the South Eastern Ontario region for Easter Seas Ontario. Krista has held several Board positions, and is passionate about building a strong community. Krista teaches at SLC in the School of Business, and is a Paul Harris Fellow and proud Rotarian. Krista is completing her MBA with a focus on Community Economic Development and Strategic Leadership while cherishing time with her husband and her twin daughters.



Latoya Powder

Patry Group

Latoya is the Director of Planning and Development with Patry Group of Companies. She is successfully managing 17 diverse projects in Ontario, ranging from Low-Density Single Family homes to 6-story wood frame Apartments. Her ability to oversee the entire project lifecycle has resulted in approvals for an estimated 5,000 residential units since joining the company mid 2020. This makes a significant contribution to Eastern Ontario's housing needs. Latoya strongly believes in representation especially in her industry, as one of the few 2SLGBTQ+ female of colour in Kingston's land development industry leading a team of professionals at various stages of their careers.



Laura Novitsky

Jobwell Social Enterprise

Laura Novitsky is a bilingual business leader with 12 years of professional experience acquired across various industries. She holds an Executive MBA from the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa, a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry with Honours from Carleton University, the internationally recognized Project Management Professional accreditation, and has a post-graduate certificate in Project Management from Algonquin College. Currently, she works with Providence Care Community Support Services as the Operations Manager of Jobwell Social Enterprise, a not-for-profit dedicated to creating meaningful employment for adults living with persistent mental health challenges. Laura sits on various Boards of Directors and is also the part-owner of a freelance start-up in the clean-tech/agricultural space.



Liv Rondeau

*Limestone District
School Board*

Liv Rondeau is a Kanyen'kehá:ka (Akwasasne Mohawk Territory, Wolf Clan) educator, artist and activist. At 27, she currently holds the position of Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education at the Limestone District School Board and is pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural Studies at Queen's University. Liv is dedicated to providing opportunities within the Kingston community, partnering with Queen's University, Faculty of Education, the Kingston School of Art, the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, the Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest, and other local organizations. Liv is dedicated to creating spaces within education and the community that allow Indigenous peoples to connect to language, culture and each other. In her spare time, she has fostered her love of beadwork and creating into a small Indigenous-owned business, Flint and Maple Beadwork.



Liz Jensch

*Grains and Goods
Farmstead*

Liz Jensch runs an artisan bakery and farm in South Frontenac with her husband and two (soon to be three) feral boys. She is also a writer and yoga teacher, and is the former owner of Kingston's studio330 holistic yoga centre.



Maddee Linton

Maddee Rose Design

Maddee is the founder of Maddee Rose Design, a registered interior design studio focusing on residential and hospitality projects. With the recent completion of her dream project, The Trinity House Inn - a boutique hotel in Gananoque, Maddee is entering the next stage of her career as a fresh new face in Canadian hospitality design. She is about to launch her secondary business Home Box, a collection of designer approved choices and advice to make design easily accessible to homeowners across North America.



Malcolm Eade

Spectra Plasmonics

Malcolm Eade is the CEO and Co-Founder of Spectra Plasmonics (Spectra), a Kingston-based health tech company focused on providing real-time drug analysis results to combat the overdose crisis. Malcolm co-founded the company during his time at Queen's University with the mission of making high quality chemical analysis for public health fast, easy, and more accessible. A scientist by training, Malcolm played both technical and business roles in the creation of Spectra's flagship product, Amplifi ID, a portable device which allows harm reduction centers and public safety organizations to get actionable results on a drug mixture's contents in as little as five minutes.



Melissa Eapen

*Improbable Escapes,
Visual Menace,
waypoint*

Melissa Eapen is an accomplished designer with extensive experience in various creative industries. She has worked on a wide range of projects, from feature films to public art installations, and has gained a reputation for her exceptional talent and attention to detail. She is skilled in both traditional and digital design techniques, and is constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible in design. Her creative work has earned her numerous accolades, including several awards and nominations from film festivals and creative industry organizations. Melissa is dedicated to the craft of storytelling through design, and is always looking for new and exciting ways to bring stories to life on screen.



Melissa Phelan

*Missy Welds,
St. Lawrence
College*

Melissa Phelan is a highly skilled welder and robotics weld programmer who has become a vocal advocate for women entering the welding industry and the trades in general. Recognized as a woman to watch in the trades, Melissa is both a talented welder and technician, and a leading voice within the Canadian manufacturing sector. Using social media and online forums as a force for positive change, Melissa uses her skills and experience to encourage, inform, and inspire the next generation of women in the trades.



Patrick Garrett

*M.Sc., C.Chem.,
Cambium Inc.*

Patrick Garrett is an Environmental Specialist and Risk Assessor at Cambium Inc., holding a Master of Science degree in Environmental Chemistry from the Royal Military College of Canada, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Chemistry from Queen's University. Patrick's experience includes environmental site assessments, Record of Site Condition, environmental risk assessments, and excess soil management. Patrick is also a volunteer firefighter with the Township of Stone Mills Fire Department.



Prashant Agrawal

Plantee Bioplastics

Prashant grew up in a small town of India called Mathura. He did his undergraduate and masters in Chemistry from a slightly larger town in the western part of India called Pune. Prashant moved from India to Kingston over 11 years ago to continue his higher education at Queen's University.

After finishing his PhD in Chemistry, he co-founded Plantee Bioplastics Inc., a Startup that is dedicated to developing environmentally focused solutions. Prashant is an involved Kingston resident. He really enjoys spending time in the community – attending various festivals and events, trying different local shops and restaurants, and enjoying Kingston's nature trails and hiking spaces.



Rathi Perumal

Uyir Engineering

Rathi Perumal graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electronics and Instrumentation from India, as well as a Master of Engineering degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Windsor. She is the CEO and Founder of Uyir Engineering Inc. She is one of the first women in Canada to have founded an Engineering Consulting firm. Rathi has several years of experience, working as a controls designer, a programmer, an automation designer and an Electrical Engineer in India, Canada and USA and has extensive experience travelling throughout North America troubleshooting stamping presses and other machinery, some in Mexico. She has collaborated with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to scale up an R&D facility invested in alternative fuel.



Rishabh Chopra

Cyclic Materials

Rishabh obtained his undergraduate degree at PEC University of Technology in Chandigarh, India, and his masters from Queen's University. He has proved himself a force for progress. With an entrepreneurial drive and passion, Rishabh exhibits the qualities of a technical expert and a leader. Having played a valuable role in scaling Kingston based Li-Cycle, he has contributed significantly to the cleantech ecosystem that has been developing here over the past years and is continuing to do so with his work at Cyclic Materials.



Sina Tahamtan

Rogers & Trainor

Sina joined Rogers & Trainor Commercial Realty (RTCR) in 2013 and has developed notable transactional and advisory experience across all residential and commercial real estate sectors, representing private, corporate, institutional, and not-for-profit clients. His specific expertise within Multifamily, Student Housing, Investment Land and Commercial asset classes are sought-after amongst private, public and government entities, including CMHC. Prior to joining RTCR, Sina worked for the United Nations Association of Canada. Outside of RTCR, Sina has held various positions within global trading start-ups in both Canada and the Asia Pacific involving corporate and government entities. Sina is past president and current board member of the Kingston Rental Property Owners Association and currently holds various advisory positions for not-for-profit organizations.



Tianna Edwards

*Queen's University,
Keep Up With
Kingston*

Tianna founded and runs the blog, Keep up with Kingston, that houses a local Black-owned business list and is currently in the final stages of her Masters in Cultural Studies at Queen's which is a podcast, "Kingston, The Black Experience", with a series of interviews with Black folks who live or have lived in Kingston. She is the Chair of the Black Entrepreneur Ecosystem and she works as an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at The Yellow House, Student Centre for Equity and Inclusion at Queen's University.



Tori Stafford

Kingstonist

Tori Stafford was born and raised in Kingston, leaving for post-secondary education, and staying away just long enough to know she had to return to her hometown. Having spent well over the past decade in the local media landscape, Tori took on the position of Editor-in-Chief at Kingstonist.com just over five years ago. With a mission to ensure Kingston has a go-to online news source that is all local, all independent, and all things Kingston, she credits the incredible team at Kingstonist for carving out that role with and for her.



Zach Fang

*Miss Bao,
Royal Bank
of Canada*

Zach is a Queen's University Alumnus with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics. He started his banking career as a Financial Advisor in Ottawa with TD Canada Trust and he currently is a Relationship Manager of Commercial Financial Services at RBC managing a supply chain portfolio in the Kingston & Quinte Region. In 2020, Zach and his partner Bellen Tong established a 'zero-waste' concept Restaurant and cocktail Bar, Miss Bao in downtown Kingston. Their vision and core value is to implement sustainability practices into the traditional hospitality sector as well as a strong focus on community engagement and talent development.

KINGSTON

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