

**KINGSTON**

— Economic Development —

Ontario 

# Summer Company Yearbook

2001–2025



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# Message from the CEO

*Donna Gillespie*

We are pleased to present the Summer Company Yearbook: 2001 to 2025! Over the years, this program has made a significant impact on young entrepreneurs in Kingston ~ supporting students from ideation through to launch, all while introducing business concepts in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Summer Company is one of my favourite programs to support enterprising youth in the Kingston region. Kingston Economic Development has had the pleasure of running this program for over 20 years and seeing firsthand the knowledge and valuable experience the students receive to further their entrepreneurial aspirations. It is gratifying to see many former Summer Company participants who continued their business after graduation and now run successful small and medium enterprises, creating permanent jobs and investment in Kingston.

On behalf of the team, we look forward to continuing to run this program and work alongside future cohorts of young entrepreneurs!

This yearbook is an homage to their hard work over the years.



# Message from the Mayor

*Mayor Paterson*

It is incredible to think that the Summer Company program has been operating in Kingston for more than 20 years. I love that our local businesses and business leaders take time to give back to this community through mentorships and coaching opportunities for our aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Summer Company program has proven to be an incredible asset for Kingston, empowering our talented youth to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and contribute to the economic growth of our community. The impact of the Summer Company program extends far beyond the individual participants. It injects fresh energy into our local economy, bringing forth new businesses, products, and services that enrich the lives of our residents. By supporting these young entrepreneurs, we are nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and paving the way for a prosperous future for Kingston. Together, we are creating opportunities and building a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

To the young entrepreneurs considering joining the Summer Company program, I encourage you to seize this incredible opportunity. Kingston believes in your potential and is here to support you every step of the way. I have no doubt that your drive, passion, and innovative ideas will contribute to the continued success of our city.



# Message from the MPP

*MPP Ted Hsu*

There are many important things which you cannot learn in classrooms and one of those is how to be an entrepreneur. New economic activity, the creation of value, the training of new talent, risk-taking, problem solving, leadership – these are all things that give our economy a competitive edge and help bring prosperity to our society.

I want to thank Kingston Economic Development Corporation for the opportunities you have provided young entrepreneurs over the years. I know that you have sowed many seeds which you will not reap. I know that the experience provided has helped to train many talented people who are now sprinkled throughout our society.

Congratulations to all the participants in Kingston Summer Company. I look forward to hearing about your contributions to our community and beyond.

# About the program

*The Summer Company program, funded by the Ontario government, helps students aged 15 to 29, start and run their own businesses.*

As a Summer Company entrepreneur, participants receive hands-on business mentoring from local business leaders and up to \$3,000!

This program is geared towards students who have a potential business idea for starting a new business and are not afraid to explore if entrepreneurship is a potential career for them! – a great opportunity for enterprising young people who want to be their own BOSS!

Accepted participants are eligible to receive an upfront award of \$1,500 to put toward start-up costs and \$1,500 upon successful completion of the program.

Kingston Economic Development Corporation is the main point of contact in Kingston for the program. We offer business operations mentoring to each student on a bi-weekly basis for a period of eight weeks for high school students and a minimum of 12 weeks for post-secondary students. The Summer Company Coordinator will facilitate hands on entrepreneurship training workshops; pairs each student with experienced entrepreneurs to provide business mentorship; and completes all Ministry participant tracking/monitoring and program administration.



# start



# How to apply

## Are you eligible?

- // A student between 15 and 29 years old as of April 30th of the program year (a parent or guardian must sign the application for applicants under 18).
- // Starting or operating a business for less than a year (if you're unsure, contact your program provider).
- // Attending school and returning to school in the fall (this includes full-time, part-time, homeschooling, e-learning, distance learning, apprenticeships, trade schools, etc).
- // A resident of Ontario.
- // A Canadian citizen or a permanent resident.
- // Not working at another job or attending school for more than 12 hours per week during the duration of the program.
- // Following the Canada Revenue Agency definition of being self-employed.
- // Able to work over the summer program period:
  - A minimum of 280 hours if you're a high school student.
  - A minimum of 420 hours if you're a post-secondary student.
  - We may approve exceptions.
- // You must meet all the above requirements.
- // You're not eligible if you've received funding from Summer Company in the past.

## Is your business eligible?

- // Is a sole proprietorship or a corporation where you (the applicant) will be the majority shareholder.
- // Is an independent business venture.
- // Is a new business, not previously registered or operated on an on-going basis.
- // Operates at arm's length from family business ventures.
- // Operates in Ontario.
- // Operates full-time as defined in the business plan.
- // Follows government rules and regulations for operating a business.
- // Businesses must meet all of the above requirements.

## Apply online!

→ [investkingston.ca/summercompany](https://investkingston.ca/summercompany)

# Introducing the Summer Company class of...

## 2025



**Rachel Neumann**  
ActualCare



**Shivansh Rathod**  
AstroBnB



**Jialin Luo**  
Linko



**Kerelos Gayed**  
AeroMaps



**Laurence Miller**  
CircuitSpark Crates



**Owen MacLennan**  
Protoform Designs



**Jermyl Allen Acuzar**  
Alpha AI



**Bryson McCormick**  
Clearview Window & Exterior Cleaning



**Olivia Samis**  
TrendAll



**Braeden Medd**  
Backyard Swim Co.



**Sofia Nicolescu**  
Creative Covers



**Amir Bagherian**  
WelliTales

**Afham Awsaf**  
Amongoose BS

## 2024

**Blake Aylesworth**  
A+ Lawn Services

**Kaie Bain**  
Backyard Swimming Lessons with Kaie

**Corben Enright**  
Corben's Rooster Ranch

**Elli Parsons**  
EGL Graphics

**Caiden Chase**  
Gear Glow Details

**Ben Renwick**  
NoSplat Painters

**Matthew Kong**  
Portal Wear

**Ian Sheppard**  
Scrub N' Shine

**Sterling Seunarine**  
Silver Candles

**Nathan Kashira**  
SkyShot Kingston

**Griffin Wicke**  
TimeSavers

**Yamen Abuelyazed**  
Urban Greens

## 2023

**Eric Colonna**  
Pick 6 Athletics

**Sam King**  
KingLine Lures

**Jasmine Woboditsch**  
JW Boutique

**Josh Bowry**  
Red Bridge Camping

**Nicolas Inscho**  
KingDetailing

**Owen McDowell**  
World Outta Luck

**Roman Mironov**  
199 Media

**Ryleigh Hillier**  
The Draconic Crow

**Mason Rice**  
Rice Photography

**Tyler Kraus**  
Oracle of Suffering



## 2022

**Amy Van Nest**  
Custom Creations by Amy

**Ben Tripp**  
Hul Flo

**Claire Brackenbury**  
Heartfelt Cards

**David Li**  
Riftium

**Dax Tompkins**  
R&D Lawn Care

**Imogen Lawford-Wickham**  
FireScape

**Jake Moodie**  
Gigli Inc.

**Kayleigh Treverton**  
Kayleigh Treverton

**Mike Pierce**  
OCT Tutor Company

**Seham Kettaneh**  
Taita's

## 2021

**Mitchell Blasko**  
Show-Off Shorts

**Lauren Carson**  
Centsi

**Kassandra Greenhalgh**  
NXT Agency

**Lyla Hinton**  
Island Express

**Liam Hough**  
Yasa

**Lukas Kaufman**  
KGA Line Painting Corp.

**Elliott McDermott**  
CustEM Kicks

**Jeffrey Perry**  
Jaz Perry Home Service

**Adam Tibi**  
Model One

**Darcy Zeng**  
Z-Paint

## 2020

**Alexey Makarov**  
Kingston Wholesalers

**Gabriela Cruz**  
MaskEra

**Ibrahim Kettaneh**  
Safe-Box Smart Mail

**Mikayla McFarlane**  
Volleyball Backboard Trainer (VBT)

**Hector Perez**  
Custom Designs

**Ryan Muharrem**  
Love Human Madness

**Aiden Zabukovec**  
Aiden Zabukovec Videography

**Zachary Baker**  
ZB Baits

**Gwen Griffith**  
Squeaky Clean Horses

## 2019

---

**Avery Collins**

Avery's Academic Achievers

---

**Cameron Smith**

This Is Kingston

---

**Ania Marcus**

Hands in the Earth

---

**Clare Palmer**

Specadirt Vintage

---

---

**Keli Hawley**

Bowl Savour

---

**Khadija Sorani**

Al Amal

---

**Kyra Grant**

Lifeluxe

---

**Makayla Parks**

Highland Aerial

---

---

**Patrick Mazurek**

Creative Solutions

---

**Sam O'Brien**

Unlimited Blvd.

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---

**Barylynn Saucier**

B Saucier Designs

---

**Kyle Scruby**

Supreme Lawncare

---

**Kyle Valdes**

Fast Fix

---

**Zachary Viquiera**

Viq Media

---

**Eric Zhang**

Spectrum Teaching

---

## 2018

---

**Reuban Abraham**

Dynamo Custom PC

---

**Gregory Borschneck**

Dock Dogs Apparel

---

**Jack Cockfield**

Jack Cockfield

---

**Daniel Griff**

Knock on Wood

---

**Spencer Healey**

Lawn Ranger Services

---

---

**Ryan Hood**

ValueUp Websites

---

**Ainsley Koven**

Kingston City Painting

---

**Sarah Nersesian**

Designs That Cell

---

**Aman Partap**

OneSubb

---

**Jordan Rouse**

Baybridge Barbell

---

## 2017

---

**Rawan Abd-el-aatty**

RT Studios

---

**Mitchell Bahan**

GEYOD

---

**Daniel Baum**

Whisk

---

**Dylan Chenier**

Kingston Student Lawn Care

---

**Ashley Clark**

Expression

---

**Emily Cooper**

Abucs Scuba Diving Centre

---

**Howard Edwards**

WRLIFECANADA

---

**Esther Falkson**

Clearer Careers

---

**Liam Fenton**

Fenton Instruments

---

**Jake Forsythe**

ON Media House

---

---

**Darragh Gillis**

Darragh Gillis

---

**Jake Hancock**

NewSweater Fingerboards

---

**Joshua Hoffman**

Campfire Copy

---

**Ravinderjeet Kaur**

rBajwa Designs

---

**Brad Kelly**

B.K. Painting

---

**Cole MacDonald**

Mero Technologies

---

**Palmer McCutcheon**

Umami

---

**Raquel Morales Carlson**

Lensful Photography

---

**Tasha Norman**

Fotonunno

---

**Keegan Parker**

Five Star Carpentry

---

---

**Shafagh Razaghzadeh Shabestari**

SY Advertisement and Accessories

---

**Alanna Shearman**

VIRTUALIA

---

**Jenna Smallegange**

1000 Islands Boat Detailing & Cottage Services

---

**Ivy Stuart**

Willowflower Bath Company

---

**Tristan VanRaay-Vesnaver**

T-Prints

---

**Aaron Veltri**

Limestone City Detailing

---

**Clifford Lerebours**

Gridiron Agency

---

**Joseph Palubiski**

Xavier Media

---

**Jordan Saunders**

J & J Landscaping

---

# 2016

---

**Abi Anderson**  
Glacana

---

**Hatim Belhadjhamida**  
Skydrone's Aerial Photography

---

**Jonathan Besselink**  
Crusader Multi-Sports Camp

---

**Robert Cooper**  
Quark Designs

---

**Brandon Crausen**  
Unicity Studios

---

**Daniel Cumming Romo**  
Phi Studios

---

**Bram El-Defrawy**  
Oxen

---

**Susie Emerson**  
Emerson Media

---

**Wil Etherington**  
Etherington Property Maintenance

---

**Jeffrey Finnegan**  
Finesse Boat Detailing & Cottage Services

---

**Caleb Fitchett**  
ACF Blacksmithing & Welding

---

**Bailey Greenwood-Vidal**  
Looking Glass Photography

---

**Dean Howley**  
Define Distinct Consulting

---

**Jeffrey Kennedy**  
J. Kennedy Contracting

---

**Mialynn Lee-Daigle**  
Mia's Care Services

---

**Lynden Lentz**  
Painting by Lynden

---

**Trenton McKay**  
MacKay's Driveway Care

---

**Ehimen McEwan-Imoisili**  
Real RAD Clothing

---

**Emily McKenzie**  
ELM Consulting

---

**Lily Montgomery**  
Coco's Photography

---

**Sean Morris**  
New Century Painting

---

**Robyn Neri**  
Neri Botanicals

---

**Jake Norman**  
Great White Films

---

**Kendra Pierroz**  
Dockflower Media

---

**Eric Sammut**  
DisTech Printing

---

**Mitchell Sawyer**  
Smugglers Cove Getaway

---

**Natalie Shaw**  
Veg-A-Peel

---

**Katie Staples**  
Shoreline Designs

---

**Emma Thompson**  
Thompson Equinography

---

**Patrick Vanderholst**  
Pat Vanderholst Music

---

**Evan Veryard**  
Pine Things

---

**Jack Weighell**  
Jack's Yard Care



# 2015

---

**Victoria Beale**  
The Homesteading Project

---

**Avery Campbell**  
Awarding.ca

---

**Margaret Clarke**  
Barn Again

---

**Skylar Clow**  
Clow Fire Wood

---

**Oliver Davies**  
The Real Cord

---

**Bryn Davis**  
Spring Marketing Solutions

---

**Megan Gorcyca-Rancourt**  
Live it Up!

---

**Benjamin Grady**  
Lighthouse Technologies

---

**Hailea Hughson-landon**  
Hailea's Sewing

---

**Jacob Kaplan**  
Kingston BBQ Cleaning

---

---

**Nicholas Kingan**  
Aniaction

---

**Shannon Kingston**  
Shannon Kingston Voice

---

**Caleb Laird**  
Caleb's Smart Phone & Device

---

**Lauren Lee**  
Young Scholars Tutoring Company

---

**Jesseca Liedeman**  
JL Portraits

---

**Joelle Malcolm**  
White Pearl Boat Cleaning

---

**Matthew Mark**  
Matt's Magic

---

**Katrina Marshall**  
Kat's Kreature Services

---

**Declan McCann**  
Declan's Odd Jobs

---

**Parulben Mundhwa**  
Roop Jewelleries & Accessorize

---

---

**Camille Prior**  
Prior Photo

---

**Lisa Rooke**  
Treats & Trots

---

**Stephen Trivieri**  
Breathe Entertainment

---

**Nicholas Walsh**  
Hex Sketch Art & Design

---

**Alrich de Wet**  
deFrames Photography

---

# 2014

---

**Kelly Ashcroft**  
Jump Cut Cinema

---

**Tyler Balance**  
T-Dogs

---

**Neal Cameron**  
Limestone Media

---

**Francis Campbell**  
Media Maintain

---

**Harissa Chan**  
Gizmo Girl

---

**Joey Coffey**  
JJ Boatcleaning

---

**Keir Darling**  
Darling Mobile Auto Detailing

---

**Jordan Dawson**  
Dawson Productions

---

**Jorge Desmond**  
Sons of Apollo

---

**Cariston Fawcett**  
Painting in the Park

---

**Erin Fuller**  
The Venus is You

---

---

**Matt Howells**  
Noisebox

---

**Jordan Knight**  
Training in Action

---

**Mark Lappan**  
Mark of Excellence Landscaping

---

**Joy Matende**  
J's Lawn and Garden Maintenance

---

**Claire McLean**  
Claire McLean Photography

---

**Stuart McRae**  
Biked Goods

---

**Hannah Muyosson**  
Call of Nature

---

**Hayden Raspberry**  
We Drink

---

**Katrina Rees**  
Polished Occasions

---

**Jarryd Ross**  
Jarryd Ross Design

---

**Elena Routledge**  
SEE Consulting

---

---

**Avery Smith**  
Country Clean Power Washing

---

**Jason Smith**  
Sand Lake Rafts

---

**Lucas Van Nest**  
Ironwood Landscaping

---

**Zac Woods**  
Swimming Lessons by Zac

---

**Megan Wylie**  
Batch 22 Bakery

---

**Jordan Zelt**  
Kingston Marine Services

---

**Alexandra Zemba**  
Sea Candy Enviro-jigs

---

**Amelia Zheng**  
Pembroke Leather

---

**Kristian Zlatanovski**  
Leafy Greens Hydroponics

---



## 2013

---

**Spencer Brown**

Dillinger Studios

---

**Amelia Chand**

Something Borrowed Boutique

---

**Abigail Crane**

Abbie Crane Graphics

---

**Dominique Dupont-Jillings**

Dashing Doll Designs

---

**Malak Elbatarny**

Watermark Advertising Agency

---

**Nishith Kapuira**

Voluntree

---

**Mason Laframboise**

Mason Laframboise Construction

---

**Janette Leroux**

Upstream Health Solutions

---

**Christine Lieu**

In Lieu Of

---

**Sean MacGillis**

Mother Earth Enterprises

---

**Jordan Mayer**

Mayer's Power Skating

---

**Aaron Mendonsa**

Mirage T-shirts

---

**Rory O'Donnell**

PanorView

---

**David Rakowski**

Kingston by Canoe

---

**Austin Soboleski**

Odd Jobs by Austin

---

**Alice Wang**

SPARK Social Media Marketing

## 2012

---

**Debbie Bennet**

DB Marketing Solutions

---

**Yuchen Cen**

Sam Cen Photography

---

**Cory Houde-Shulman**

Houde-Shulman Property Management

---

**Logan Knight**

Spick & Span Graffiti Man

---

**Jasmine Laberee**

Jazzy's Little Childcare

---

**Zachary Martel**

Window Restoration Kingston

---

**Alina Newton**

The Sow's Ear

---

**Andrew Orawiec**

Completed Connections Tech Services

---

**Maggie Shi**

Lolicake

---

**Ryan White**

Pitch White Studios

---

**Kevin Zhang**

Kingston Summer Tutoring Company

---

**Elwin van Last**

van Alst Productions

## 2011

---

**Steven Bailey**

Steve's Student Services

---

**Quang Bui**

Odd Job Retouching & Photography

---

**Emilio Ciccaerlli**

TWOLITREmedia

---

**Qasim Daneshmend**

QMKD Clothing

---

**Jing Guo**

MixShop

---

**Taylor Hammond**

Umbrella Works

---

**Zachary King-Beland**

Zach's Property Maintenance

---

**Jessica Koehn**

Rhubarb Paper Company

---

**Angie Loyst**

Asterisk Marketing Solutions

---

**Megan McFarland**

Megan's Swim Club

---

**Geoffrey Moss**

Enviro Window Cleaning

---

**Julia Segal**

Kingston by Fork

---

**Martin Snetsinger**

Martin's Branding

---

**Howard Swartz**

Carbon Savings

---

**Michael Teixeira**

MT Lawn Care

---

**Ronald Trippe**

Stickits

---

**Caelin Williams**

Civic Collective

---

**Eric Wu**

Kickstart Marketing Solutions



## 2010

**Hannah Bock**  
Tranquility Animal Services

**Sierra Chaykowski**  
Fishpoole Productions

**Morgan Davis**  
Vivi-Mark Promotion

**Spencer Dossett**  
Spencer's Deck Staining

**Puya Fesharaki**  
Simple Eco-Solutions

**Jackson Froome**  
Sierra Longboards

**Arsham Gazor**  
AGco.

**Corey Lablans**  
Corey Lablans Photography

**Andras Linder**  
Walking Fish Productions

**Phil Mangan**  
T3 Hockey

**Belinda McGee**  
Blue Square Design

**Dylan Plain**  
Train with Plain

**Ben Ramsay**  
Greater Napanee Soccer Camp

**Peter Sproule**  
The Lone Landscaper

**Alvin Suen**  
ECOScapes Green Lawn Care

**Anita Tang**  
Elsim Accessories

**Mitch Vollebregt**  
Example Clothing

**Che Ming Wang**  
Tempest Lab

**Zexuan (Will) Zhang**  
Greenlife Tea

**Hannah Zhang**  
Relive the Moment Photography

## 2009

**Hina Ahmed**  
Shesh Kabob Korner

**Derek Branscombe**  
Fractured Tactic Design

**Michael Charlebois**  
MX Design Business Solutions

**Peter Coultas**  
The Goodie Bag

**Geoffrey Halliday**  
Productivity

**Lucas Howatson**  
LUC'S Lawn Care

**Elizabeth Johnson**  
Making Strangers Design

**Emily Klassen**  
Green Grass Mowing

**Adam McAskill**  
Front Street Consulting

**Alexandra Perlin**  
Alex Perlin Graphic Design & Illustration

**Colin Pine**  
Short Grass Golf

**Jimi Ritchie**  
Jimi Ritchie Fitness

**Gilbert Tong**  
G's Fine Roasted Almonds,  
Walnuts & Pecans

**Chris Tringham**  
Trampoline Financial Services

**Stephen Vasic**  
Steve's Aeration & Yard Work Services

**Darcy Voutt**  
Darcy Voutt Business Solutions

**Andy Yao**  
Frosh Furniture

**Magdalen Zätterberg**  
I-Soar

**Daniel de la Parra**  
KingPiece Clothing

**Steven ten Holder**  
Young Skateboarders

## 2008

**Pansee About EIAtta**  
Chariot Murals

**Jacqueline Baldry**  
JB's Cotton Candy

**Natasha Bidinost**  
Fetch!

**Meredith Boccanfuso**  
EnigmAuberginE

**Byron Emmons**  
Mindful, Computing Solutions

**Ian Macdonald**  
Samples for Students

**Blake McCord**  
Rickshaw Tours Kingston

**Joel Warsh**  
International Innovation MD

**Yi Yin**  
Wonderful Lawn & Painting

**Robert Zamida**  
RZ Computer Services

## 2007

---

**Will Fang**

Inventure Consulting

---

**Ira Feldman**

Kingston Website Solutions

---

**Jillian Hinchey**

Underground Designs

---

**Brandon Holden**

River Road Refreshments

---

**Josh MacDonald**

Lookalike Photography

---

## 2006

---

**Chantal Alves**

Summer Breeze Laundry Service

---

**Willy Ba**

Installaquarium

---

**Alex Bath**

Jab's mowin'

---

**Joshua Dueck**

Fluid Image

---

**Nathaniel Erskine-Smith**

Gourmet on the Go

---

---

**Chris Manion**

Nature's Landscaping

---

**Melissa McNichols**

Swimming Lessons

---

**Brenan Nugent**

Nugent Marine

---

**Connor Patterson**

Bonobo Boardwear

---

**Catherine Livia Polcz**

Mudlark and Rag

---

---

**Eric Ferguson**

DreamPix

---

**Andrew Goodridge**

Ghetto Grocery

---

**Michael MacDonald**

Limestone City Bookkeeping

---

**Andrew McFarland**

Loyalist Construction

---

**David Phillips**

Philliton Solutions Website Design

---

---

**Greg Sullivan**

Sullivan's Lawn Care

---

**Melissa Wartman**

Pages From The Past

---

**Callum Winsor**

Computing Made Easy

---

**Raymond Yan**

Little Shanghai

---

---

**Jeff Richard**

Mowbile

---

**Mark Sherwin**

Husky Homes

---

**Browen Weeks**

Browen's Auto Detailing

---



## 2005

---

**Kevin Druce**

Between the Pipes with Kevin Druce

---

**Michael Groves**

Kingston Heritage Pedicabs

## 2004

---

**Adam Candon**

Student Grass Cutting

---

**Steve Clarke**

Clarke Development Solutions

## 2003

---

**Tim Fleming**

Fleming Drywall

---

**Karen Ho**

First Steps Connections

---

**Kyle Merritt**

Icarus Skate Company

---

**Sarah Simmons**

Naos

---

**Nathan Morrison**

Healthy Home Care

---

**Kiel Perching**

Led Foot Silk Screening

---

**Andrea R. Mills**

Ecstatic Objects Jewellery Art

---

**Jennifer Valberg**

Ghetto Couture

---

**Patrick Young**

Fokus. Clothing Company

---

**Russell Petrie**

PowerPlus

---

**Jaime Van Wynsberghe**

Rideau Relax'inn Bed and Breakfast

---

**Jordan Pridham**

Bimmer Motorsports & Performance Parts

## 2002

---

**Richard Anderson**

Itchie Richie, The Juggling Clown

---

**Mat Clancy**

Freefall Productions

---

**Richard Dash**

Dash Lawn Care

## 2001

---

**Josh Beckwith**

Devine Designs

---

**Claire Cybulski**

Rufus Stickers

---

**Valerie Dovell**

VAD

---

**Ryan Graham**

Genius

---

**Keenan Papps**

Home & Garden Portraits

---

**Scott Davey**

Original Love Song

---

**Eric Peets**

Python Multimedia

---

**Victoria Scilley**

Fo'Sheezy Productions

---

**Laura White**

Grilzone Adventure Club

# summer

# alumni

## Alumni testimonials

### *Josh Bowry*

*Red Bridge Camping, 2023*

"Before starting my degree in Finance and Economics at the University of Ottawa, I took a return year to launch my own Airbnb business. I created a unique geodesic dome experience called Red Bridge Camping, designed to combine comfort with the outdoors. My efforts consisted of managing everything from setup to branding.

Over my three summers of operation, Red Bridge Camping earned over 100 five-star reviews and maintained an 85% occupancy rate. More importantly, it gave me hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, financial management, marketing, and customer service.

Taking that year to build Red Bridge Camping was one of the most valuable decisions I've made. It strengthened my confidence, business skills, and showed me what it would take to turn an idea into reality."



## Ben Tripp

*HulFlo, 2022*

"Launching a business can be very exciting and empowering while also being at times overwhelming with the uncertainty that comes with the new experience. However, doing a program like the summer company program, you have a whole network of support to help guide you through the process. As a part of the program, there is also a shared energy as you share the journey of launching a business with other entrepreneurs around you. In the summer of 2022, I launched a business called HulFlo, a system to dry out the inside of watercraft to increase the lifespan of the boat and maintain performance. During the summer I was focused on the development of the product and received mentorship to help improve the marketing of my product. After years of planning, it was extremely rewarding to finally bring the company and product to life. Moving forward, after taking the winter to finish building a new CNC machine, I am excited to soon be officially launching the HulFlo store."

## Lauren Carson

*Centsi, 2021*

"Centsi is an app designed to centralize local businesses such as artists, makers, and restaurants for easy shopping. Lauren's app will bring the convenience of shopping local to the palm of your hand."

## Jaz Perry

*Jaz Perry Home Service, 2021*

"The Summer Company Program has been great so far. It is more than simply a grant. The start up funding is certainly a welcomed boost for the business but much of the value is found in the training, mentorship, and relationships that come along with the program. It helps new business owners develop a strong foundation, setting us up for long term success in more ways than one. I'm looking forward to using what I've learned through the program to provide the best service possible."

### Collaboration:

Show Off Shorts x Pick 6 Athletics



## Mitchell Blasko

*Show Off Shorts, 2021*

"During the pandemic in the summer of 2021, I was fortunate enough to be part of the Summer Company program in Kingston. This experience opened my eyes to the world of business and taught me many very valuable life lessons. I was able to start a custom shorts company with no experience sewing, however with the excellent guidance and support provided to me by the individuals running the program I was able to find success in operating a business. I took a step outside of my comfort zone when applying, and I am so grateful I did as it has allowed me to not only grow as a businessman, but as a person in general. For anyone considering applying, I highly recommend you do so as it is a very rewarding and positive."

# KINGSTON

— *Economic Development* —

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