



Media Release

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Bracebridge, ON

Muskoka Small Business Centre Introduces Summer Company 2009

After a very busy spring which saw a record number of applications both in Muskoka and across the province, Summer Company 2009 is up and running. In response to the overwhelming number of applications, The Ontario Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services was able to find additional funding for the program, which resulted in more students being approved than ever before. This year we have eleven student businesses serving Muskoka and area, with products and services as diverse as the students themselves.

Many of the students are focussing on property maintenance services for homeowners and cottagers, including grass cutting, yard work, interior and exterior painting, and tree removal. If you need a good job done at a reasonable rate, Summer Company 2009 has a hardworking student who can do it for you. On the other hand, if you're looking for a snack while visiting the skateboard park, some training on your new computer or repairs to the old one, an artistic wooden bowl or jewelry box, a unique handmade cushion or handbag from vintage fabric, Summer Company can take care of you as well. You can also find expert whitewater or flatwater kayak instruction, and a dynamic event planner to look after your fundraiser, grand opening, or the party you want to make very special.

According to Dave Connell, youth program officer with the Muskoka Small Business Centre, "Despite the high number of applicants, the standards for the program did not change. We just ended up with more high quality student businesses this year." Connell added that he is very pleased with the number of high school students that applied and were approved this year, which shows young people are indeed entrepreneurial, and not afraid of hard work. A complete list of this year's student businesses can be found below.

This year, the Muskoka Small Business Centre will be introducing our 2009 Summer Company businesses as part of our "Student Entrepreneur Night", at the Rotary Centre for Youth in Bracebridge, on the evening of Thursday July 9. This is a chance to come out and meet the students and learn more about their businesses, but you don't need to wait until then. For more information on any of these young entrepreneurs, including how to contact them, call the Muskoka Small Business Centre at (705) 646-9021, or email info@muskokasmallbusiness.ca.

Summer Company is a province wide initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services, in partnership with local Small Business Enterprise Centres. In Muskoka and the surrounding area, the Muskoka Small Business Centre administers the program and provides mentorship and guidance to the students throughout the summer.

This year's student businesses include (in alphabetical order):

Jacob Barkey, "Skatin' Snacks"
Dana Clark, "Simply Fabulous Event Planning and Management"
Aurora Curtis, "Vintage Storm by RoraRose"
Connor Duhaime, "Waves and Water"
Dallas Fish, "Cottage Country Computers"
Megan Higgins, "College Cutters Lawn Care"
Brett Hutnik, "West Edge Labour Works"
Courtney Miller, "Miller Green Lawn Care"
Benjamin Osorio, "The Mary Lake Workers"
Andrew Slocum, "Andy's Painting"
Steven Vince, "Steven's Wooden Wonders"

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