

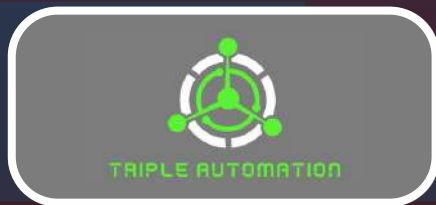
22ND ANNUAL

40

2025
Niagara

UNDER FORTY
BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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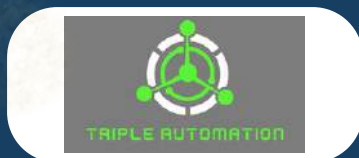
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ABOUT

BUSINESS LINK MEDIA GROUP

Established in 2003, Business Link has been a key player in the advertising industry, offering services through business publications and the renowned '40 Under Forty' event programs.

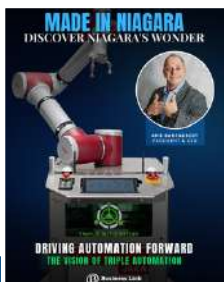
Having transitioned from print to digital, our digital magazines have been providing valuable business insights, connections, and advertising opportunities. Our focus has shifted towards digital marketing, encompassing various media outlets, event programs, and cutting-edge AI solutions.

Under the umbrella of Business Link Media Group, we publish monthly digital publications such as Business Link and annual print magazines like Made in Niagara and All in the Family. Our strong online presence extends to social media platforms including Instagram, X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Since 2021, we have expanded our services to include innovative digital solutions like Blockchain and AI technologies.

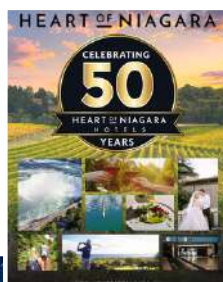
The esteemed '40 Under Forty' program operates in two markets, the Niagara region since 2003 and the Hamilton region since 2012, honoring over 1280 exceptional award recipients. At Business Link, we prioritize fostering business connections, promoting innovation, and engaging in community building initiatives.

Our vision and mission revolve around becoming a leading innovative marketing company, empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with effective digital solutions to enhance their business value.

Made in Niagara
Magazine



Heart of Niagara
Magazine



All in the Family
Magazine



40 Under Forty Program
(Niagara and Hamilton)



Digital Solutions



BL Monthly Digital Publication

22nd Niagara 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards

2025 RECIPIENTS



Kerig Ahearn
Branch Marketing

Britnie Bazylewski
Town of Lincoln

Shannon Braun
Bethesda
Community Services

Matt Butcher
Northern Roads Auto Group

Katie Sawicki Carbone
Katie Elizabeth Salon

Lydia Collins
Niagara Health

Natasha DiCienzo
Natasha DiCienzo Advisory
Group, ScotiaMcLeod, a
division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Justin Duc
oddBird. / oddBar.

Emma Eldon
Niagara Falls
Innovation Hub

Marija Faife
Havana Restaurant &
Cocktail Lounge

Brandy Fulton
Abatement Technologies
Limited and Ravine Vineyard
Estates Winery

Mariana Garrido
Kytos / Future Black Female

Nour Hage
Civiconnect

James J. Hall
Niagara Health

Katie Harris
K. Harris Counselling Services

Tyler Hibbs
Tyler Hibbs Mortgages Inc.
with Mortgage Architects

Gregory Higginbotham
City of Port Colborne

Katy Hodgson
Good Company Hospitality
(Café Pique Nique)

Denise Horne
NPG Planning Solutions Inc.

Megan Lalli
Brock University

Katy Letourneau
Custom Sign Lab

Arthur Martin
Martin Construction

Sam Maxbauer
The Exchange Brewery Inc.

Lindsey Mazza
Lindsey Mazza Ltd.

Keagan McNeil
Government of Canada

Rebecca Nicholls
Niagara College

Terence O'Brien
Shoreline Pools and Landscapes

Matt Price
PenFinancial Credit Union

Bhim Regmi
Paramount Fine Foods
Niagara Falls

Jessica Silvestri
Bella Buddha Beads

Alka Singh
Paradigm Healthcare
Services

Dean Stoyka
Stratus Vineyards

Julie Taylor
Stone Road Pharmacy

Kristen Thompson
Grand Core Physiotherapy

Rachel Tkachuk
Port Colborne Public Library

Adrian Tobey
Groundhogg Inc.

Lindsay Tompkins
Strut Niagara

**Daniel Salvatore
Antonio Turner**
Niagara Region Economic
Development

Matt Wasilewicz
Canadian Airsoft Imports /
DMZ Paintball

Scott White
oddBird. / oddBar.

Congratulations to all the Recipients

Congratulations Message from Business Link

Dear 40u40 Winners,

On behalf of Business Link Media Group, it is my privilege to extend heartfelt congratulations to the 40 outstanding business professionals recognized tonight with the 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards. This prestigious honor is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence in business and your active contributions to your communities.

The selection process for these awards is rigorous, with criteria including personal growth, business accomplishments, and community involvement. Our distinguished panel of judges, comprised of past 40u40 awardees renowned for their integrity, meticulously evaluated each nominee to ensure that only the most deserving individuals are honored.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who took the time to nominate these exceptional achievers. Your efforts have played a crucial role in ensuring that these remarkable individuals receive the recognition they truly deserve.

These awards are not just a token of appreciation for the obstacles you have conquered, but also a celebration of the progress you continue to make in enriching the Niagara community.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved honor. I look forward to witnessing the continued impact of your endeavors and the bright future you are creating.

Marilyn Tian MBA
President & CEO, Business Link Media Group



ALL THE BEST IN YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS!

40 UNDER FORTY ITINERARY

RECEPTION

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

WELCOME CEREMONY & DINNER

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

7:45 PM - 9:30 PM

businesslinkmedia.com | info@businesslinkmedia.com | t. 905-646-9366



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jessica Potts (Class 2006)



Jessica Potts (Class of 2006 alumna) is an expert in employee engagement who is on a mission to revolutionize workplace cultures by developing dream teams who deliver. As the President and driving force behind Inspired Strategy Group Inc., she is known for getting people on the same page to get things done, while having fun.

She partners with high-growth leaders across public, private, and non-profit sectors to build confidently aligned teams that have clear focus, embrace change, and sustain impactful results. Learn more about her strategic planning, leadership skills, and organizational development services at inspiredstrategy.ca.

Zach Dadson (Class 2018)

Zach Dadson works in Government Relations at Brock University. Outside his professional career, Zach is the Chair of Strive Niagara, a childcare not-for-profit, and is an active member of Fitzgerald Neighbors, a midtown St.Catherines neighborhood association, where he lives with his partner Melissa and young son Henry.





**Kerig
Ahearn**

Kerig Ahearn, owner of Branch Marketing, draws on years of diverse business experience to guide companies across the Niagara region in building a strong and effective online presence. With a deep understanding of what businesses need to succeed, he is passionate about educating and empowering clients, helping them make smart, strategic decisions in the digital space. Kerig is a proud father to Hudson and Abigail, and gratefully thanks his wonderful wife Cynthia for her unwavering support.

COMPANY:
Branch Marketing



**Britnie
Bazylewski**

Britnie Bazylewski is a recognized leader in tourism marketing and destination development with over a decade of experience. As Tourism Development Officer for the Town of Lincoln, she leads the Niagara Benchlands in destination development and co-directs the St. Catharines-Lincoln Destination Partnership, Ontario's first shared-service DMO. Her award-winning campaigns, cross-sector partnerships, and strategic leadership have increased visitation, supported local businesses, and positioned Niagara as a premier rural destination. Known for her collaborative and impact-driven approach, Britnie continues to champion tourism as a powerful tool for economic growth, community pride, and sustainable development across the region.

COMPANY:
Town of Lincoln



**Shannon
Braun**

Shannon Braun is a Human Resources Manager at Bethesda Community Services. She has a passion for the non-profit sector, where she has spent the majority of her HR career. Shannon was named on Canadian Occupational Safety's Top Safety Leaders Under 35 | Young Achievers 2023. Under her oversight of Health & Safety, Bethesda was a recipient of Canada's Safest Employer award from 2023-2024. She was awarded Bethesda's Innovation Award in 2024 for her role in helping to improve recruitment processes. Shannon has sat on a non-profit Board of Directors and enjoys volunteering in the community.

COMPANY:
Bethesda Community Services



**Matt
Butcher**

Matt Butcher is the Vice President of Northern Roads Auto Group, overseeing a team of over 100 staff members across Cardinal Kia, Lindsay Kia, and Belleville Chrysler. He has been with Cardinal Kia since 2019, contributing to the company's success and growth. In 2023, Northern Roads Auto Group was established with the acquisition of Lindsay Kia, followed by the acquisition of Belleville Chrysler in April 2024. Under Matt's leadership, the group is executing an aggressive expansion strategy, including the construction of one of the largest Kia dealerships in Canada in Niagara Falls. The group also plans to continue expanding its presence in and around the Niagara area, further solidifying its position in the automotive market.

COMPANY:
Northern Roads Auto Group



**Katie Sawicki
Carbone**

Katie Sawicki Carbone, owner of Katie Elizabeth Salon in St. Catharines, Ontario, has been a leader in the local hair industry for over 12 years. Since launching her brand in 2019, she's grown her team from three to 16, overcoming small business challenges with resilience. Her salon is known for inclusive, high-quality hair services and a commitment to community, partnering with Gillian's Place, Niagara College, and other local businesses. Katie emphasizes education and mentorship, supporting women in hairstyling careers. She has created a modern, welcoming space that celebrates diversity and showcases some of Niagara's top hairstyling talent.

COMPANY:

Katie Elizabeth Salon



**Lydia
Collins**

Lydia Collins has worked with various community partners to organize events, create resources, and facilitate workshops for youth, educators, and service providers across North America. From facilitating sexual health programming for school boards and post-secondary institutions, to developing culturally competent resources for healthcare professionals, she successfully creates safer learning spaces for a diverse body of individuals through her capacity as an educator and advocate.

COMPANY:

Niagara Health



**Natasha
DiCienzo**

Natasha DiCienzo is a Wealth Advisor and Portfolio Manager with the Natasha DiCienzo Advisory Group, ScotiaMcLeod a division of Scotia Capital Inc. She leverages financial planning and customized investment portfolios to build, preserve, and enhance her clients' wealth. Drawing on her education from the Ivey Business School and professional designations as a CFA and CPF, Natasha provides client-focused financial guidance. In the community, Natasha serves as a Commissioner and Chair of Finance and Audit of the Niagara Parks. She also volunteers on the Board and Investment Committee of the Niagara Community Foundation, as well as the Investment Committee of Toronto Foundation.

COMPANY:

Natasha DiCienzo Advisory Group,
ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.



**Justin
Duc**

Justin Duc grew up on a family farm in Niagara on the Lake. Justin started working in kitchens at the age of 15, while attending high school and earning a BBA from Brock University. After school, Justin traveled extensively, cooking across Canada. Upon returning home, Justin accepted his first head chef position at Tide and Vine Oyster House, where he would eventually meet Scott White. After bonding quickly over a mutual appreciation for french cuisine, the two established oddBird, followed shortly afterward with oddBar. Since establishing in 2017, oddBird has been recognized internationally, notably as Canada's 85th best restaurant in Canadas100Best.

COMPANY:

oddBird. / oddBar.

K.Harris

Counselling Services

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Well-Being in Niagara

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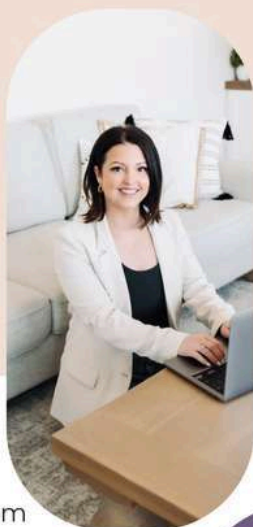
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40
UNDER 40

Proud to be recognized as a 2025 Top 40 Under 40 Award Recipient



KATIE
ELIZABETH
SALON

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@ katieelizabethsalon

905.380.9802



**CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE
IN BUSINESS:
CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL AWARD RECIPIENTS!**

The Town of Lincoln would like to recognize and congratulate **BRITNIE BAZYLEWSKI**, Tourism Development Officer at the Town, and all recipients of the **40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards!** Britnie's passion and dedication have been instrumental in elevating the Niagara Benchlands as a premier destination, fostering growth, sustainability, and memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Explore the beauty, culture, and rich heritage of the Niagara Benchlands - where nature and community thrive together.

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niagarabenchlands.ca!**

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Lincoln

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Congrats!

**Shoutout
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incredible
40 Under 40
recipients**

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Economic
Development**

madeinwelland.ca



**Emma
Eldon**

Emma Eldon, honouring her Papa Tony Collini's legacy, a proud farmer on Vine St., Emma was inspired to launch her first business, Two Sisters Fruits and Vegetables, bringing fresh, local produce to the community. That early venture led to a lasting passion for entrepreneurship, marketing, and community impact. With a background in Business Administration – Marketing from Niagara College, she now serves as Marketing & Communications Manager at the Niagara Falls Innovation Hub, where she helps startups build their brands, share their stories, and grow their businesses. Her work continues to shape Niagara's innovation ecosystem and uplift the community she proudly calls home.

COMPANY:

Niagara Falls Innovation Hub



**Marija
Faife**

Marija Faife is a Human Resources professional with over 13 years of experience across diverse industries. Currently, she serves as a People & Culture Manager at one of Canada's top insurance brokerages. Beyond her professional work, she is a wife, mother of two, and co-owner of a restaurant. Her HR expertise has been invaluable in launching and managing our business. A proud milestone includes setting a Guinness World Record for the Largest Glass of Mojito (4,500 litres), with proceeds benefiting the Niagara Children's Centre, a cause close to our hearts. We're passionate about giving back and regularly support local community organizations and events.

COMPANY:

Havana Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge



**Brandy
Fulton**

Brandy Fulton is the HR and Safety Manager at Abatement Technologies Limited and Ravine Vineyard Estates Winery, with a passion for building safe, inclusive workplaces. She began her career in journalism before transitioning into HR through hands-on experience in training and policy development. Brandy holds her CHRP designation, has led key health and safety initiatives, and consistently steps into leadership roles. She volunteers with the WIN Council and Celebration Place through Bethany Community Church, and also offers HR and H&S support to small businesses and non-profits. Her journey highlights adaptability, continuous learning, and a strong commitment to employee well-being.

COMPANY:

Abatement Technologies Limited and Ravine Vineyard Estates Winery



**Mariana
Garrido**

Mariana Garrido is a former virology researcher turned passionate advocate for equity, education, and youth empowerment. As the founder of Kytos, she creates engaging science-based learning tools, and through her work with Future Black Female, she leads initiatives that amplify the voices of Black youth across Ontario. Mariana is known for bridging research with community impact, organizing events like Brock University's Women in STEM and championing mental health in academia. Her journey from the lab to leadership in social research reflects a deep commitment to building inclusive futures and empowering others to pursue bold, purpose-driven paths.

COMPANY:

Kytos / Future Black Female



**Nour
Hage**

Nour Hage is the President & CEO of Civiconnect, an organization dedicated to workforce readiness and skills development. Since 2021, he has been instrumental in launching Civiconnect's Youth Skills Studio, providing targeted training programs that prepare young people for competitive industries. Under his leadership, Civiconnect has achieved sustainable growth, supporting over 1,000 participants and completing more than 400 small business projects. In addition to his role at Civiconnect, Nour is deeply involved in the community as Chair of Leadership Niagara, President of the Ad & Sales Group, and serves on the boards of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

COMPANY:

Civiconnect



**James J.
Hall**

James J. Hall serves as General Counsel and Privacy Officer at Niagara Health, where he leads legal and privacy operations for one of the region's most respected and essential public institutions. A proud Brock graduate (BKin, Hons), James also holds a Master of Health Administration and Juris Doctor from Dalhousie University. Deeply committed to community wellbeing, he serves on the boards of Quest Community Health Centre, Music Niagara, and the Rotary Club of St. Catharines South. Passionate about ethical leadership and public service, James is dedicated to building a healthier, more connected future for the people of Niagara.

COMPANY:

Niagara Health



**Katie
Harris**

Katie Harris founded K. Harris Counselling Services in 2023 with a mission to bridge the gap between crisis response and long-term mental health care. With over 15 years of frontline experience—including attending 911 crisis calls—Katie saw how many people fell through the cracks. Her practice quickly grew into a team of inclusive, trauma-informed therapists with strong backgrounds in community mental health. Committed to reducing barriers, Katie partners with Victim Services Niagara and Safe Space Alliance to offer accessible care. Outside the therapy room, Katie supports local nonprofits and even stepped into the boxing ring for Pearl Gloves 2019, raising funds for MS.

COMPANY:

K. Harris Counselling Services



**Tyler
Hibbs**

Tyler Hibbs is a dedicated mortgage agent with Mortgage Architects, serving the Niagara region for over five years. Known for prioritizing client education and transparency, Tyler has earned a reputation as a trusted advisor. In 2023, he was awarded New Broker of the Year, followed by the 2024 Presidents Platinum Award and recognition as one of the top 5% of all Mortgage Architects. With 150+ 5-star Google reviews and being named Young Achiever of the Year at the Canadian Mortgage Awards, Tyler is also active on charity boards such as Niagara Golf Marathon, Wise Guys, and Black Tie Gala.

COMPANY:

Tyler Hibbs Mortgages Inc.
with Mortgage Architects



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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: 2025 40u40 ALUMNI SUMMIT



SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Americana Conference Resort Spa

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Join us for the 2025 40 Under Forty Alumni Summit, a gathering of Niagara's most distinguished young professionals recognized since 2004.

- Network with fellow alumni and industry leaders.
- Engage in inspiring panel discussions and interactive roundtables.
- Celebrate the ongoing achievements of our community

Be part of a day dedicated to reflection, connection, and the celebration of excellence that continues to shape Niagara's business landscape.



Scan the QR to Reserve Your Spot Today





**Gregory
Higginbotham**

From his studies in tourism at Brock University to his successful career in Niagara's tourism industry, Gregory Higginbotham's commitment to excellence is unwavering. He is known for offering smart, practical solutions and is an invaluable asset who consistently goes the extra mile. Gregory's collaborative spirit and dedication to the community shine through in his active involvement with various tourism committees and support for local causes and organizations. Currently excelling in his role at the City of Port Colborne, Gregory continues to make a meaningful impact in shaping the city's future.

COMPANY:

City of Port Colborne



**Katy
Hodgson**

Katy Hodgson comes from an entrepreneurial background, working for the family Equestrian School from a young age. With a passion for business and experiential design, she studied Communication Design at TMU. Katy's career began with large-scale events, art festivals and fashion across Canada and Europe. She landed firmly in Hospitality and has been launching businesses in Ontario's Hospitality industry for 10 years, leading design and facility build outs, developing brand strategies, menu curation, creating service programs, and operational systems. In 2023 Katy founded Café Pique-Nique; a community centric, European style café/wine bar that focuses on elevated hospitality principles and beautiful, simple food and drink made with intention.

COMPANY:

Good Company Hospitality (Café Pique Nique)



**Denise
Horne**

Denise Horne is a seasoned heritage planner based in Niagara, with a strong background in heritage conservation and urban planning. She served as the Heritage Planner for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake from 2015 to 2023, where she played a pivotal role in preserving the town's historical assets. She is now the Manager of Heritage and Policy Planning for NPG Planning Solutions. With 10 years' experience as a Heritage Planner, she devotes time to mentoring new heritage planners and contributes her time to boards and advisory committees relevant to heritage education in Niagara.

COMPANY:

NPG Planning Solutions Inc.



**Megan
Lalli**

Megan Lalli is a connector, weaving her passions for conservation, community-building, and collaboration to bridge sectors and create lasting impact. As an Experiential Education Coordinator with Brock University's Goodman School of Business, she has cultivated over 70 partnerships with nonprofits, charities, entrepreneurs, and businesses across and beyond the Niagara Region. Megan is also pursuing a Master of Conservation Leadership at the University of Guelph, where she explores diverse conservation strategies and Indigenous-led conservation and governance. Through her work, she is reimagining what leadership can look like in the environmental sector, rooted in community and committed to meaningful, sustainable change.

COMPANY:

Brock University



**Katy
Letourneau**

Katy Letourneau is a dynamic business leader, community advocate, and mother of two. After nearly a decade of corporate experience at Metroland Media, she transitioned in 2016 to become a full-time partner at Custom Sign Lab, helping transform it into an innovator in experiential fabrication. Under her guidance, the company has grown to employ seven full-time staff and achieved nearly 10x revenue growth. Katy also serves as President of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, championing local economic development. Her dedication to strategic leadership, systemization, and community enhancement makes her an inspiring force in both business and beyond.

COMPANY:

Custom Sign Lab



**Arthur
Martin**

Arthur Martin founded Martin Construction in 2020. After nearly 10 years growing and learning from industry professionals, Martin Construction has been ascending as a well known and reputable General Contractor in the Niagara Region, winning countless Diamond and Platinum awards. Martin Construction carries designation with the Better Business Bureau of A+, Niagara Living Wage Certification among others. Arthur enjoys maintaining a strong community presence through sponsorships and coaching in grassroots level sports, is a proud member of the Niagara on the Lake Fire and Emergency Services and cherishes his family for unwavering love and support.

COMPANY:

Martin Construction



**Sam
Maxbauer**

Sam Maxbauer moved to Canada in 2014 and co-founded The Exchange Brewery. Since then, the Exchange has expanded its distribution from the taproom to locations across the province, including restaurants, the LCBO, and grocery retailers. Sam gives back to the brewing industry through volunteering with the Master Brewers Association of the Americas and through his mentorship of many Niagara College brewing graduates that have honed their skills at the Exchange. The brewery is committed to contributing to the community through their charity brews initiative, and it promotes an environment of inclusivity and belonging for everyone.

COMPANY:

The Exchange Brewery Inc.



**Lindsey
Mazza**

Lindsey Mazza is a lawyer turned inspirational speaker, inclusive leadership expert, author, and disability advocate who helps people break past self-doubt and step into their full potential. As a founding partner of a multi-city law firm with over 10 years of experience, she defied expectations in an industry where accessibility for disabilities is often overlooked. She is now the founder of Hiding in Plain Sight, a movement, podcast, Niagara TV segment and collaboration book. She speaks on breaking barriers and redefining success. Lindsey's message is clear: success isn't about fitting in, it's about owning who you are.

COMPANY:

Lindsey Mazza Ltd.



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Lindsey Mazza



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the Brock alumni
receiving this year's
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Awards

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brocku.ca/alumni/welcome



ICW
LAWYERS

**LANCASTER
CHOWN &
WELCH LLP**

Congratulations

to all 2025 Niagara
40 Under Forty Awards Recipients!

We celebrate your outstanding
achievements and dedication to
making Niagara a thriving
community. Your hard work and
leadership inspire us all. Here's
to your continued success!



**Keagan
McNeil**

Keagan McNeil is pursuing a Master's in Political Management at Carleton University's Clayton H. Riddell School. She currently serves as Senior Operations Advisor and Regional Advisor for Ontario in the office of the Hon. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, supporting key federal initiatives. With a background in political operations, stakeholder engagement, and strategic coordination, Keagan brings strong organizational and communication skills to her work. She holds an Honours BA in Political Science and Psychology from Brock University, with Law Plus certification. Passionate about public policy, Keagan is committed to driving meaningful, community-focused change across Canada.

COMPANY:

Government of Canada



**Rebecca
Nicholls**

Rebecca Nicholls began her journey at Niagara College as a co-op student. Over 18 years of post-secondary experience later, Rebecca now serves as Associate Dean, Academic Studies. In this portfolio, Rebecca leads strategic and operational initiatives for academic programs, employment-focused contracts, and continuing education. Passionate about community empowerment, Rebecca has supported government-funded programs for unemployed individuals and career transitioners. Rebecca's work fosters access to education for non-traditional learners while advancing career development and community welfare. Rebecca remains dedicated to innovative academic and training solutions that enhance both individual success and the broader educational landscape at Niagara College.

COMPANY:

Niagara College



**Terence
O'Brien**

Terence O'Brien is the Co-President of Shoreline Pools and Landscapes, a luxury design-build company serving the Niagara region and beyond. Growing up in Grimsby, Ontario, Terence studied at Brock University before transitioning from corporate sales to outdoor landscaping. With over a decade of experience, he quickly grew Shoreline into a renowned brand in the region. Committed to community, Terence actively supports local youth sports teams, Christmas toy drives, and charitable events. Under his leadership, Shoreline has earned industry recognition, creating stunning landscapes and luxury pools for clients near and far.

COMPANY:

Shoreline Pools and Landscapes



**Matt
Price**

Matt Price is an experienced financial services leader with 15 years in the credit union system, including 10 in leadership roles. As Operations Manager at PenFinancial Credit Union, Matt specializes in process improvement, risk management, and operational efficiency. Matt has successfully led multiple teams to exceed performance targets and drive growth. Matt is a board member and Treasurer of the Ontario Network of Young Leaders. An alumnus of multiple leadership development programs, Matt has also led financial literacy seminars across Niagara. Holding multiple industry designations, Matt is currently completing a certificate in Business Process Management to further enhance his expertise.

COMPANY:

PenFinancial Credit Union



**Bhim
Regmi**

Bhim Regmi is the proud franchisee owner of Paramount Fine Foods and Crêpe Delicious Located in Fallsview Casino resort in Niagara Falls. With a passion for culinary excellence and community engagement, Bhim has successfully brought diverse dining experiences to the hospitality industry. His commitment to quality and customer satisfaction has made both establishments local favorites and yearning to return. Bhim believes in fostering a welcoming atmosphere where guests can enjoy delicious meals and create lasting happy memories. Through his entrepreneurial spirit, he continues to contribute to the vibrant food scene in Niagara Falls, making it a destination for food lovers.

COMPANY:

Paramount Fine Foods Niagara Falls



**Jessica
Silvestri**

Jessica Silvestri is the founder and heart behind Bella Buddha Beads (BBB), a Niagara-based brand she launched eleven years ago. What started as a passion project has grown into a beloved local name, rooted in creativity, connection, and empowerment. Jessica inspires women to embrace their individuality and credits her family, especially in the early days, for fueling her journey. Over the years, she's showcased her work at countless craft shows, hosted community events, and spoken at business engagements across the region. In 2025, BBB will take a bold step forward with the debut of a mobile jewellery boutique, once a 1959 City of Thorold fire truck, lovingly restored by Jessica and her father, reflecting her vision, values, and entrepreneurial spirit.

COMPANY:

Bella Buddha Beads



**Alka
Singh**

Alka Singh is a visionary healthcare entrepreneur, transformational leader, and founder of Paradigm Healthcare Services. After emigrating from India, she turned personal challenges into a powerful mission to revolutionize elder care in Canada. Her passion sparked the creation of a tech-driven platform that streamlines healthcare staffing, with trust and compassion at its core. Alka is committed to building meaningful partnerships and raising the standard of care across long-term care, retirement homes, and in-home settings. Her bold leadership and unwavering dedication continue to drive meaningful change across Ontario's healthcare landscape.

COMPANY:

Paradigm Healthcare Services



**Dean
Stoyka**

Dean Stoyka is a winemaker based in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Growing up with a father in the wine industry, he developed a passion for winemaking from a young age. He studied Wine and Viticulture at Niagara College. Stoyka has spent over 15 years at Stratus Vineyards, where he has held various positions including Lab Technician, Winemaking Supervisor, and Vineyard Manager. Currently, he serves as Head Winemaker, further developing Stratus' precision viticulture and sustainable practices, while also experimenting with innovative winemaking techniques.

COMPANY:

Stratus Vineyards

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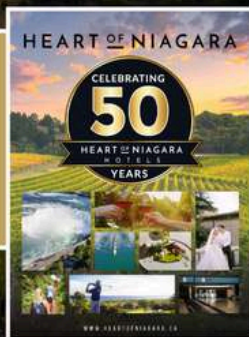
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**Julie
Taylor**

Julie Taylor founded Stone Road Pharmacy in July 2019 with a vision statement of 'caring beyond the prescription.' This was evident when the Covid pandemic hit. As access to healthcare was limited, Stone Road Pharmacy was a place in the community for advice and relationship building. The pharmacy has also become a destination for vaccinations and injections, with patients coming time after time to see 'Gentle Julie.' The pharmacy has grown to 7 employees, all of whom support the vision and value the connections made with each person who walks in the door.

COMPANY:

Stone Road Pharmacy



**Kristen
Thompson**

Kristen Thompson is a Registered Physiotherapist and Clinic Owner of Grand Core Physiotherapy. Since the clinic's inception in 2021, in the height of a pandemic, it has grown to include a team offering both physiotherapy and massage therapy services.

Kristen graduated from McMaster University with a Masters of Science in Physiotherapy; and from Brock University with a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology (Honours). She has been working in Niagara Falls and within general orthopaedics since 2013, and has since pursued continuing education in concussion and vestibular rehabilitation. Her future plans include additional training in lymphatics and considerations for the hypermobile population.

COMPANY:

Grand Core Physiotherapy



**Rachel
Tkachuk**

Rachel Tkachuk has been working in public libraries since 2003 and is passionate about innovating library service delivery. In 2023, she launched Community Connect, a program integrating local community support group services with the library. Through this initiative, the Port Colborne Public Library has been able to collaborate with over 30 groups and offer an additional 150 library programs. Under her leadership, Rachel's team won the Minister's Award for Innovation for their 2024, "Touch-a-Truck Book" submission. Presented by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, this Ontario Public Library Service Award recognizes new approaches that demonstrate a positive community impact and provide lasting value to public libraries.

COMPANY:

Port Colborne Public Library



**Adrian
Tobey**

Adrian Tobey is the founder of Groundhogg, a WordPress-based CRM and marketing automation platform. A developer and entrepreneur, his team builds open-source tools to help small and medium-sized businesses simplify and own their marketing in 60+ countries globally.

COMPANY:

Groundhogg Inc.



**Lindsay
Tompkins**

Lindsay Tompkins founded Strut Niagara in 2019 to create an inclusive, empowering space for adult dancers of all levels to explore Heels Dance. In just six years, it has become one of the region's most celebrated performance companies, welcoming over 150 dancers each session and performing for audiences of over 500. Known for its vibrant energy, professional productions, and strong sense of community, Strut Niagara blends confidence-building, artistry, and self-expression. Beyond helping dancers embrace their inner strength, Lindsay supports local initiatives and contributes to the Niagara arts scene. With over 30 years of experience as a dancer, choreographer, and instructor, she continues to make Strut Niagara a beacon for creativity and empowerment in the region.

COMPANY:

Strut Niagara



**Daniel Salvatore
Antonio Turner**

Daniel Salvatore Antonio Turner, a lifelong Niagara resident, is the Manager of Strategic Growth Services at Niagara Region. He leads Emerging Sector Development and administers the Employment Incentive Programs, driving regional prosperity. Daniel earned his Master's of Business Economics from Wilfrid Laurier University, fueling his passion for economics and politics. His innovative leadership and commitment to community growth strengthen Niagara's economic landscape. Dedicated to fostering vitality, Daniel continues to shape the future of his home region through strategic initiatives and public service, blending expertise with a deep-rooted connection to Niagara's vibrant community and opportunities.

COMPANY:

Niagara Region Economic Development



**Matt
Wasilewicz**

Lifetime resident of Niagara. Started first business, DMZ Paintball at age 22 (re-opened it after it closed down with previous owners). Two years later started second business, Canadian Airsoft Imports (CAI). CAI is now one of the largest wholesalers in the industry, supplying 150+ retail stores Canada wide. DMZ Paintball has been providing family friendly fun in the region for 30+ years. Matt has always been driven to succeed and do whatever it takes to get to the next level.

COMPANY:

Canadian Airsoft Imports / DMZ Paintball



**Scott
White**

Scott White, Chef and Owner of oddBird and oddBar, hails from Niagara Falls and is a graduate of the Niagara College Culinary Program. His early career includes time at acclaimed establishments such as Martin Picard's Sugar Shack, Toqué, and AG at the Sterling Inn. While working at Tide and Vine in Niagara Falls, he met his future business partner, Justin Duc. In 2017, the duo opened oddBird, a beloved local spot that earned national recognition, ranking #85 on Canada's Best Restaurants list. With a passion for bold, seasonal cuisine, Scott continues to make a mark on Canada's culinary scene.

COMPANY:

oddBird. / oddBar.



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