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40

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Hamilton

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BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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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 1200 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.

40 Under Forty Program
(Niagara and Hamilton)



Made in Niagara
Magazine



AI Chat Portal
Solution



BL Monthly Digital
Publication



All in the Family
Magazine



11th Hamilton 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards



2024 RECIPIENTS



Jason Acton
Parsons Precast Inc.

Afshan Ahmad
NeuraVue and Deloitte

Mike Anderson
Inter Alia Law

Joseph Apps
Joe Apps
Technology Support

Joseph Battaglia
Flourish Affordable
Housing Communities

Ryan Botelho
Tripemco Insurance Group

Melissa Carrington
Melissa Carrington Real Estate
with KW complete

Brandon Carroll
Raw Roots Inc.

Cody Chambers
Foot Traffic North America

Robert Coruzzi
Meridian Credit Union

Suzy Costa
City of Hamilton/
Tomala The Portuguese Pit Stop

Jack T. Doan
Mercedes-Benz Burlington

Tone Frisina
BBB Architects

Patrick Gaughan
Mercedes-Benz Burlington

Natasha Goreil
TD Canada

Kartik Gupta
Panaya Consulting

Jen Hughes
Gowling WLG

Benish Ikram
Bank of Montreal

Mark Irish
Ross & McBride LLP

Chelsea Ladd
radius & The Soulful Co.

Alyssa Lancia
Darling Donuts
& Werk Nights

Miguel Lima
Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd

John Anthony Losani
Losani Homes

Andrew Mantecon
FirstOntario
Credit Union

Michelle Montour
Feste.co

Tyler Ouwendyk
Momentum Fitness

Alexandria Palazzo
Scarfone Hawkins LLP

Rudy E. Peressini
RRUPER Construction Ltd.

Eric Persi
Corbell Private Capital

Alexandra Petermann
Ross & McBride LLP

Kate Rigby Pipan
Gather Floral & Events

Anthony Pizzuti
MNP LLP

Cassandra Rattana
Proactively Social

Marika Renieris
SOMA Wellness Studio

Jessica Spadafora
Jessica Spadafora RDH
(formerly NuEra)

Josh Taylor
Defining Movement Dance

Derek Taylor
Grapl Inc.

Emily Thompson
Hamilton Cardinals
Baseball Club

Sarah Elkami Trdina
Always Connected

Giuseppe Valente
McMaster University and
St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE RECIPIENTS

Congratulations Message from Business Link

Each 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Award is presented to an individual under the age of 40 who consistently demonstrates excellence in business and actively contributes to their respective communities. The selection criteria include personal growth, business accomplishments, community involvement, and more. The annual selection process is conducted by a distinguished judge committee consisting of past 40u40 awardees known for their integrity.

On behalf of Business Link Media Group, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 40 business professionals honoured tonight. These awards are a token of appreciation for the obstacles you have conquered and the progress you make daily in enriching the Hamilton community. We express our sincere gratitude to all those who took the time to nominate these exceptional individuals. Your efforts have ensured that these remarkable achievers receive the recognition they truly deserve.

Marilyn Tian MBA
President & CEO, Business Link Media Group



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

GROUP PHOTO

9:30 PM

Congratulations from Marilyn Tian, Chair of the
Hamilton 40 Under 40 Committee, Co-chair Charlie Agro,
and all our esteemed judges.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

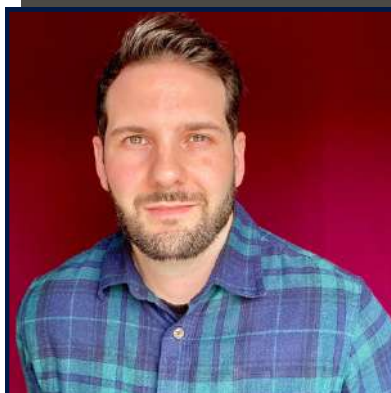


Ashley Maria Borzellino (2023 Alumna)

Ashley Borzellino, 26, Mohawk College graduate with an Advanced Diploma in Civil Engineering Technology - Certified Engineering Technologist. Development Inspector/Operator with the City of Brantford. She is the winner of Miss Canada 2023; Miss Canada has been established since 1946 and is Canada's longest running national pageant, with a focus on personality and advocacy. As Miss Canada she aims to represent Women in STEM and Women in Construction by attending public speaking events and sharing her story. Ashley also volunteered with Royal Canadian Air Cadets for six years, graduating as a Flight Sergeant. She held the positions of Flight Commander and Drum Major. From Top 40 Under 40 alumna to MC, Ashley is delighted to celebrate this night with you.

Vince Genuardi (2023 Alumnus)

Vince Genuardi, 39, a proud Hamiltonian with a strong background in Business and a leader in the Senior Living industry. Vince is also deeply connected to his community. Vince volunteers with the City of Hamilton's Senior events, serves on the Good Shepherd Events Committee, and is acting treasurer for the Catholic Parent Council with the Hamilton Catholic Elementary School Board. Vince was recently selected as one of Hamilton's 8 celebrity dancers for the Easter Seals' 2024 Dancing with the Stars event, raising awareness and funds for children with disabilities. Vince is profoundly honored to be the MC for this year's 40 Under Forty event, especially as an alumni from the 2023 class and recognized as the Best in Class recipient.





The Office of
MAYOR ANDREA HORWATH
CITY OF HAMILTON

October 23rd, 2024

On behalf of the City of Hamilton, I am honoured to extend a warm welcome to the attendees of the 11th Annual 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards at the wonderful Carmen's Group.

This esteemed event celebrates the outstanding achievements of young professionals in our community who have made significant contributions to the business landscape of Hamilton.

Tonight, we recognize 40 exceptional individuals who represent the very best of our city. You are not just leaders of tomorrow—you are leaders today, driving innovation, fostering growth, and contributing to the vibrancy and dynamism of our community. Your achievements, dedication, and passion are inspiring, and they remind us of the boundless potential that resides within each of you.

As mayor, I am incredibly proud to see so many young professionals making a significant impact in various industries - whether it be in business, technology, education, healthcare, the arts, or community service. You are shaping the future of our city, and it is our responsibility to support you in every way we can.

I also want to acknowledge the importance of community in nurturing young talent. This event is a testament to the spirit of collaboration and support that exists within our business community. To the Business Link, the sponsors, and partners—thank you for providing a platform to recognize and celebrate these remarkable individuals.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea Horwath".

Andrea Horwath
Mayor





Congratulations!

To all the winners of
Hamilton 40 under 40!



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FILOMENA TASSI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas

I wish to extend my personal congratulations to all award recipients. Your contributions to the growth and development of our city are recognized and appreciated. Many thanks to all organizers, sponsors and volunteers who contributed to making tonight's celebration of excellence possible.

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Congratulations to all the recipients of this year's
40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards



MP Chad Collins

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Jason
Acton

Jason Acton holds a bachelor's degree in economics from McMaster University and an MBA from the DeGroote School of Business. With over 20 years in the construction industry, Jason is passionate about providing home builders and homeowners with quality products and excellent customer care. As General Manager at Parsons Precast Inc., he also leads in product installation, customer service, and sales. Jason has been instrumental in the growth of Parsons Precast, which now employs over 35 full-time staff and supplies concrete products and custom railings to the new home construction industry across southern Ontario. Additionally, he volunteers his time coaching multiple youth sports teams in the Hamilton community.

COMPANY:

Parsons Precast Inc



Afshan
Ahmad

Afshan Ahmad is a visionary leader in artificial intelligence and safety technology. As the founder of NeuraVue Ltd., she developed an AI-driven platform that enhances safety in senior living facilities and educational institutions, impacting lives through real-time emergency detection. With over a decade of experience at Deloitte, Afshan now leads high-impact digital transformation projects in its Consulting practice. A passionate advocate for innovation, she mentors startups and volunteers for charitable causes like the Ride to Conquer Cancer. Afshan's work reflects her commitment to leveraging technology for societal good and driving meaningful change.

COMPANY:

NeuraVue and Deloitte



Mike
Anderson

Mike Anderson is a lawyer for creatives, founders, and do-gooders. His clients include record labels, major music festivals, professional sports leagues, innovative startups, and award-winning national charities. In 2021, Mike created an online platform called Lagom to help creative Hamiltonians run their businesses. By offering innovative legal assistance at affordable rates, Lagom has since grown to support creative entrepreneurs across the country. Mike seeks to drive positive community change by co-hosting the award-winning Lawyer Life Podcast, providing free legal assistance to low-income Ontarians, and granting post-secondary bursaries to students who use innovative solutions to better their communities.

COMPANY:

Inter Alia Law/Lagom



Joseph
Apps

Joseph Apps is a driven entrepreneur and technology expert, dedicated to helping businesses navigate the complexities of the online world. With a background in Computer Systems Technology and Software Development from Mohawk College, he co-founded HD Electronics, a highly successful electronics refurbishment business in Downtown Hamilton. During his time at HD Electronics, Joseph recognized the growing demand for reliable, high-quality tech support services for businesses, which led him to establish Joe Apps Technology Support.

COMPANY:

Joe Apps Technology Support



Joseph
Battaglia

Joseph Battaglia, born and raised in Hamilton, is a project manager with Flourish, working to deliver over 250 affordable multi-family units across the city. In 2014, he earned an MBA from the Schulich School of Business, where he developed a passion for sustainable business and urban development. He co-founded Westpark Homes, a custom home building company focused on exclusive projects in Hamilton's mature neighborhoods.

Joseph served on the Board of Directors for the West End Homebuilders' Association from 2016 to 2020. Outside of work, he enjoys time with his wife and two sons, cycling, playing guitar, listening to vinyl, and learning about astronomy.

COMPANY:

Flourish Affordable Housing Communities



Ryan
Botelho

Ryan Botelho is an Account Executive at Tripemco Insurance Group with over a decade of experience in the industry. He holds a degree in insurance and an R.I.B.O license and is consistently recognized as one of the organization's top-performing sales brokers. Ryan is an active member of the West End Home Builders' Association and a recognized contributor to the business community.

Beyond his professional achievements, he is dedicated to giving back, supporting nonprofit organizations including Toys for Tots, the Winter Coat Drive, and Good Shepherd. Ryan is a devoted husband to his wife, Elisa, and a proud father to their son, Roman.

COMPANY:

Tripemco Insurance Group



Melissa
Carrington

Melissa Carrington is a dedicated mother, realtor, and the founder of Collective Executive Offices, a women-focused co-working space. A top force in real estate, she quickly earned titles such as Rookie of the Year, Women's Influencer on RHAB, and a spot on the ALC.A 40 Under Forty honoree, Melissa specializes in helping clients maximize equity. She also co-founded the Steel City Women's Collective, raising over \$14,000 for community causes in its first year. Known for her community spirit and commitment to empowering women, Melissa inspires others to achieve their dreams and make a lasting impact.

COMPANY:

Melissa Carrington Real Estate
with Keller Williams Complete



Brandon
Carroll

Brandon Carroll, driven by a passion for health and wellness, founded Raw Roots in his parents' basement, where he began crafting nutritious smoothies with organic, plant-based ingredients. His dedication to helping others through wholesome food quickly transformed his small operation into a thriving food truck.

With growing demand and a loyal following, Brandon expanded Raw Roots into a storefront, creating a community hub for those seeking natural, nourishing options. His journey from a basement startup to a successful business reflects his unwavering commitment to promoting healthy living and making nutritious, accessible food available to all.

COMPANY:

Raw Roots

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**Congratulations to our very own
Anthony Pizzuti and his fellow 2024 recipients**



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Cody
Chambers

Cody Chambers is a dedicated Hamilton entrepreneur focused on creating opportunities and supporting local businesses. With over 10 years of sales and consulting experience, he uses unique strategies to engage clients organically while automating operations. As the owner of Foot Traffic North America, Cody offers innovative digital display units for events, restaurants, retail, and brand activation across Canada and the U.S. Through Hamilton Billboard Co., he provides cost-effective advertising solutions with an expanding network of billboards in the greater Hamilton area. Cody's passion drives his efforts to boost local business visibility and success. He dedicates this award to his grandfather.

COMPANY:

Foot Traffic North America



Robert
Coruzzi

Robert Coruzzi is the Associate Vice President of Wealth Distribution at Meridian Credit Union, overseeing asset growth through the advisor channel and QTrade, and guiding wealth distribution strategy. He focuses on providing advisors with the tools and support needed to enhance the member experience. Active in the Hamilton community, Robert has contributed to various boards and events, including Pride In The Park, United Way, and Mount Hamilton Youth Soccer. He is also President of the Santa Croce Di Magliano Italian club and a Hamilton Public Library board member. Robert enjoys spending time with his wife, Beatriz, and their three daughters, Gisella, Gabriella, and Isabella.

COMPANY:

Meridian Credit Union



Suzy
Costa

Suzy Costa, 37, is a seasoned professional with a background in Business and Finance. She has spent 18 years with the City of Hamilton, currently as a Program Training Coordinator in Public Works' Transportation section, with experience across various departments. Suzy is also a successful entrepreneur, having opened her first Hamilton restaurant in 2012 and a second in 2018. She is a dedicated mother to Skyler, 8, and Sarina, 10, and enjoys fashion and travel. Balancing her career, business, and family, Suzy exemplifies commitment and versatility.

COMPANY:

City of Hamilton and
Tomala The Portuguese Pit Stop



Jack T.
Doan

Jack T. Doan has been a dedicated sales representative at Mercedes-Benz Burlington for over a decade (12 years), showcasing the brand's innovation and luxury. Passionate about his work, Jack also co-hosts the Mercedes-Benz Burlington YouTube and Instagram channels, sharing insights into the latest vehicles. His goal is to provide personalized 5-star service, ensuring every client finds the perfect car to match their lifestyle and dreams.

COMPANY:

Mercedes-Benz Burlington



Tone
Frisina

Since joining BBB in 2010, Tone Frisina has achieved tremendous success with many of the firm's largest professional sports and entertainment projects. His unrivaled passion and leadership quickly led him to become the firm's youngest partner. Tone provides revenue-generating strategies and on-site management for clients across Canada and the U.S., with proven expertise in interior design, detail excellence, and project execution.

As a proud Hamiltonian, Tone is dedicated to enhancing his hometown's FirstOntario Centre, aiming to create an unparalleled spectator experience for all demographics.

COMPANY:

BBB Architects



Patrick
Gaughan

Patrick Gaughan has been a dedicated sales representative at Mercedes-Benz Burlington for the past seven years. As an AMG Specialist and one of Canada's few globally certified sales consultants, Patrick is passionate about showcasing the innovation and luxury of Mercedes-Benz.

Beyond the showroom, Patrick hosts the Mercedes-Benz Burlington YouTube channel, sharing expert insights into the latest vehicles and connecting with viewers who share his passion for automotive excellence. Committed to making a positive impact, Patrick actively participates in community events and builds lasting relationships along the way.

COMPANY:

Mercedes-Benz Burlington



Natasha
Goreil

Born and raised in Hamilton, Natasha Goreil is a dedicated financial professional of Italian and Assyrian descent. An alumnus of McMaster University and Mohawk College, she has been with TD Bank since 2011 and became a Mortgage Specialist in 2019. Natasha has received multiple awards for her career achievements and outstanding customer service.

Active in her community, Natasha is a CIBPA Hamilton-Halton member and was recently nominated as Trustee for the Order Sons & Daughters of Italy of Canada, where she continues to support community service and cultural heritage.

COMPANY:

TD Bank



Kartik
Gupta

Kartik Gupta boasts a distinguished international career spanning nearly two decades. In 2021, he founded Panāyā Consulting, a boutique forensic accounting and dispute resolution firm that has quickly expanded across North America, Europe, and Asia. His expertise has earned him prestigious accolades, including the International Business Stevie Award in 2024 and the LexTalk Global Expert Award in 2022, among others.

Beyond his corporate success, Kartik is committed to his community through pro-bono mediation and volunteering for the City of Burlington, reflecting his dedication to justice, fairness, and positive social impact.

COMPANY:

Panāyā Consulting

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Congratulations to Mark Irish,
Alexandra Petermann, and all
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Jen
Hughes

Jen Hughes is a career learning and development professional, specializing in aligning people development with organizational growth and culture. In 2023, she became the first national Head of Learning & Development for Gowling WLG Canada, where she drives the firm's learning strategy as part of the People & Culture leadership team.

Passionate about education and community, Jen also mentors with Girls E-Mentorship, serves as a committee member and event host with the Women's Network, and is a board member with the Hamilton Foundation for Student Success.

COMPANY:

Gowling WLG



Benish
Ikram

Benish Ikram has over 8 years of experience in the financial industry, with numerous certifications in retail banking. In her 2 years as a leader, she has overseen branch operations, managed a team of financial professionals, and ensured that financial targets are met while upholding high client service standards. Her leadership focuses on empowering her team and fostering continuous improvement. Benish is recognized for resolving complex client issues with professionalism and empathy, earning a reputation for turning challenges into opportunities for enhanced customer loyalty.

COMPANY:

Bank of Montreal



Mark
Irish

Mark Irish is a Partner at Ross & McBride, practicing in the Personal Injury Law Group where he works on behalf of injured people to ensure they achieve the best possible result after an accident. Over the past decade, Mark has become a leader within his firm and an active member of Hamilton's legal community. He is the current President of the Hamilton Lawyers' Club and sits on the Fund Advisory Committee for the Hamilton Lawyers' Legacy for Children/The Ray Harris Fund. Mark is a former OBA Council Member and is a current member of the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association.

COMPANY:

Ross & McBride LLP



Chelsea
Ladd

Chelsea Ladd is a dynamic new restaurateur, blending a decade of corporate sales expertise with her passion for hospitality and wellness. With experience at Lululemon, Coca-Cola, Hilton, Beekeeper's Naturals, and as a Certified Holistic Nutritionist, she brings a unique perspective to her ventures. Chelsea fosters a vibrant community through authentic sales, collaborative marketing, and purpose-driven leadership. In her family-owned business, she curates experiences that go beyond transactions, encouraging celebration, conversation, and meaningful connections. Her mission is to inspire a holistic approach to life, where passion and purpose converge for lasting impact.

COMPANY:

radius & The Soulful Co.



Alyssa
Lancia

Alyssa Lancia is the founder of Darling Donuts, established in 2018 to offer delicious mini donuts with gluten-free and vegan options. Recognizing the challenges of entrepreneurship, Alyssa launched WERK Nights in 2022 to create a supportive community for female entrepreneurs. This initiative has since brought together over 300 women across Hamilton, Burlington, and Niagara through more than 15 events. Her efforts earned her the FirstOntario1 Awards in 2022 and the Female Empowerment Award from the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce in 2024. Alyssa's work fosters connection, collaboration, and growth among women in business.

COMPANY:

Darling Donuts



Miguel
Lima

Miguel Lima, a leading real estate agent in Hamilton, is renowned for his expertise and client-focused approach. The son of Portuguese immigrants, he began his career at 18 and quickly rose to become Vice President of CUPIDO Realty by 24. With over two decades of experience, Miguel has been a top performer in the Century 21 Canada system for 12 consecutive years. A dedicated family man, he cherishes time with his wife, Laura, and their three children. Miguel is also a passionate advocate for small businesses and the entrepreneurial spirit in Hamilton, supporting local causes and exploring the city's culinary scene.

COMPANY:

Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd



John-Anthony
Losani

John-Anthony Losani is a third-generation builder and developer who developed a passion for the industry at a young age. After earning his undergraduate degrees from Brock University and an MBA from the University of Barcelona, he joined Losani Homes full-time. John-Anthony has held various positions across different departments, gaining extensive knowledge to become a key contributor not only to his family's company but to the industry as a whole. He joined the West End Home Builders Association's board of directors in 2016 and was later named to the executive leadership team, becoming President in January 2024.

COMPANY:

Losani Homes



Andrew
Mantecon

Andrew Mantecon is the Director and Team Lead of Commercial Services at FirstOntario Credit Union, where he has led the Hamilton/GTA West team since 2019. With a strong background in retail and commercial banking, particularly in real estate finance, Andrew has guided his team in originating and managing an \$800MM+ loan portfolio across various real estate asset classes. Passionate about downtown Hamilton's revitalization, he serves as an Executive Board Member for the Downtown Hamilton BIA. His leadership and dedication have significantly elevated FirstOntario's profile within the Hamilton and Halton business communities.

COMPANY:

FirstOntario Credit Union

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under 40 Business Awards! I am so grateful to be included among so
many other incredible business owners."

♥ Marika

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Charlie Agro, a proud Hamiltonian, is a born leader and passionate about community events and aspiring leaders. He has spent over 20 years in education, currently serving as a Catholic Elementary Principal. Charlie has also founded "A Day in the Life of." program, which recognizes various occupations in Hamilton that make it a great place to live and work. He has volunteered countless hours and raised funds for various charitable causes, holding leadership positions in organizations such as Charity of Hope, Festitalia, Carmen's Group, Vitiligo Fund, and Business Link Media 40 under 40. Charlie is best known for his community-building skills, project management expertise, and event organization abilities. He loves collaborating with others to achieve common goals. His defining moment was meeting his wife Goreti and raising their children, Chiara and Amadeo.



**To connect with Charlie for future projects and events,
please email at agroconsultingservices@gmail.com**

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Michelle
Montour

Michelle Montour, the visionary behind Feste.Co and Feste.Co Kids, is known for her next-level creativity in designing innovative and trend-setting party decor, displays, and experiences. Her work has set new standards in the industry. Together with her husband, she passionately leads and nurtures the highly acclaimed Castelli Cucina and the newly opened Castelli Mercato & Capri Gelateria in Ancaster, renowned for their authentic Italian offerings. Beyond her entrepreneurial success, Michelle's warmth and dedication inspire those around her, making her a true role model in both business and life. Her inspiring leadership and creativity make her a deserving Top 40 Under 40 honoree.

COMPANY:

Feste.Co



Tyler
Ouwendyk

Tyler Ouwendyk is the owner of Momentum Fitness, a 24/7 boutique fitness club dedicated to making fitness fun, non-intimidating, and accessible to all ages and fitness levels. He has helped hundreds of people achieve their goals through a "no nonsense" approach that focuses on individualized, habit-based strategies for long-term success rather than fads or quick fixes. Momentum Fitness has been recognized with Business of the Year and multiple awards for 'Best Fitness Club' and 'Best Personal Training.'

A proud community advocate, Tyler supports the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton and recently climbed 29,029 feet—the equivalent of Mount Everest—to raise over \$29,029 for the organization.

COMPANY:

Momentum Fitness



Alexandria
Palazzo

Alexandria Palazzo graduated from McMaster University with a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science in 2013 and earned her J.D. from the University of Windsor in 2017. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2018. Alexandria began her career articling and practicing civil litigation and family law at a small firm in Hamilton. In 2021, she joined Scarfone Hawkins LLP, where she practices exclusively in family law and leads the Family Law Group on the Thompson Moloci Stanton Litigation Team. Active in the legal and Hamilton communities, Alexandria volunteers with various clubs and committees. She is a member of the Family Law Subcommittee of the Hamilton Law Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Lawyers' Club.

COMPANY:

Scarfone Hawkins LLP



Rudy E.
Peressini

Joining his father in 2004, Rudy Peressini of RRuper Construction specializes in building one-of-a-kind custom homes. Combining years of expertise with a passion for his craft, Rudy takes pride in working closely with clients to bring their vision to life, offering personalized designs and high-quality craftsmanship. RRuper Construction excels in the 'mountain home' aesthetic, capturing the rustic charm and rugged elegance of mountain living. Utilizing sustainable materials and innovative building techniques, RRuper Construction ensures each custom home reflects both beauty and functionality. With trust, tradition, and excellence as its foundation, RRuper Construction has crafted a legacy that is timeless.

COMPANY:

RRuper Construction



Eric
Persi

Eric Persi is a private equity professional and Certified Sommelier, merging his passions for finance and wine. As the Founder and Managing Partner of Corbell Private Capital, he specializes in acquiring businesses from retiring owners. With a decade of experience, Eric and his team unlock the potential of established companies, guiding them through growth phases. His relationship-building skills make Corbell a trusted partner for smooth transitions and sustainable growth. Additionally, Eric founded Bacco Imports Inc., focusing on sourcing premium wines globally. As a minority shareholder, he curates a unique wine portfolio and hosts tastings that blend education and community. Known for his integrity and innovative thinking, Eric shares insights on investment strategies and wine markets through various speaking engagements."

COMPANY:

Corbell Private Capital



Alexandra
Petermann

Alexandra Petermann ("Alex") is a lawyer at Ross and McBride, specializing in Family Law. She provides legal guidance to individuals dealing with family-related issues and relationship matters. Beyond her legal practice, Alex is an active volunteer in the local community, serving on the boards of SportHamilton, the Sons and Daughters of Italy Housing Corporation, and the Catholic Youth Organization. She has also volunteered with the ArcelorMittal Grassroots Soccer program. Outside of work, Alex enjoys playing soccer and spending time with her family and dog.

COMPANY:

Ross and McBride LLP



Kate Rigby
Pipan

Kate Rigby Pipan transitioned from the corporate world to pursue her passion for event florals after having her first child. Recognizing the potential of her side business, she turned it into a full-time venture by opening Gather Florals. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Kate launched her floral shop on James St. N. in 2020. Since then, Gather Florals has been involved in 80-100 events annually. Kate's vision is to create floral art through unique, inspired designs, continually pushing boundaries and turning the impossible into beautiful, tangible creations.

COMPANY:

Gather Floral and Events



Anthony
Pizzuti

Anthony Pizzuti has worked in public accounting for over 10 years. He earned his CPA, CA and LPA designations and currently works as a Senior Manager at MNP LLP, helping small to medium-sized private companies with accounting, tax and business advisory solutions. As a result of Anthony's contributions and commitment to his clients, he is progressing towards his goal to obtain partnership. As an active member in the community, Anthony was awarded the U40 Young Professional Award in 2022 from the West End Home Builders' Association ("WE HBA"). Anthony serves as Chair for the U40 Committee of the WE HBA and as Director for the CIBPA Hamilton-Halton Chapter.

COMPANY:

MNP LLP

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FLORAL AND EVENTS

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Cassandra
Rattana

Cassandra Rattana is a seasoned entrepreneur with over a decade of experience, including the past four years leading her successful social media agency, Proactively Social. Renowned for her expertise in enhancing brands and driving sales through strategic social media, she has become a trusted industry leader. As an instructor at Mohawk College, Cassandra is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of professionals, sharing her insights to support their success. She is also an influential member of the Hamilton Chamber's YEP Executive Team, where she actively supports young entrepreneurs. Passionate about innovation and growth, Cassandra advocates for and drives marketing efforts at Mohawk College's Centre for Entrepreneurship.

COMPANY:

Proactively Social



Marika
Renieris

Marika Renieris is the owner and operator of Soma Wellness Studio. After years of establishing herself as a Registered Massage Therapist in a multi-disciplinary clinic, she decided in 2020 to merge her holistic healthcare background with the evolving beauty industry. Over the years, Marika has enjoyed offering fully customized and unique treatments to her clientele. She developed her own model and method of Facial Experiences, combining various industry-leading technologies to deliver the most effective results. Marika's passion is to provide a tranquil space where clients can relax and leave feeling refreshed and confident in their skin.

COMPANY:

SOMA Wellness Studio



Jessica
Spadafora

Jessica Spadafora began her fruitful career in dentistry after graduating dental hygiene school at only 19 years old in 2017, currently in 2024 Jessica spends her time acting as head hygienist at a prestigious dental office in Ancaster as well as a dental hygiene business in clinic as well as mobile. When Jessica isn't actively practicing in clinic you can find her volunteering her time with mental health and addiction services as pertaining to dental health, donating to local animal shelters or spending time outdoors with her closest family, friends and her dog and cat Mercy and Aloha at their family cottage.

COMPANY:

Jessica Spadafora RDH (formerly NuEra)



Josh
Taylor

Josh Taylor is a dancer, choreographer, storyteller, artist-educator, and the owner of Defining Movement Dance (DMD) studio and arts hub. Since opening in 2009, Josh has built partnerships with organizations, school boards, and charities like Theatre Aquarius, Tourism Hamilton, Telling Tales Festival, Hamilton Fringe, Supercrawl, HWDSB, H.A.R.R.C, and Easter Seals, to increase visibility and access to dance in Hamilton. Through projects like The Uncomfortable Project and events like 73 'Til Infinity, Josh aims to entertain, educate, and inspire. He is the 2020 recipient of the Hamilton Arts Award and the 2015 John C. Holland Award for Arts Excellence.

COMPANY:

Defining Movement Dance



Derek
Taylor

Derek Taylor is the COO and Co-Founder of Grapl Inc., a company revolutionizing the construction industry with bespoke panels for rapid home development, leveraging AI-driven software, innovative production equipment, and advanced robotics. Grapl can cut build times by up to 80%. Before founding Grapl, Derek accumulated over a decade of experience in construction, land development, and asset management. Outside of work, he enjoys reading, exploring new technologies, wandering through the RBG, and cheering on the Ticats. Derek is a McMaster University alumnus (Hons BA & MA) and lives in Hamilton with his family.

COMPANY:

Grapl Inc.



Emily
Thompson

Emily Thompson serves as the In-Game Host for the Hamilton Cardinals Baseball Club in the Intercounty Baseball League. On game days, you'll always find Emily engaging with the crowd and keeping the energy high. She has also been an In-Game Host for the Brampton Honey Badgers in the CEBL, as well as a digital host for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Beyond the sports arena, Emily has worked as a television producer for Entertainment Tonight Canada. Emily is deeply committed to her community and takes great pride in being a positive role model.

COMPANY:

Hamilton Cardinals Baseball Club



Sarah Elkami
Trdina

Sarah Elkami Trdina is a leading expert in behavior analysis and leadership, holding a Master's in Professional Behavior Analysis from Florida Tech. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Registered Behavior Analyst in Ontario, she co-founded and serves as Executive Director of Always Connected Treatment Network, a hub for individuals with disabilities and diverse learning needs. She also co-owns the Always Connected Family Room, an inclusive space for play, learning, and development. With locations across the GHA and GTA, Sarah's leadership has grown the organization to include over 40 professionals. Her impactful journey, which began over a decade ago, focuses on enhancing the lives of children with developmental disabilities.

COMPANY:

Always Connected

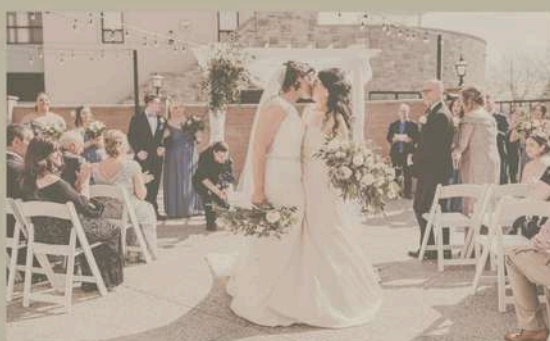


Giuseppe
Valente

Dr. Giuseppe Valente joined St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton in 2019 as an orthopedic surgeon specializing in trauma, foot and ankle, and revision arthroplasty surgery. After 1.5 years, he also took on the role of Associate Professor at McMaster University. Over the past four years, Giuseppe has held several leadership positions at St. Joseph's Hospital, including Head of Orthopedic Trauma Surgery, Head of the Resident Learners Teaching Unit, and Chief of Orthopedic Surgery. He is actively involved in recruiting and teaching learners and implemented an Acute Care Service (ACS) orthopedic strategy that has improved wait times for orthopedic trauma surgery.

COMPANY:

McMaster University and St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton



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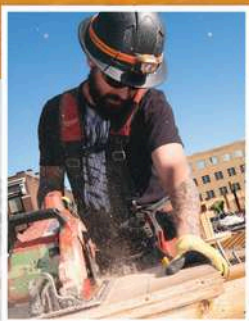
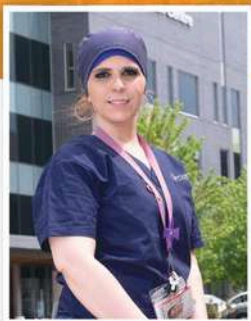
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