

## **BUSINESS BUZZ; NORMAN DEBONO'S NOTEBOOK ABOUT PEOPLE AND COMPANIES IN THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.**

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### **Youths win business award**

Students from two London high schools won top honours in the third annual annual London High School Business Plan Competition.

Cassandra Morton of Lucas secondary school won first prize and \$1,000 for her retail clothing business while Melissa Smith of Beal secondary school took home \$500 and the second place prize for her commemorative photo slide show business.

"The competition was designed for those enterprising students in Grades 9 through 12 looking for a challenging opportunity to test their business sense and showcase youth entrepreneurial spirit," said Steve Pellarin, general manager of the Small Business Centre, which puts on the event.

Morton will also compete for a provincial prize.

The competition is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, as well as Sheffar Potter Muchan, the Rotary Club of London South and Junior Achievement.

### **Whatmore a caring realtor**

One of London's best-known commercial realtors has been named chairperson of a charitable foundation.

Peter Whatmore has been appointed chairperson of the Realtors Care Foundation, the charitable arm of the Ontario Real Estate Association.

"Through financial support to many local, charitable organizations, the foundation assists realtors in reinvesting in the communities in which they work and live," said Vito Campanale, president of the London and St. Thomas Real Estate Board.

In addition, E.L. (Betty) Dore, executive officer of the London and St. Thomas Real Estate board, has been named to the foundation's board.

Also, Joe Pinheiro has been elected to serve as vice-chairperson of the Real Estate Council of Ontario. Pinheiro was president of the board in 1986 and 1992, and received the board's Outstanding Service Award in 2003.

In the past decade, shelter-related charities in the board's jurisdiction of Middlesex and Elgin counties have received more than \$90,000 from the foundation.

Whatmore is senior vice-president of CB Richard Ellis Ltd. in London.

### **Chefs achieve culinary honour**

Seven local chefs have been honoured for achieving the highest standard in the culinary world.

The Canadian Culinary Federation bestowed the coveted designation of Certified Chef Cuisine and the London chapter of the federation held a reception last week honouring the chefs.

London's recipients are: Luke Taylor (Best Western Lamplighter Inn), Keith McMeekin (Highland Country Club), Michael Davis (Elmhurst Inn), Josh Gerosaval (Atlantis Restaurant), Kent Phillips (London Hunt and Country Club), Patrick Herstie (Fanshawe College) and David Van Eldic (London Convention Centre).

In order to qualify for the designation, chefs must have completed seven years work and must be sponsored for the six-month course.

JA offering summer camp

London youth are being invited to a different kind of summer camp.

Junior Achievement of London and District is offering Camp Business Basics, designed to teach the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and business techniques.

The week will consist of creating business plans, touring a local business, learning manufacturing techniques and buying supplies and selling products at Covent Garden Market. The last day of camp is split between giving back to the community by volunteering time at a social agency and taking some time to cool off with the corporate challenge water events in the afternoon.

For information and registration, call 439-4201 ext. 230.

Kingsmill one cool business

Kingsmill's Department Store has become one cool shop.

The downtown landmark shopping centre has won an energy efficiency award from London Hydro, which will brand the store a "cool shop" today.

The **Cool Shops** program helps street-facing small businesses in London reduce energy consumption, save on utility costs and improve air quality. In London, the program is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources Canada and London Hydro.

Fred Kingsmill is expected to receive the award today. This summer, **Cool Shops** Street teams plan on visiting up to 500 small businesses in London to illustrate the benefits of the program and deliver energy efficient product discounts.

Kids' trivia game a winner

Just in time for the cottage, a London board game business has launched a children's trivia game.

Wiggles 3D, creator of the Don't Quote Me series of games, has launched the new Don't Quote Me -- TIME For Kids Edition, which is winning upbeat reviews, and an award, from toy critics.

"We are excited to be working with TIME For Kids and Time Inc., who share our passion for creating exceptional products," says Wiggles 3D president Don Reid, whose office is on Medway Park Court.

"Together we've developed an outstanding new game for kids that the whole family will enjoy."

The website About.com gave the game a five-star rating. Also, Dr. Toy has awarded it the 2005 Best Vacation Children's Products award. Dr. Toy is a child development specialist.

The game, for two to five players ages 10 and older, features questions such as: "Name the author who writes: 'I'm sorry to say that the book you are holding in your hands is extremely unpleasant.' "

The game features a range of quotes and general knowledge questions exploring five categories: Human Hands, What On Earth, Action, Faces and Places, Books/Arts/Music.

By the way, if you guessed Lemony Snicket for the question, you're on the board.

Illustration:

- 2 photos
- 1. photo of PETER WHATMORE
- 2. photo of FRED KINGSMILL