



News Release

NR 2018-01

June 20, 2018

INNOVATION GUELPH AND BUSINESS CENTRE GUELPH-WELLINGTON ANNOUNCE 2018 RHYZE AWARD RECIPIENTS

GUELPH, Ont. – Innovation Guelph, in partnership with the Business Centre Guelph-Wellington, hosted the fourth annual Rhyze Awards on June 14 for local women-owned businesses, awarding a total of \$22,000 in prizes. Prizes were awarded after the ten female entrepreneurs pitched their businesses to a panel of industry experts.

2018 Rhyze Award recipients are:

Julia Kitras, No Guff Automotive, Guelph's first night garage - \$10,000

Chef Pam Fanjoy, Fan/Joy, the friendly chef - \$5,000

Caitlin Hall, Reroot Farm, certified organic produce, pastured meats, raw honey - \$4,000

Annie Guimond, Green Bicycle Farm, non-mechanized micro farm - \$3,000

"We are proud to get behind The Rhyze Awards and help these female entrepreneurs take the next step in their businesses," said Anne Toner Fung, Executive Director of Innovation Guelph. "We heard from some very innovative businesses tonight, companies that, I believe, are poised to be the success stories of tomorrow."

In addition to the cash prizes, each award recipient was given a matching Line of Credit from our title sponsor, Meridian Credit Union and a video business profile by Katie Green of Local Ladies. All 10 finalists also received a one-year membership to Company of Women, courtesy of the organization's founder, Anne Day.

The following presenters/companies participated at The Rhyze Awards pitch event:

Mitra Amiri-Jami, Mirco-Omega Pro, a novel source of fish oil

Dale McRae and Rosemary Smith, Wrist Walk, a hands-free device for dogs and dog walkers

Chef Pam Fanjoy, Fan/Joy, the friendly chef

Karla Andrews, Andrews In- Home Physiotherapy

Donna Grambow, Schmecken BBQ, barbecue and catering

Caitlin Hall, Reroot Farm, certified organic produce, pastured meats, raw honey

Sheri Coplestone, Confident Careplanners Inc., experts in the key focus areas for care planning

Annie Guimond, Green Bicycle Farm, non-mechanized micro farm

Joleen Constantis, Volumes of Space, professional design services

Julia Kitras, No Guff Automotive, Guelph's first night garage

"I've personally been involved with The Rhyze Awards since we started, four years ago, and I continue to be impressed by the passion and creativity of all of the nominees," said Kristel Manes, Executive

InnovationGuelph.ca • 519-265-4495 • 111 Farquhar Street - 3rd Floor, Guelph, ON, N1H 3N4





Director of the Business Centre Guelph-Wellington. “The Rhyze Award is a wonderful way to help grow women-owned businesses in this area and we’re thrilled to be part of a night like this.”

The awards were judged by Jim Gardiner, Regional Vice President, Commercial Services, Meridian Credit Union; Jennifer Fletcher, Manager, Administration, Applied Research and Entrepreneurship, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning; and Crystal Ellis, Senior Economic Development Officer, County of Wellington.

The Rhyze Award

The Rhyze Award, nurtured by Innovation Guelph, is now delivered in partnership with the Business Centre Guelph-Wellington. The award is given annually to help women entrepreneurs fund their businesses and to provide the mentoring and support they need to build and grow their businesses long term.

<http://innovationguelph.ca/rhyze-award/>

Innovation Guelph

Serving Guelph, Wellington County and Southwestern Ontario, Innovation Guelph helps ideas and companies start, grow and thrive for a more prosperous and sustainable future. Their novel business acceleration programs are designed to support high-potential start-ups and small to medium-sized enterprises that are ready to scale.

<http://innovationguelph.ca/>

The Business Centre Guelph-Wellington

The Business Centre of Guelph Wellington has been adding to the wealth and diversity of the Guelph and Wellington County business community for 20 years, offering the fundamental information and training needed to successfully launch and grow small businesses.

<http://www.guelphbusiness.com/>

-30-

For more information please contact:

Rick Hastings
Senior Communications Officer
Innovation Guelph
(519) 265-4495 Ext 102

