

**Media Release**

**For immediate release**

**Wednesday, Nov 13, 2024**

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The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville - Small Business is excited to launch **Starter Company Plus 2024**. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> cohort in 10 years, and will be supporting 11 entrepreneurs by providing them a solid foundation to grow their business upon.

Local companies, from the Municipality of North Grenville to the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands, are currently training on the fundamentals of business, creating a business plan and understanding cash flows. After the initial training they will have the opportunity to pitch to a local panel of business volunteers for a grant of up to \$5,000. which can be applied to various investments in their business. Successful recipients of the grant will go on to receive coaching and mentorship.

2024 Starter Company Plus participants are -

**Sean Crozier, Unique Auto Accents, City of Brockville**, offers the sale and installation of roof and bike racks, tonneau covers and cargo boxes. The business plans to expand into installation of trailer hitches, 5th wheel and Gooseneck hitches once a hoist is installed. The business is currently situated off of California Avenue. Visit the website at <https://uniqueautoaccents.ca/> and Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/uniqueautoaccents/>

**David Goodknecht, DG Landscaping, City of Brockville**, provides customized, personal lawn care services in Brockville and the surrounding area. He has a warm, jovial personality that emphasizes his commitment to a personal touch. You can find him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/landscapewithdave/>

**Heather McLean, The Crafty Potter, City of Brockville**, is a pottery studio offering open studio time for experienced potters to come work independently in a community setting, as well as offering courses and workshops for beginners. The atmosphere is warm and creative. You can check out the class schedule at <https://www.thecraftypotter.ca/> and follow her on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/thecraftypotterbrockville/>

**Paige Morgan, Esthetics by Paige, City of Brockville,** provides esthetics services to clients from her space at the Wedgewood in Brockville. Her services include relaxation massages, pedicures and manicures. Her goals are to make her clients feel at ease and pampered. To book an appointment <https://esthetics-by-paige-101110.square.site/> and on Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/esthetics\\_bypaige/](https://www.instagram.com/esthetics_bypaige/)

**Judy Oomen, Oomen's Fishing Tackle, Town of Prescott,** sells top quality brand name fishing tackle along with hunting products that are not offered at other local stores. Judy Oomen, who has over 30 years of recreational fishing experience, along with 12 years of competitive fishing, has the knowledge and expertise to know what kind of fishing products both the experienced and novice fishing enthusiast will need to enjoy their fishing experience. She is very passionate about the sport. Learn more at <https://oomensfishingtackle.ca/> and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/oomensfishingtackle](http://www.facebook.com/oomensfishingtackle)

**Jeff Robinson, Robinson Psychotherapy, Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley,** helps men, youth, and their families achieve emotional wellness and improve life quality through effective and compassionate mental health treatment. Robinson Psychotherapy offers specialized, evidence-based psychotherapy and psychometric assessments. Services include traditional in-office therapy, virtual sessions, psychometric testing (e.g., ADHD, forensic risk), and unique "Walk and Talk" sessions that appeal to clients who may find conventional settings intimidating. Jeff has over 15 years of experience in treating some of the most complex cases in Ontario. You can find out more at <https://robinsonpsychotherapy.ca/>

**Robert Salm, Setanta Solutions, Municipality of North Grenville,** specializes in IT support, procurement, training, and security services for the small-medium business market. The company is distinguished by its commitment to "old fashioned values" such as availability, approachability, and care. The company offers a comprehensive range of services, including onsite and remote training, procurement installation, support, security, and vCITO services. They also bundle services to streamline billing and enhance service delivery. To inquire about services email Robert at [rsalm@setanta.ca](mailto:rsalm@setanta.ca) and you can follow Setanta at <https://www.facebook.com/SetantaInc>

**Mathew Twigg, 1000 Islands Cyclery, City of Brockville,** is a vibrant business dedicated to enhancing the cycling experience in the 1000 Islands Region. Founded and owned by Mat Twigg, an avid cyclist and certified spin instructor, the company offers a unique blend of services that include a spin studio, mobile bicycle maintenance & repairs, and rental bikes. The business

aims to provide accessible and high-quality cycling solutions for both fitness enthusiasts to casual riders. You can reach Mat at <https://www.1000islandscyclery.ca/> or by email [info@1000islandscyclery.com](mailto:info@1000islandscyclery.com)

**Chantal-Christine Valkenborg, CC Weddings, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Lansdowne**, plans and coordinates bespoke weddings and events in and around Leeds Grenville, Kingston, Ottawa, and Prince Edward County. Chantal is certified by the Wedding Planners Institute of Canada and the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK) and has over 15 years of event planning experience. The services currently being offered are engagements, pop-up weddings, and micro-weddings to wedding day coordination, partial, and full planning support. Visit her at <https://www.ccwe.ca/> or on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/ccweddingsevents>

[Starter Company Plus](#) is funded by the Province of Ontario along with United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and the City of Brockville. Throughout the year, Counties Small Business staff provide free consultations, tools, resources, events, and workshops to support small businesses in the region.

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