

BUSINESS



BARRIE ERSKINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
GRAND OPENING: Above, celebrating the recent grand opening of The Home Depot are (from left) Conservation Halton Foundation chair Don Ford, store manager Bonnie Boyes, Mayor Gord Krantz and The Home Depot Canada regional vice-president of operations Roger Plamondon. At left, The Home Depot presents a cheque for \$2,500 to Conservation Halton.

Local entrepreneurs offered help to do business plans

Calling all entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The Halton Region Business Development Centre will soon offer another round of its Up and Running BizLaunch program, which gives owners of small and medium-sized businesses the training to help them develop comprehensive business plans.

Beginning March 7, the program will run for 10 evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville.

"The Up and Running BizLaunch program was first offered in Halton in March 2005, and it has proven to be one of our most popular programs," said Halton Director of Business Development John Ayling.

"It's a course geared toward entrepreneurs at all levels of embarking on a business, from those who are just at the idea stage to those who have been operating a business for up to five years."

The program will cover topics such as creating a profitable business model, developing a market strategy, finding start-up money, preparing financial statements and avoiding the most common start-up mistakes.

As part of the \$495 enrollment fee, which can be paid in three installments, participants will receive intensive in-class training, a 200-page Small BizManual, the BizTools CD containing more than 50 business templates and unlimited business consultations. Call (905) 825-6000 or visit www.halton.ca.

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SMOKING

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