

# Bishop Reding student among Pythons' Pit cash prize winners

Cory Hudson, a Wilfrid Laurier University biology student and former Oakville resident, was the big winner at the third annual Pythons' Pit competition held last week at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre.

Finalists in the Open and High School categories had the opportunity to pitch their business concepts and product ideas in front of a live audience and the Pythons, a panel of business moguls from the community.

Hudson, one of five finalists in the Open category, took home a cheque for \$20,000 for his handmade and engineered Bluetooth speakers with unique lighting features. Hudson believes his Ambient Audio Canada initiative "will help people create a deeper connection with their music", and the Pythons agreed.

First place in the High School category went to a group of Grade 12 students from Burlington's Nelson High School. David Vandenberg, Ben Mallory, Jassim Moslim and Megan Long impressed the Pythons with Coffee Run, an app that facilitates a more organized and systematic way to ease the ordering experience.



Bishop Reding Secondary School students Jennifer Palfi (left) and Ann Mathulla were among the top-six High School finalists for the Halton Region Pythons' Pit. *Supplied photo*

The group shared \$2,500 in prize money. Other cash prizes in the six-finalist high school category went to Jennifer Palfi, a Grade 11 student at Bishop Reding Secondary School

in Milton for PeraCards, an app for sending handwritten cards from a mobile device, and Kush Yegnaswami, a Grade 12 student at Garth Webb Secondary School in Oakville whose Aquaponics food production invention captured the Pythons' imagination.

Fellow Bishop Reding student Ann Mathulla also reached the top six for her gift-giving app, Gift Smart.

The event was recorded live by TVCogeco and will be shown in the fall as a multi-part mini-series.

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