

Young entrepreneurs receive support from Region, Province

By Julia Le

METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Thirteen young entrepreneurs in Halton are learning how to run their own business.

They're participants in the Summer Company program, a provincial entrepreneurship initiative co-ordinated locally through Halton Region's Small Business Centre.

The annual program has been running successfully since 2001, offering students aged 15-29 the opportunity to start and run their own business with support and hands-on business training and mentoring.

The Halton Region Small Business Centre works with applicants early in each year to develop their business plan and cash flow statements so they can be successfully accepted by the Province of Ontario to receive up to \$1,500 in the spring to help with start-up costs and up to \$1,500 in the fall when they've completed their Summer Company experience.

Oakville resident Emily Hollick was



Emily Hollick, 16, started her own business called Golden Years Training & Care. She's helping older adults learn how to use social media, as well as their electronic devices like tablets. *Justin Greaves/Canadian Champion*

one of the successful young entrepreneurs to receive seed funding for her new business, Golden Years

Training & Care.

She said the support, business training and mentorship has been

invaluable for her in starting up her own company, which specializes in training older adults how to use

social media and electronic devices like tablets.

The panel of mentors from the local business community have been a great sounding board for her ideas, while the Halton Region Small Business Centre staff has been helpful in getting her on her feet, said the 16-year-old Holy Trinity Secondary School student.

The panel includes Tom Cochrane, a retired businessman with Oakville Business Advisory Group; Kathleen Dills, general manager of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce; Maralyn Ellis, an entrepreneur from FuturesFound; Kelsey Leedale, a YMCA youth outreach worker; Phil Von Massow, owner of CPL Group; Jayme Moorcroft, senior account manager of Business and Personal at RBC; Fatima Pereira, accounting supervisor at BDO; and, Pamela Pereira, senior account manager of Business and Personal at RBC.

Hollick said although she has only had one client so far, she's actively advertising at seniors' homes, community centres and other local spots to spread the word of her

End of summer. Time to clean house.

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