

# Media Release

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## These Finalists are “Fit for the Pit!”

*The Pythons’ Pit is an initiative of the Rotary Clubs of Halton. This is the second year and the finalists are scheduled to appear on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Ron Joyce Centre in Burlington. They will meet the Pythons and with any luck their pitch to the Pythons just might make them a winner!*

The Pythons’ Pit provides an avenue for creative, entrepreneurial residents and students of Halton Region to pitch their business concepts and product ideas in front of a live audience and a panel of real business moguls from the community. Open Category applicants can win up to \$125,000 in start-up capital and a package of in-kind professional services to help launch the business. High School applicants can win cash prizes of up to \$2,500 or a bursary of up to \$5,000!

MNP Accounting hosted a valuation and corporate finance session for the 5 finalists in the open category, presenting sponsor RBC was also in attendance to help this group of entrepreneurs make sure that they are “Fit for the Pit.”

**This year’s returning Pythons are Randy Pilon, John Romano, George Minakakis and Don Delicandro. The new Python is David Woolford.**

### Meet the 5 finalists in the “open category”

**GymChum** is the brainchild of **Aydin Betez**, it is a motivational health and fitness app that aims to help educate and motivate users to live a healthy and active lifestyle by connecting them with others with the same goal.

**Country Basics** has been a dream for **Ted & Lisa West** and it may become a reality when they “Pitch the Pythons”. They plan to open a series of depots for their proprietary green bulk cleaning supplies that will be sold in retail outlets similar to “bulk stores.” Patrons will refill and reuse all of the containers.

**V.M. Enterprises** is **Vincent Marchese’s** company and he has patented a push rake/shovel called the “Shake”. It is the fastest, easiest and pain free way to rake lawns of leaves, twigs, fallen fruit/nuts and other debris.

**Tetra Biologicals Inc.** is a dynamic start up company owned by **Bruce Robinson & Thurkathipana Navaneethan**. They have formulated a new product that effectively and organically controls cockroach infestations.

**Ranggo** according to founders **Noha Abdelaziz & Peter Basl**, is an innovative and simple approach to retaining and attracting new customers. This program is the only social marketing platform that can serve the restaurant industry based on immediate feedback on menu items.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ALTERNATE –

**TheraDough** is an exciting new product that utilizes the principles of aromatherapy, play therapy and behavioural therapy. According to **Candice Hamilton-Miller & Melanie Wilson** the product can reduce symptoms of stress, anxiety, pain and insomnia.

## **Meet the High School entrepreneurs!**

**NORSAF Technologies** with **Jack Greenberg** from Garth Webb Secondary School

*NORSAF Technologies (North Atlantic Safety and Defence Securities)*

Jack is a Grade 9 student who has created an innovative business that works to enhance gun security through tracking and electronic safety measures.

**Smart Tasks** with **Jennifer Palfi** from Bishop Reding High School

Smart Tasks is an online database that allows users to outsource small tasks or jobs. Simply post the job and what you need done, along with the price you will pay. Moments later any approved user can respond to the task, complete it for you and get paid.

**Cyclo-Charger** with **Mark Suan** from Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School

"Cyclo-charger" is a portable, affordable cell phone charger. It harnesses and converts the kinetic energy produced from cycling into electrical energy that can charge a cell phone. Cell phones in developing countries are vital tools for change and progress. A major problem is access to cheap and reliable electricity for recharging. Cyclo-Charger is the answer.

**Smart Tap** with **Jessy Kang** from Abbey Park Secondary School

Smart Tap is a mobile application that allows you to store and organize receipts from retailers.

**Fashion on Wheels** with **Nita Stranaghan & Katie Henderson** from Georgetown District High School

Fashion on Wheels is an idea that has the potential to be the next Mary Kay. The idea could take the online shopping world to a new level. This is a mobile and miniature store that comes to the consumer through a dispatcher service carrying all the hottest brands for youth.

*See these unique ideas and products come to life! Join the Pythons and meet both the High School and Open category finalists on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Ron Joyce Centre in Burlington, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*All the finalists have been diligent, working hard with their mentors and advisors to prove that they are "Fit for the Pit"*

Tickets are only \$10.00. Go to [www.PythonsPit.ca](http://www.PythonsPit.ca) to order. For additional information contact Fareen Samji at [info@PythonsPit.ca](mailto:info@PythonsPit.ca)