

20
25

Year in Review

**Economic
Development**

THINKING FORWARD



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



In 2025, Richmond Hill's Economic Development team continued to deliver programs and resources that helped local businesses launch, grow and compete globally. A key highlight was the international trade mission to Hannover Messe, the world's largest industrial trade fair, where Richmond Hill showcased its innovation and strengthened global partnerships.

ANTHONY IERULLO,
Director of Richmond Hill Centre
and Economic Development

Locally, we supported businesses through new tools and information, including updates to our Tariff webpage to help companies navigate international trade. Our Starter Company Plus program funded 13 entrepreneurs, creating new businesses and jobs, while Summer Company continued to achieve high cumulative revenues, reflecting the strength of our youth entrepreneurship initiatives.

We also continued to build bridges and provide educational opportunities through conferences, webinars and networking events, ensuring local businesses had access to the knowledge and connections needed to thrive in a changing economy.

Through these efforts, Richmond Hill reinforced its position as a hub for innovation, investment and sustainable economic growth.



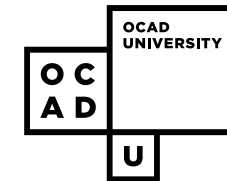
PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED



Canada
Partner Country
Pays Partenaire 2025



HILLCREST



These partnerships and events helped forge new pathways for us in 2025 to propel our programs and services forward in line with the changing business needs both locally and regionally, establishing best practices for our business community to remain resilient and innovative.

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

- SBEC client and Starter Company Plus grant recipient **Flip Toys** exhibits at the CanGift Trade Show.
- SBEC hosts webinars: *Import and Export: A Toolkit About Logistics and Customs Clearance and Building Your Brand & Winning Clients on LinkedIn*.
- **McDonald's** celebrates the grand opening of its new location in Richmond Hill.
- **Richmond Hill Board of Trade Power Hour:** Mayor engages with leaders from all levels of government to discuss affordability, development and sustainability.
- Richmond Hill-based **Wise Device** featured in *Made in Canada*.



FEBRUARY

- **Launched Tariff Response Resources** page to support businesses affected by tariffs.
- City introduces **55+ Mentoring Program**, connecting experienced professionals with young entrepreneurs.
- **CLIC celebrates 2024 cohort graduation** with partners OCAD U and Centennial College.
- **Maple Advanced Robotics (MARI)** wins 1st place at Hannover Messe Robotics Competition, earning global recognition.
- **Ruth Plumb Photography** featured in *New York Weekly Magazine*.
- **SBEC** hosts Strike Up Canada Live Viewing Party, empowering women-led businesses.

- SBEC launches **2025 Business Outlook Survey** to anticipate tariff support needs.
- SBEC supports **Richmond Hill Tech Community Meetup #10**, featuring AI insights.
- SBEC engages high school students at **Y2 Entrepreneur Conference** to promote Summer Company.
- Richmond Hill signs **MOU with York University** to advance entrepreneurship and education partnerships.
- Promoted Richmond Hill based **Fresenius Kabi** recruitment efforts via social media.



HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

- SBEC hosts **International Women's Day Celebration Week**, culminating in a marketplace event with Richmond Hill BIA.
- SBEC delivers webinar: *Building a Lean, High-Impact Team for Your Business*.
- SBEC celebrates **Starter Company Plus 2024 graduates**.
- 2024 Summer Company grant recipient **Owen Knowles** wins William F. Bell Young Entrepreneur Award.
- Richmond Hill Economic Development team travels to Germany for **Trade Mission**, ahead of York Region delegation to Hannover Messe.



APRIL

- Richmond Hill company **Agentnoon** joins Google for Startups Accelerator.
- Coordinated local food startups for York Region's **Danish Food Market Masterclass**.
- **MARI** showcases award-winning technology and joins Hannover Messe panel.
- SBEC client **Heritage Academy of Language and Culture** celebrates grand opening.
- **LumeSmart Earth Day** marks 10-year anniversary, empowering cleantech innovators.
- SBEC hosts **webinars: U.S. Tariffs: Implications for Your Business and T1 Business Tax Literacy**.
- Intake opens for **Summer Company**, offering students training, mentoring and \$3,000 grants.
- SBEC client **TechBlazers** wins Excellence Award at U.S. Open Robotics Tournament, the "Olympics of robotics."
- SBEC showcased at **YRDSB Entrepreneurship Showcase**, engaging 230+ students from 18 schools.



HIGHLIGHTS

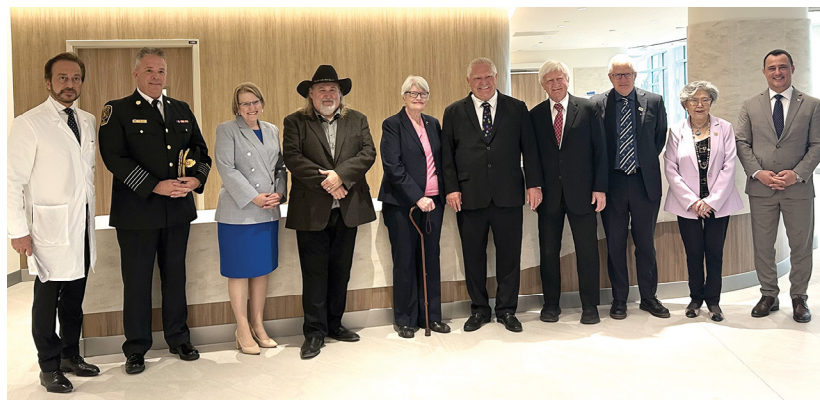
MAY

- SBEC client **Studio360 Media** celebrates grand opening.
- SBEC presents at **Durham York Welcome Centre** to support newcomer entrepreneurs.
- SBEC exhibits at Deputy Mayor Chan's **Spring Fair**.
- Richmond Hill business **SEIU Healthcare** receives \$2M provincial funding for Workersfirst platform.
- **FlixBus** launches service in Richmond Hill.
- SBEC supports **Tech Community Meetup #11 – 2nd Anniversary Edition**.
- SBEC runs webinar: *Introduction to Financial Forecasting*.
- SBEC client **Goodon You** joins Spring Disability Vendor Market for #AccessAbility Week.
- Promoted **York Region Employment Survey** to local businesses.



JUNE

- SBEC clients **Café Kenkaku** and **Richmond Hill Jiu-Jitsu** celebrate grand openings.
- The **CLIC Human Centred Design** program's 5th cohort intake opens.
- SBEC client **Storybee** establishes social impact scholarship at OCAD University.
- Richmond Hill business **Nerpy's** featured in Ontario Local Food Report.
- Summer Company business **Reviva Mart** featured in *Richmond Hill Liberal*.
- SBEC runs webinars: *Kickstarter and Social Media Marketing 101*.
- Province announces \$14M funding for **Schroeder Ambulatory Centre** to expand diagnostic services.
- Intake opens for **Starter Company Plus** program.
- Richmond Hill-based **Staples Canada** launches electronics trade-in program.
- Hosted **Toronto Global** for economic development discussions.



HIGHLIGHTS

JULY

- **Studio360 Media** launches monthly networking group *The 360 Social Exchange*.
- Richmond Hill business **Visual Defence** sees CityRover technology adopted in Brazil.
- **Mazda Canada** names Amy Fleming as its first female CEO.
- SBEC clients **CAMA College** and **Kinton Ramen** celebrate grand openings.
- Summer Company students attend training and celebration ceremony and **showcase at Ribfest**.



AUGUST

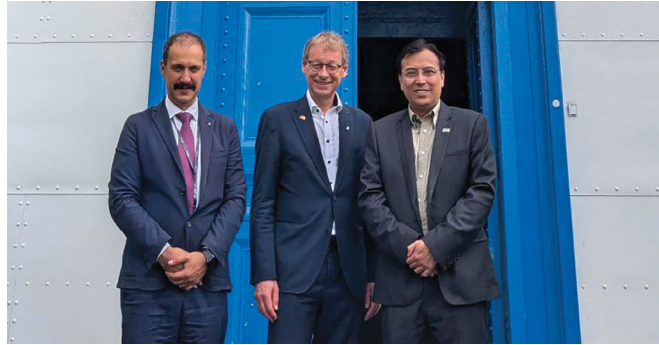
- SBEC partners with Recreation and Culture to deliver **Adults 55+ Mentoring Program**.
- SBEC runs webinars: *Branding Magic and Innovating Your Business Model*.
- Summer Company students **showcase at Hillcrest Mall**.
- Richmond Hill business **Canada Masq** named finalist in Ontario Made Awards.
- Attended **AMO 2025 Delegation** to strengthen SBEC support.



HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

- Supported **Apotex** job fair promotion.
- City featured in **National Post** advertorial.
- **Portraits of Giving** honours local leaders and celebrates their charitable actions
- Hosted private tour for **Hamburg University of Technology** and **UN University** delegates of Richmond Hill David Dunlop Observatory.
- **APR Beauty** opens Head Office/R&D and manufacturing base in Richmond Hill.



OCTOBER

- Hosted **Consul General of Japan** to discuss business connections.
- SBEC runs **6th Annual Entrepreneurship Finance Conference**.
- SBEC client **Orchid Medical Centre** celebrates grand opening.
- SBEC supports **Richmond Hill Public Library Small Business Market**.
- SBEC runs webinar: *Congratulations, You've Hired Employees—Now What?*
- SBEC client **TechBlazers VEX teams** honoured at City Hall by Mayor David West.
- **Schroeder Ambulatory Centre** opens for limited services.
- Richmond Hill attends **Urban Economy Forum 7**, reinforcing leadership as first North American Frontrunner City.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER

- Supported **York South Family Network Holiday Disability Marketplace**, showcasing 40+ local businesses.
- **Mazda Canada** recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers (2026) and GTA Top Employers (2025).
- SBEC runs webinars: *Operational Stability and Effective Communication Strategies*.
- 2025 Summer Company recipient **Tania Pouzeshvaran** wins **William F. Bell Award** for entrepreneurial excellence.
- Supported **TechConnex Business Transition and Succession Planning Summit**.
- SBEC client **Leaf and Vessel** celebrates grand opening.



DECEMBER

- Launched **Innovation in Action** page to showcase innovative local businesses.
- SBEC runs webinar: *How Small Businesses Win Big with AI*.
- **Kids & Company** CEO Victoria Sopik named EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 National Special Honouree.
- **Mazda Canada** featured in *Toronto Star*.
- **Staples Canada** partners with Bullfrog Power on tokenized environmental certificates pilot.
- Mayor West congratulates **Olympus Canada** on being named a GTA Top Employer for the 10th consecutive year.
- Mayor and Deputy Mayor visit **PharmaGuide**, a CLIC graduate and Google Cloud Accelerator participant, to celebrate innovation.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSION

From March 31 to April 4, Economic Development staff joined Mayor David West on an international trade mission to Germany. The mission included meetings with key partners and international companies in Hannover, Munich and Augsburg, as well as participation in Hannover Messe, the world's largest industrial trade fair.

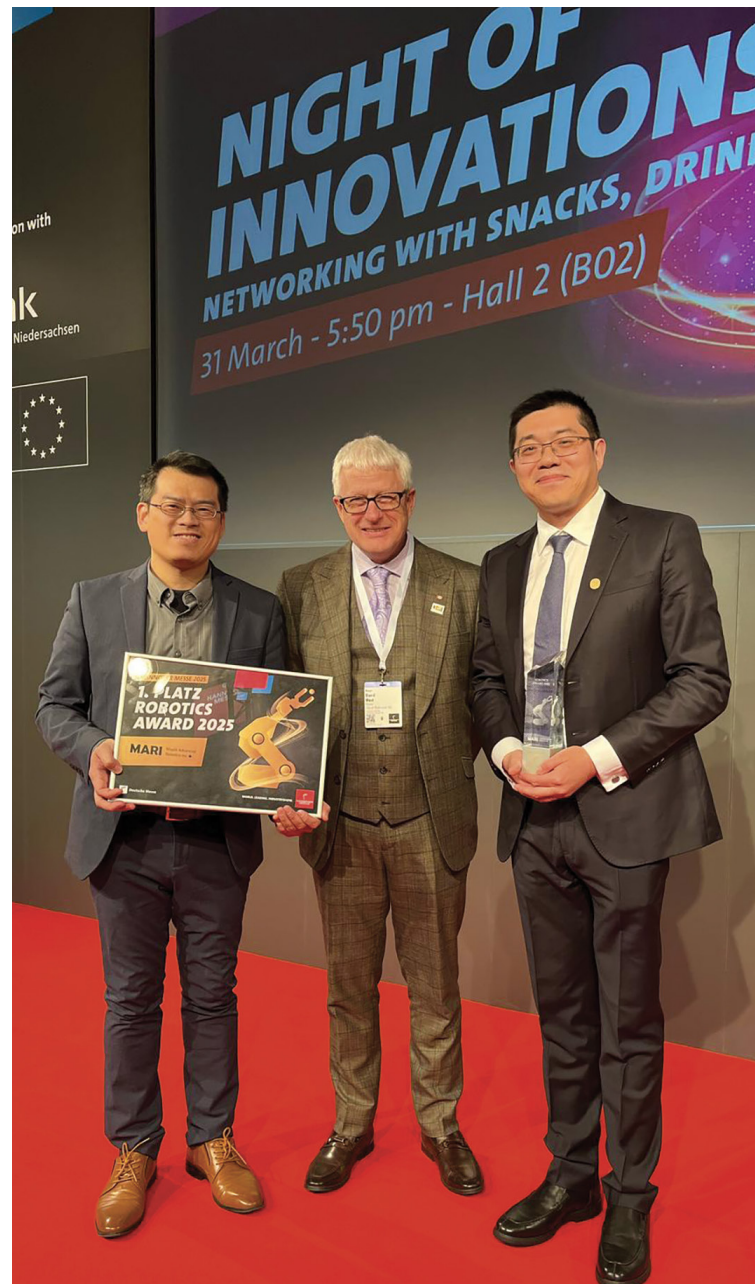
About Hannover Messe

Hannover Messe showcases global industrial trends and transformations, attracting decision-makers from around the world. This year, Canada was the featured country, highlighting innovation in automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, e-mobility and more. Canadian representation included all levels of government and leading industry partners.

Richmond Hill's Involvement

During the mission, the Mayor and Economic Development team:

- Met with Canadian Trade Commissioners and national and international companies to spotlight Richmond Hill as a destination for investment.
- Promoted opportunities for Canadian and local businesses and worked to attract foreign investment.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSION



Strategic Visits

Ahead of Hannover Messe, the delegation:

- Visited BMW Headquarters in Munich to explore future opportunities in Richmond Hill. BMW Canada's head office has been located in Richmond Hill for 15 years and remains a valued employer.
- Met with officials from the City of Augsburg and the Umweltcluster Bayern (Environmental Technologies Cluster of Bavaria) to discuss sustainability initiatives and economic development partnerships aimed at advancing both economies.



KEY OUTCOMES



The trade mission strengthened Richmond Hill's international profile, initiated new connections with global industry leaders and opened discussions on future investment and sustainability collaborations.

Supporting Local Businesses

In 2025, the Economic Development team expanded support for local businesses navigating ongoing tariff changes through a combination of online resources and direct advisory services. Our [Tariff Response Resources webpage](#) provides clear guidance on tariff impacts, cost saving strategies and available provincial and federal programs. Complementing this, our team worked closely with businesses to share market intelligence and connect them with advisors for financial and operational planning.



By offering accessible information and hands on support, we helped Richmond Hill businesses remain resilient and competitive amid shifting global trade conditions.

Showcasing Local Ingenuity

In December, we launched [Innovation in Action](#), a new storytelling initiative showcasing Richmond Hill businesses and offering an inside look at the ideas and ingenuity driving our local economy. The series highlights companies that are growing, evolving and making an impact, sharing behind the scenes insights into their innovations and achievements. Featured profiles demonstrate the strength of Richmond Hill's innovation ecosystem.

Through [Innovation in Action](#), we celebrate local success, elevate the visibility of homegrown innovators and inspire new opportunities for collaboration across the community.



In 2025, our community was showcased nationally in a National Post ad feature. Delivered in **1.2 million print** issues and supported by more than **1,700 digital impressions**, the piece highlighted how Richmond Hill is powering innovation and business success. With insights from Mayor West, the story positioned the city as a place where ideas and businesses thrive.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

A SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION BY MEDIAPLANET

READ MORE AT [INNOVATINGCANADA.CA](#)

How Richmond Hill is Powering Innovation and Business Success

Increasingly, Canadian cities are discovering that supporting and fostering a vibrant ecosystem that connects business, academics, and government can accelerate innovation, drive economic and environmental sustainability, and enhance quality of life for residents. Ontario's Richmond Hill is leading the way, and we spoke to Mayor David West to find out what the city is doing to enable businesses, people, and ideas to thrive.

Ken Donohue

How does innovation shape the city's policies?
Innovation is rooted in the work we do, helping us make data-driven decisions to support inclusive growth. Innovation isn't a buzzword to us. We've created an environment that enables tech talent and ideas to flourish, and we're getting noticed because of it. The Urban Economy Forum selected Richmond Hill to be the first Frontrunner City in Canada, enhancing opportunities for collaboration with business and academic partners to inspire local initiatives that have global potential as models of sustainable urbanization. This has global importance, because the innovative ideas, services, and products that are developed in Richmond Hill can be exported to the world.

How does the Centre for Local Innovation and Collaboration accelerate economic growth and innovation?
We partnered with OCAD University and Centennial College to launch the Centre for Local Innovation and Collaboration, which connects local businesses with research and development opportunities through

government funding initiatives. We're helping companies take their business to the next level, by creating a platform for knowledge exchange. We bring in expertise from our Small Business Enterprise Centre and OCAD University and work together with researchers to uncover market insights and develop new products and services through a design-thinking lens. Already, 50 local businesses have gone through the program, and some have seen a lot of success as a result. Working with the Centre, businesses have an opportunity to develop and grow faster.

How does the city commitment to environmental stewardship support innovation?
We have long championed environmental sustainability and digital transformation to create a hub for innovation, sustainable development, and economic resilience. Our community serves as a living lab for innovative ideas. We were the first municipality to use artificial intelligence technology from Visual Defence, a local company, to detect and fix potholes faster. We believe cleantech

innovation has huge potential for energy efficiency, waste reduction, and green building practices. And the United Nations University recently chose Richmond Hill for the headquarters of its Institute for Water, Environment and Health. We were selected because of our commitment to sustainability, our skilled and educated workforce, and the many opportunities we offer for partnership with the private sector.

What's the Richmond Hill advantage?
Richmond Hill has long been central to the Greater Toronto Area. We have great transportation infrastructure, and soon the Yonge North subway extension will create even greater connection to the region. We also have a highly educated workforce, with 79 percent of our population having post-secondary education, and the highest number of STEM graduates per capita than any other city in Canada. Richmond Hill is home to high-tech companies across diverse sectors, including medical, micro-electronics, finance, and environmental. Richmond Hill is a great place to do business. It's also a great place to live.

David West
Mayor,
Richmond Hill

Reach out to the City of Richmond Hill's Economic Development team to learn more about the opportunities for business success and innovation.

This article was sponsored by
City of Richmond Hill.

STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS

With the support of our Approvals Plus and Economic Development teams, Tuxmat, a maker of premium car mats and accessories, are relocating and expanding their operation to Richmond Hill.



"Approvals Plus provides us with on-call access to the City, always responds promptly and is an invaluable resource for resolving any issues that require escalation."

Nikola Parenta
Director, Development | GWL Realty Advisors



FILMING



In 2025, Richmond Hill continued to attract a diverse range of productions – including two television series, three documentaries, two independent films, two student projects and four other productions.



13 filming permits issued | **\$80,833 value**

Television: Dreamland; Murdoch Mysteries (Season 19)
 Documentaries: Decisions, Decisions; Flight PS752; Locals Welcome
 Independent Films: Happy Birthday to Her; L'Autre
 Student Films: "Ba"; Satellite

SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

1,418

Inquiries

499

Business Consults

\$101,000

Grant funding disbursed

82

Webinars

2,487

Attendees

105

Mentor Hours

60

Businesses Started

12

Businesses Expanded

72

Jobs Created

SBEC PARTNERS



2025 Summer Company Participants

Each spring, the Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC), in partnership with the Federal Economic Agency of Southern Ontario, runs the Summer Company program, offering students aged 15 to 29 the opportunity to learn essential business skills, receive mentorship and gain hands-on experience running their own companies.



**Summer
Company**

- **Ryan Niramwalla** (19) – *Stratoview Media Solutions*: Video production business with a focus on video editing
- **Antonios Goboitsios** (19) – *ANGO Competitive*: Organizes basketball tournaments
- **Roberto Sanabria** (18) – *Northshine Property Services*: Window and gutter cleaning services for homeowners
- **Aneesh Badola** (18) – *theNorthWoodWorks*: Custom woodworking, including cutting boards, coffee tables, shelves and furniture
- **Alissa Primiani** (17) – *Alissa Nicole Designs*: Designs and sells gemstone jewelry and custom bracelets
- **Darya Karami** (17) – *Dolled by Darya*: Licensed nail technician offering acrylic, Gel-X, press-on and overlay nails
- **Maya Blumin** (19) – *GoParty4U*: Sets up VR stations at birthday parties for immersive experiences
- **Forest Li** (17) – *Echo Eye Technologies Inc.*: Developed the world's first ear-worn camera with a retroactive recording buffer; preparing for a major Kickstarter launch
- **Nicholas Primiani** (23) – *Rug Rage*: Produces custom rugs with personalized size, shape, design and colour
- **Tania Pouzeshvaran** (17) – *The Protein Pastry*: Specializes in fresh-baked, high-protein, low-calorie, naturally sweetened baked goods
- **Wendy Li** (18) – *Wendy Li Golf Academy*: Offers golf lessons using a simulator; Wendy is a Division 1 golfer recruited for college golf
- **Cheney Chen** (17) – *Chilly Fruits*: Runs an organic smoothie stand using fresh ingredients; offers dairy and organic fruit smoothies

In 2025, the cohort collectively generated over **\$40,440** in revenue, engaged with the community at events such as the Hillcrest Mall Showcase and Richmond Hill Ribfest.



William F. Bell Award

The William F. Bell Award recognizes outstanding achievement, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit among Richmond Hill's youth.

The 2025 recipient was Tania Pouzeshvaran, founder of The Protein Pastry. Tania stood out for her innovative approach to healthy baking and her determination to turn a passion into a thriving business. She demonstrated resilience – overcoming recipe setbacks, navigating compliance requirements and problem-solving under pressure.

“Joining the Summer Company program was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. As someone who didn’t have much financial flexibility starting out, the support I received made it possible not only to launch my business, but also to transform the way I think about entrepreneurship. I learned that in business, you have to make sacrifices, stay resilient and push through challenges, even when it feels overwhelming. The program helped reduce many of the barriers I faced and made the process much more manageable. I’m incredibly grateful to have been part of this experience.”

- Tania Pouzeshvaran, Richmond Hill's 2025 Young Entrepreneur Award recipient



“Programs like Summer Company empower our youth to explore entrepreneurship, build confidence and contribute to our local economy. I’m so proud of the creativity and determination shown by all of this year’s participants, and I want to congratulate Tania on receiving our 2025 Young Entrepreneur Award. Her success is an inspiration to other young people in our community and I look forward to trying her tasty creations!”

- Mayor David West



STARTER COMPANY PLUS

In March 2025, nine entrepreneurs from the 2024 Starter Company Plus cohort attended the inaugural graduation celebration. The event provided an opportunity to network, celebrate achievements and receive well-deserved recognition from Mayor David West.

– 2025 COHORT HIGHLIGHTS –



INTEREST

Over **200** entrepreneurs expressed interest in the program



APPLICANTS

32 completed applications received



PARTICIPANTS

13 spots filled



SUPPORT

Each participant received a **\$5,000** grant and an average of 3.7 hours of mentorship



IMPACT

Funding for the **2025** cohort helped launch 7 new businesses, expand 6 existing businesses, and create 10 jobs.

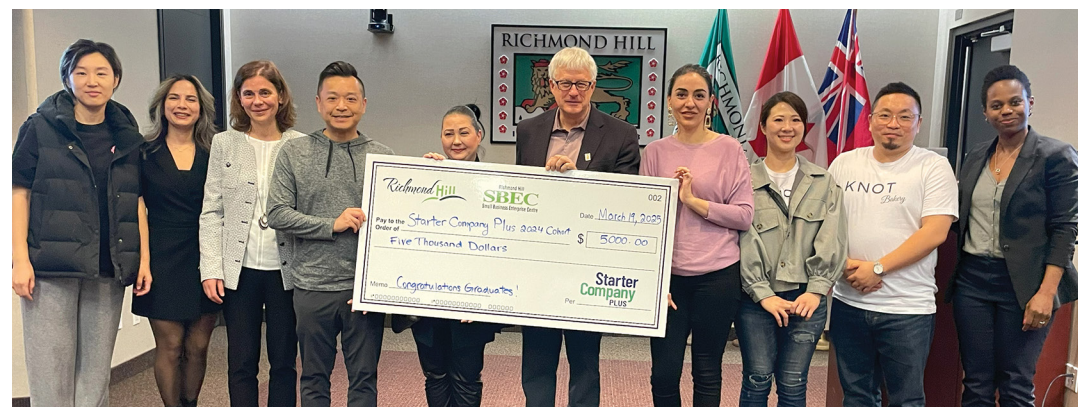
STARTER COMPANY PLUS

Networking and Collaboration

This year, Richmond Hill's Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) hosted a joint networking event with three neighboring SBECs – Markham, Vaughan and York Region. The event was a great success, attracting 42 attendees, including 10 Richmond Hill companies.

2025 Cohort Businesses

- **Asnani Joban Law** (Jennifer Jobanputra) – Legal expertise in commercial real estate, corporate law and regulatory compliance
- **Bazarento** (Rezvan Choobandian) – Digital marketing and branding agency serving service, education and personal development sectors
- **BinDawg** (Ali Qasim) – Convenient curbside bin service for Richmond Hill residents
- **Casa Betina** (Christina Clemente) – Hand-poured soy candles and imported Portuguese housewares
- **Jozi Media** (Marvin Raftopoulos) – Purpose-driven visual storytelling for broadcast and digital platforms
- **Kidztales** (Hannah Im) – Rehabilitation and education centre offering speech therapy, tutoring and art programs
- **Maple Horizon Trading** (Alireza Sedighi) – Exporter of Canadian food products and private label solutions
- **Richmond Hill Jiu-Jitsu** (Sivarooban Markandu) – Martial arts school focused on self-defense and competition
- **Sutherland Artistry** (Shari Sutherland) – Luxury domes designed for intimate, themed experiences
- **TalentArc** (Mathew Shulman) – AI-powered recruitment platform for faster, high-quality hires
- **Tico Studios** (Sandy Chan) – Custom woodcraft keepsakes for travel and pets
- **Wiishkobi Home Baked Goods** (Angela Cimino) – Award-winning butter tarts, pies and desserts
- **Yousefian Legal Services** (Danial Yousefian) – Paralegal services for Small Claims, landlord-tenant and construction disputes



CENTRE FOR LOCAL INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION (CLIC)

The Centre for Local Innovation and Collaboration (CLIC) connects local businesses with post-secondary partners for applied research, design support and funding. Our 2025 cohort made strong strides in innovation, partnership building and moving toward commercialization. Below is an overview of several participating companies and their outcomes.



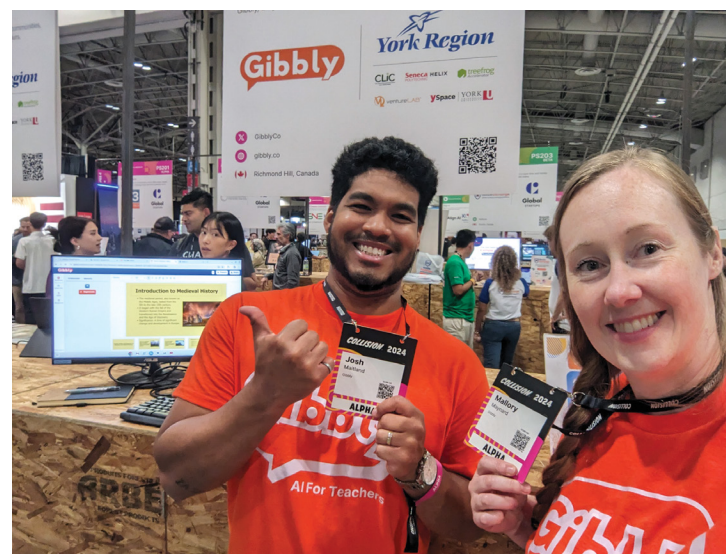
Gibbly

Founded by Mallory Maynard, Gibbly is an education technology company focused on making learning more engaging and effective for children through play based digital experiences. By blending curriculum aligned content with interactive game design, Gibbly responds to the demand for learning tools that both educate and motivate young learners.

Through CLIC, Gibbly accessed research partnerships that supported product validation, user testing, and design improvements. These collaborations provided valuable insight into learner behaviour, educational impact, and user experience, strengthening the platform's development strategy and market readiness.

CLIC also connected Gibbly to a broader innovation ecosystem, enabling knowledge exchange and expert feedback that informed key decisions as the company prepared for growth.

The experience highlights how research driven collaboration helps early stage companies refine their value proposition and advance toward scalable solutions that support the future of education.



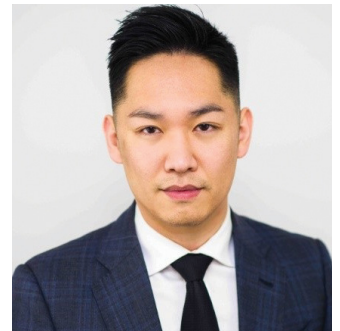
StoryBee

Founded by Mario Xu, StoryBee is a creative storytelling platform that supports illustrators, writers and digital creators in sharing their work with wider audiences. Built around community and social impact, the platform reflects the type of innovation supported through CLIC.

With CLIC, StoryBee gained access to previously hard to reach networks, connecting Mario with creative communities, partners and collaborators who helped expand the platform's visibility and user engagement. Mentorship from experienced advisors strengthened StoryBee's strategic focus, supporting clearer decision making and long term planning.

The program also helped the company attract key talent, enhancing its creative capacity and improving the user experience. A significant milestone from this momentum was the creation of a social impact scholarship for illustration students at OCAD University, reinforcing StoryBee's commitment to supporting emerging artists.

StoryBee's journey demonstrates how collaboration fuels innovation and meaningful community contribution.



Haute-U AR

Founded by Sulochana Karthik and Ahmed Kabir, Haute U AR is transforming how fashion is designed and experienced through AI and augmented reality. By enabling motion based, true to life visualization of garments, the company addresses the fashion industry's growing demand for more engaging digital tools.

Through CLIC, Haute U AR accessed market insights that validated industry need and directly informed new product development, including its video try on tool, Designer Runway Ready app and Haute U Studio platform.

Since participating, the company has launched real time try on technology, secured national media coverage and showcased at the Durham International Fashion Week, gaining strong validation from designers and brands. CLIC supported their early adopter recruitment and also helped Haute-U strengthen collaborations with partners such as Sunarks Inc. and Humber College.

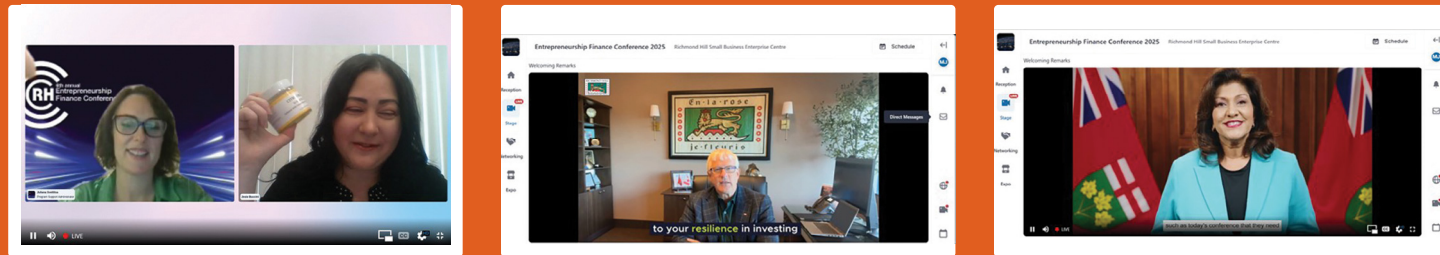
With expanded features, new partnerships and integration of Google Cloud's Vertex AI, Haute U AR continues to advance toward broader commercialization.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP FINANCE CONFERENCE

The sixth annual Entrepreneurship Finance Conference took place on October 23 as a free, half-day virtual event. Entrepreneurs at all stages gained access to live presentations, expert panels and interactive discussions led by industry experts designed to help them navigate the evolving financial landscape with confidence and clarity.

Later that day, participants joined the Post-Conference Networking Event, connecting with speakers, partners and fellow entrepreneurs to advance funding discussions and explore collaboration opportunities for business growth.



BY THE NUMBERS



ATTENDEES:

114

SPEAKERS:

12

KEY OUTCOMES



The conference strengthened financial literacy amongst entrepreneurs and fostered new connections, creating opportunities for collaboration and access to funding.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION WEEK

Richmond Hill SBEC hosted its second annual International Women's Day Celebration Week, kicking off with a Strike Up Canada Live Viewing Party that offered women entrepreneurs the opportunity to stream the national conference while connecting locally.



The week featured a webinar series tailored to empower women at all stages of business and concluded with the Nowruz Bazaar and Women in Business Marketplace, co-produced with the Richmond Hill BIA.



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"It was an A+ day, full of positive energy and good vibes... A special THANKS to SBEC, Juliana, Priti, Alan and all who made this event special!"

- Mila M., Viewing Party attendee

"Thank you for organizing the program. It was very educational and informative. Looking forward to more sessions and events."

- Doreen H., Webinar attendee

"It was abundantly evident that the organizing group went to a tremendous amount of effort for this event... It was a good day for us, and I hope, all other vendors as well."

- Monica M., Marketplace vendor



Richmond Hill welcomed a diverse mix of new businesses and expansions in 2025, reinforcing its position as a hub for innovation, culture and economic growth.



McDonald's celebrates the grand opening of its new location in Richmond Hill.



Heritage Academy of Language and Culture (SBEC client) officially opens, offering language and cultural education programs.



Studio360 Media (SBEC client) celebrates its grand opening, providing creative media and production services.



Café Kenkaku (SBEC client) opens its doors, bringing a unique culinary experience to Richmond Hill.



Maple Advanced Robotics (MARI) wins 1st place at Hannover Messe 2025 Robotics Competition, earning a presentation slot at the Robotics Forum and an interview on the Robotics Podcast. Their award-winning technology was also showcased during a panel discussion at the event.



Ruth Plumb Photography featured in *New York Weekly Magazine*, highlighting Richmond Hill's creative talent on an international stage.



The City signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **York University** to help expand business support, boost student learning opportunities, enhance staff development and grow community education programs.



Agentnoon is accepted into the Google for Startups Accelerator program, joining a global network of high-potential tech companies.



SEIU Healthcare receives \$2 million from the Province of Ontario to advance its Workersfirst platform, supporting healthcare professionals across the region.



Richmond Hill Jiu-Jitsu (SBEC client) celebrates its grand opening, offering martial arts training for all levels.



CAMA College (Canadian Management College) (SBEC client) launches its new campus, delivering management and professional development programs.



APR Beauty, a global beauty manufacturer, opens its Head Office, R&D and manufacturing facility in Richmond Hill.



Kinton Ramen (SBEC client) opens a new location, expanding this proudly Canadian Japanese noodle bar franchise.



FlixBus launches service in Richmond Hill, bringing North America's fastest-growing intercity bus network to local travelers.



Storybee, a CLIC business and Starter Company Plus grant recipient, establishes a social impact scholarship at OCAD University for illustration students.



Schroeder Ambulatory Centre awarded \$14 million in provincial funding to expand patient access to MRI, CT scans and GI endoscopies.



Visual Defence sees its CityRover technology adopted in Brazil, showcasing Richmond Hill innovation on a global scale.



Orchid Medical Centre (SBEC client) celebrates its grand opening, providing comprehensive healthcare services.



Schroeder Ambulatory Centre begins operations, expanding patient access to advanced diagnostic services.



ICU Medical opens a new facility in Richmond Hill, offering a complete line of IV therapy and critical care products for hospitals, alternate sites, and home care settings.



Amico, a leading healthcare products manufacturer, continues expanding in Richmond Hill, advancing patient-safety innovation.



Mazda Canada, based in Richmond Hill, appoints Amy Fleming as its first female CEO, marking a milestone in leadership diversity.



TechBlazers, an SBEC client, won the Excellence Award at the CREATE Foundation U.S. Open Robotics Tournament, ranking first among 158 global teams.



Richmond Hill named first North American Frontrunner City at the Urban Economy Forum for its leadership in sustainable urban development.



Kids & Company CEO Victoria Sopik is named Canada's EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 National Special Honouree.



Zetaboiler, a Swedish-based company, establishes its Canadian office in Richmond Hill.



THINKING FORWARD

BusinessRichmondHill.ca

Richmond Hill
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Richmond Hill