



## Meet the Pros



### **Kristin Baird - Veterinarian**

#### **Oakville Animal Clinic**

As an Associate Veterinarian in a small animal practice in Oakville for the past 12 years. Kristin obtained an Honours Bachelor of Science in 2000 from the University of Guelph, and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2004. Kristin is involved in committees for the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, and is currently serving on the Complaints Committee for the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

Kristin is a member of The Rotary Club of Oakville-Trafalgar, serves of the Community Service committee which focuses on local humanitarian projects. As the past Co-Chair of Oakville Dragonboat Festival, she helped raise over \$45,000 in 2014. Kristin was a past team Leader for the recycling committee for the Oakville Ribfest, managing waste for 35,000 attendees.

In her spare time, Kristin performs pro bono spays and neuters each year for the Oakville Humane Society, and supports the “Kindness Club”, a humane education program that serves in the school system where she teaches children about animals using kindness.



### **Brian Cotie - Account Manager, Barefoot Creative**

Brian is part of the team at Barefoot Creative, a marketing agency specializing in fundraising, brand development and digital experiences.

Brian's role within the team is Account Manager, serving as the primary contact between the clients and the creative team. He focuses primarily on non-profit clients, helping them build and executive strategies for long-term growth.



### **Kathy Gordier - COGS Finance Manager, BlackBerry Limited**

Kathy graduated from the Accounting program at Conestoga College, and went on to obtain her CPA, CMA accounting designation.

She started her career in financial reporting in the retail industry with supermarket chain, Oshawa Foods. Wanting to find a career that focused on Management Accounting she went on to spend 14 years in the Food Manufacturing industry with Schneider Foods/Maple Leaf Foods. Excited by the future of the Hi Tech industry, she has spent the latest 6 years with BlackBerry

Limited.

Kathy has found working in finance to be very rewarding. It's not just about number crunching. It provides exposure to learn about many aspects of the business, such as Sales, Marketing, Manufacturing, and Supply Chain. It can also provide opportunities to move into these fields in the future, as having some knowledge of financial reporting and metrics adds great value to any business role.

In her various roles, Kathy has always been a big supporter of providing opportunities for co-op students, and participating in presentations to the Accounting Co-op classes at Conestoga College.



**Kate McGaffin – Manager,**

**Active Canadian Emergency Training Inc.**

Kate graduated from the Public Relations program at Conestoga College in 2006 and promptly gained full-time employment...but not in her field! Actually, Kate has never worked in public relations but in her various roles over the past nine years, Kate will tell you how her education has led her to success working with clients and colleagues in the construction industry, retail sales and health and safety training.

Kate is eager to share her education and career experience with by teaching: How to stand out in an interview, What your manager is looking for in your first 90 days, How to get promoted



**Jeff Parker - Owner, Instant Imprints Business Apparel Signage & Banner Promo Products**

Following High School, Jeff, took Business & Marketing courses at College, after graduating in 1998, he went on to Bible College and graduated in 2000. He then spent 10 years as a successful Pentecostal Pastor. Leaving the ministry, he began a new career as a business owner.

One of Jeff's sayings: *"If you can dream it, you can do it."*

Jeff's support of all Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar fundraising projects – Internet Auction, Dragon Boat festival, Ribfest .

Jeff has three grown sons: Brad in Dallas, Texas; Douglas in Saskatoon; and Matthew in Bow Island, Alberta. By the way, Jeff was been inducted into the Guinness Book of Records in 1999!



## **Ryan Reid - Senior Vice President of Resource Recovery, Terrapure Environmental**

Currently Employed by Terrapure Environmental\* as the Senior Vice President of Resource Recovery. Reporting to the President and CEO is responsible for the day-to-day operation of three operating Divisions.

Over 14 years in the Canadian Renewables and Environmental Industry, 5 plus years in an Executive capacity.

Multi-functional management experience including manufacturing, sales, marketing, EH&S, commodity pricing, capital planning and execution, process improvement, logistics, mergers and acquisitions.

Graduated from the University of Guelph in 2001 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and has participated in Executive development programs at the University of Western Ontario's Ivey School of Business and Harvard Business School.



## **Melissa Shadd - Community Producer & Co-Host, "Vanessa + Melissa" Diapers & Lipgloss Inc.**

[www.vanessaandmelissa.com](http://www.vanessaandmelissa.com)

Melissa Shadd worked for nearly 10 years in the IT industry, most recently at Research In Motion (Blackberry). After her first child was born, Melissa left RIM to start her own business. With a background in fitness, Melissa went on to be a strength & conditioning coach for university sports teams, JR hockey teams and worked one on one with women of all backgrounds to achieve their fitness and health goals! While hosting a fitness event, Melissa was offered the chance to work on a local TV station for an entertainment show. Not long after Melissa started her second company "Diapers & Lipgloss" with her business partner and co-host Vanessa. She now is a community producer at Rogers Television, and a co-host on the parenting TV show "Vanessa + Melissa".