



GUELPH MERCURY

Cyndy McLean, director of the University of Guelph's Health and Performance Centre, has been described as someone who 'possesses strength and tenacity.'

CYNDY McLEAN

Age: 38
Location: Guelph
Bio: Athlete, director of Health and Performance Centre, www.uoguelph.ca/hpc

Cyndy McLean is a positive role model for athletes with disabilities and women in sports.

During a hike in the summer of 2003, she fell 30 metres from a cliff. A spinal cord injury left her a paraplegic. While still in the hospital recovering, she began working to bring Wheels in Motion to Guelph. The fundraiser, which has collected more than \$100,000 locally, benefits spinal cord injury research and services.

McLean, a former marathon runner, is now on the provincial wheelchair tennis team. She also teaches learn-to-run classes for women and girls, wheeling alongside them in a special bicycle.

She won a Woman of Distinction Award for voluntary community service a couple of years ago.

"Cyndy possesses strength and tenacity in adapting to a new life, exemplifying that life-changing incidents can offer new beginnings," wrote the University of Guelph, which nominated her for being a great graduate and ambassador of the school.

Ten years ago, McLean led the creation of U of G's Health and Performance Centre, a sports medicine and health promotion facility used by the university community and public.

ALI ASARIA

Age: 27
Location: Guelph
Bio: Tech startup company CEO, founder of www.Well.ca

"How are you going to avoid the pitfalls that are happening to the .coms right now?" said venture capitalists to Asaria. "That's easy. We're a .ca," he responded.

That's the kind of humour and optimism he has for his startup company, Well.ca — what may be Canada's largest online drugstore. It sells cosmetics, medical supplies and over-the-counter medications, but not prescription drugs.

Asaria started the company from his father's pharmacy, Norfolk Pharmacy and Surgical Supplies, and now has his own office on the same street in downtown Guelph. He used to work as a software developer and created the popular BlackBerry game "BrickBreaker."

Well.ca doesn't have any big competitors in Canada but online pharmacy is a billion dollar industry in the United States. The online drugstore received funding from a group of angel investors.

Asaria is eager to share his experience with others in the startup community, organizing networking events and writing a blog, www.aliasaria.ca/blog.

He was nominated for 40 Under 40 by employee Alex Dao, who wrote on her own blog about his quip to venture capitalists.



E. BRIAN CLARK, FOR THE GUELPH MERCURY

Ali Asaria, a tech startup business owner and founder of online drugstore Well.ca, is eager to share his experience with others in the startup community, organizing networking events and writing a blog.

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Guelph CHC, in honour of its 20th anniversary is launching a 20 for 20 Fundraising Campaign, raising \$20,000 by the end of 2008.

An endowment fund has been established with the Guelph Community Foundation, to ensure support for children's programming for the future.

Planting a seed today allows Guelph CHC to grow for the future and continue its work and support of early years programs and services in our community.



For further information, or to make a donation please contact
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