



## Youths in good company

By **SEAN McKIBBON**, Ottawa Sun

Fri, July 16, 2004 - Three young Ottawa entrepreneurs are each getting a \$3,000 kick-start to their summer businesses thanks to the provincial government. The Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation's Entrepreneurship Centre announced the winning entries into the Summer Company program yesterday.

Sean Cochrane, 22, Meghan Blanchard, 25, and Calum Green, 19, submitted winning business plans that will net them not only money but business know-how and advice, said the program's co-ordinator Marie Desjardins.

"There are group meetings every week with guest speakers," she said, adding each young entrepreneur is paired up with an experienced business person who acts as a mentor and will meet with them individually to monitor their progress and offer tips.

The businesses have to run a minimum of eight weeks, but Desjardins said that a "half-dozen" of the 23 previous participants in the four-year-old program are still running their ventures.

Desjardins said the mentoring groups include a representative from the Royal Bank, accounting firm Welsh and Co., a land claims research firm called Public History and a former Summer Company participant, Aaron Shaughnessy, who runs the Queenswood Fallingbrook Tennis Academy.

The current crop are a diverse bunch. Cochrane, operating under the business name Roflcopter, will be selling T-shirts, while Green's QuickFix will do on-call computer troubleshooting. Blanchard will focus on interior design with her business, Matters of Decor.

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