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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2014

Good business moves, Launch Lab for innovation and community reinvestment showcased at annual Economic Development Summit

KEMPTVILLE – Business leaders moving to this region, new Launch Lab champions and industry pioneers were featured speakers at the annual Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit here Friday.

The sixth-annual summit themed “Making the Right Moves” attracted more than 175 business owners, non-for-profit organizations and government representatives from Leeds Grenville and neighbouring regions. Some of the top speakers included Bruce Linton, co-founder, chair and interim CEO of the new Tweed Marijuana Inc. operation in Smiths Falls, and property developer and businessman Joe Pal, of Pal Insurance Ltd., the Ivy Lea Club and Marina and Riva Restaurant.

“We’ve had an excellent turnout again this year and I think it’s due to people wanting to hear our local success stories and what’s new in the region,” said Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

“Our speakers are from across Leeds Grenville and beyond with interesting business stories to tell,” said Weir.

The event is hosted by the Counties Economic Development Department in partnership with Gord Brown and Steve Clark, MP and MPP for Leeds-Grenville respectively, with support from the 1000 Islands, Valley Heartland and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporations and the 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board. It was held at the North Grenville Municipal Centre.

Speakers Scott Runte and Stephen Beamish from Launch Lab informed the audience of the new Regional Innovation Centres and the support to entrepreneurship in partnership with the three area Community Futures Development Corporations.

Returning for a third year after its successes in previous years was the talk show panel segment on Making the Right Moves. Joining the discussion was pilot Dave Kouri, owner of 1000 Islands

where **lifestyle**
grows good business

synonyme de **qualité de vie**
et de **réussite en affaires**

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Helicopter Tours, Francois Guay, of Prysmian Power Cables and Systems Canada Inc., and Francois Bruneau of DFC Woodworks/Best Adirondack Chairs. The moderator was Teri Devine, Economic Development Officer for the Municipality of North Grenville.

The day was topped off with the presentation of the Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership. Nominees included John Barclay, Municipality of North Grenville; Richard Dumbrille, Township of Augusta; Rod Fournier, Village of Merrickville-Wolford; and Pierre Mercier, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. All nominees were recognized by Warden Holman.

This year's winner is Richard Dumbrille, who sent regrets due to his son's marriage in Vancouver on Saturday. The award was accepted by Augusta Township Reeve Mel Campbell, Councillor and Reeve-elect Doug Malanka and MPP Steve Clark. Mr. Dumbrille was honoured for his lifelong commitment to Maitland where he has restored 24 heritage buildings and helped raise the profile of his community. His efforts have created employment and provided much-needed housing.

A partner media release is also available providing more background on all four award nominees and their volunteer work in the region. A photo is also available of Mr. Dumbrille.

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