

Kevin Van Lierop – Website Coordinator - Marketing & Communications

I would like to nominate Kevin Van Lierop for the Growing Prosperity Award. Kevin's passion for community development is absolutely outstanding and his community-minded focus was apparent from my first meeting with him. For more than a decade, Kevin has been on a journey to build prosperity in his local community. His personal mission is to create better places for people to live and call home through fostering citizen engagement and promoting development in the London region. With only 600 words, I'll try my best to be succinct with the lengthy list of examples showing why he is very deserving of this award! As part of the London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy, Kevin spearheaded a campaign called 'The Little Gems' to highlight the great things about London's neighbourhoods. The campaign invited the community to share the things that make London special and the submissions were plotted on an online map to help people find and discover London's 'little gems'. The submission that received the most likes was awarded with a \$5,000 grant towards a neighbourhood enhancement. In 2013 Kevin was presented with the Young Alumni Award from King's University College for his outstanding achievements in community service and professional accomplishments. He was also awarded the Michael Barrington Hall Award from Fanshawe College. Kevin also received recognition as a keynote speaker for London Youth Council, and as an Ambassador for Tech Alliance. Kevin has or currently sits on a number of boards and committees including the marketing committee for Museum London, board member of Forest City Gallery, Urban League of London, and UnLondon Digital Media Association, director for London Short Film Showcase, social media documentarian for LOLAfest, co-organizer for Hack the Vote, founding member of Our Street London, and member of the citizen Engagement Task Force with the City of London...whew! Kevin excels in taking on community projects with limited resources and he always emphasizes that a positive attitude and willingness to make personal connections goes a long way. Even much of Kevin's professional experience consists of community development work including roles with Emerging Leaders, LondonFuse New Media Collective, and community engagement for the Southwest Economic Alliance. Kevin's most recent community project is the creation of a 'Block Party in a Box' kit. The kit encourages Londoners to get to know their neighbours, a small gesture which Kevin believes is the key to all innovation. The kit has been successful beyond London and is helping communities across the world to become engaged and connected. In his short time with Libro, Kevin's been involved in many of our community initiatives including fundraising for MS Bike, volunteering for Boys and Girls Club and United Way, and supporting The Prosperity Project. With his long-time commitment, his passion for volunteerism, and his genuine 'Big Heart', he's truly an inspiration and model Libro employee who's deserving of the Growing Prosperity Award. Attached to this nomination is a PDF of supporting material that further highlights Kevin's exemplary community involvement.

*Attachment provided

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