



JA  
South Western  
Ontario

Member of  
JA Canada

THE 34<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL LONDON  
AND DISTRICT

# BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

# Gala

OCTOBER 24, 2024

RBC PLACE LONDON  
5:00 PM



HONOURING LAUREATES

**RYAN FINCH &  
STEVE COPP**

# OUR MISSION

**IMAGINE A GENERATION OF STUDENTS ARMED WITH THE CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURES, EQUIPPED TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS...**

At JA South Western Ontario, we believe in the boundless potential of youth—and we create opportunities for them to explore this potential through hands-on learning.

JA equips young people with the employment and entrepreneurship skills and mindsets they need to succeed. By building abilities and nurturing self-belief, JA prepares youth for the future of work, ensures they have the tools to be financially capable adults, and teaches them to think entrepreneurially.

**JA INSPIRES YOUTH AND PREPARES THEM TO SUCCEED IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY.**

JA South Western Ontario works with schools to deliver experiential programs in the classroom to students in Grades 4-12. We offer a range of experiences from bite-sized virtual learning to larger conference events. We also work directly with students through self-directed online learning, after school programming, and summer camps.



Member of  
JA Canada

## FINANCIAL HEALTH

Graduates from JA programs save more and borrow less than the average Canadian. In our financial health programs, students learn how to create and manage wealth. They develop real-world skills that they can apply to their lives immediately – such as budgeting, investing and aligning their financial choices with their goals.

### HOW WE ACHIEVE

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ACHIEVERS STATED THAT JA HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR FINANCIAL LITERACY AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS.\*

*\*The Boston Consulting Group (2011 report)*

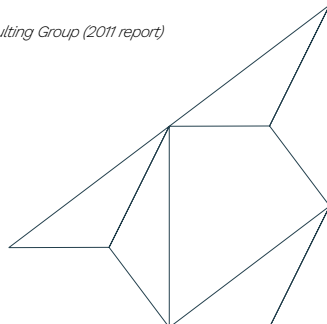
## WORK READINESS

JA inspires students to stay in school and prepares them to succeed in tomorrow's jobs. Through our programs, students learn how to translate their interests and skills into successful careers. They also develop practical job skills such as interviewing, communications and critical thinking.

### HOW WE ACHIEVE

SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ACHIEVERS STATED THAT JA HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THEIR DECISIONS TO STAY IN SCHOOL AND ENROLL IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.\*

*\*The Boston Consulting Group (2011 report)*



# OUR MISSION

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

JA graduates are more likely to launch businesses and create jobs. Through our entrepreneurship programs, students gain firsthand experience in running a business. They work with mentors from their local business communities to create strategies and manage companies. Many business leaders cite JA's Company Program as the catalyst that gave them the ambition to launch a business and the skills to do so successfully.

### HOW WE ACHIEVE

JA GRADUATES ARE 50% MORE LIKELY TO OPEN A BUSINESS.\*

*\*The Boston Consulting Group (2011 report)*

**TO REQUEST THAT YOUR SCHOOL BE CONSIDERED FOR A JA PROGRAM, VOLUNTEER OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EVENTS IN YOUR AREA, VISIT [JASWO.ORG](http://JASWO.ORG)**



STOP  
**WISHING**  
START  
**DOING**

# OUR SPONSORS

# EVENING PROGRAM

## ACCELERATE



## ACCELERATE PARTNERS



## INCUBATE



## SILENT AUCTION



## MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

**ANGELA ABDALLAH & CANDACE CAMPBELL**

## BRAYL COPP DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

**KRITHIK DHANDABANI**

## COMPANY PROGRAM ALUMNI CONVERSATION

**KRITHIK DHANDABANI & CRYSTAL KYABAGGU**

## LAUREATE INDUCTION CEREMONIES

**KAREN GALLANT - PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
JA SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO**

**WAYNE DUNN, CHAIR OF THE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

## 2024 LAUREATES

**STEVE COPP & RYAN FINCH**

## VENTURE

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Spriet Investments  
Talbot Marketing

## LAUNCH

Boxwoods

## AWARD

Nothers The Award Store

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**WELCOME** TO THE 34<sup>TH</sup> LONDON AND DISTRICT BUSINESS HALL OF FAME! TONIGHT, WE GATHER TO HONOUR TWO EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS: RYAN FINCH, PRESIDENT OF FINCH AUTO GROUP, AND STEVE COPP, PRESIDENT OF COPP'S BUILDALL.

As we induct them into the London and District Business Hall of Fame, we celebrate not just their business acumen, but their unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Ryan and Steve exemplify how visionary leadership can transform both industry and society. Their companies are economic pillars in the London area, but it's their commitment to social responsibility that truly sets them apart. Through their philanthropic efforts and community engagement, they've shown us that true success is

measured not just in profits, but in positive impact.

As we applaud their achievements, we're reminded of the challenges facing our region - from economic disparities to educational gaps. These challenges present opportunities for transformation, which is where Junior Achievement South Western Ontario steps in.

JA strives to empower our youth with financial health, work readiness, and entrepreneurial skills. We're not just preparing students for jobs; we're nurturing future leaders

and innovators who will shape our economy and society. This year, we plan to reach over 30,000 young people with relevant hands-on learning experiences that will have a significant impact on their futures.

Every contribution from tonight's event - be it through the gala, silent auction, or raffle - directly fuels these vital programs. We also invite you to consider volunteering. By sharing your experiences, you can inspire young minds to dream bigger and achieve more.

Ryan and Steve's induction is both a celebration and a call to action. They've shown us what's possible when business success meets community spirit. Now, it's our turn to ensure the next generation has

the tools to follow in their footsteps and even surpass them.

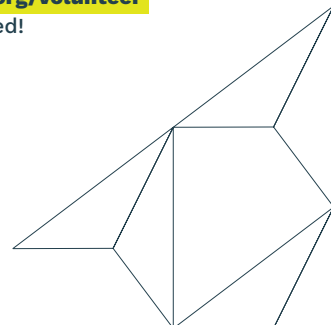
Thank you for being here. Let's make this evening not just a celebration, but a catalyst for positive change in our community.

With gratitude and optimism,



Karen Gallant  
President & CEO

PS. Ready to make a difference?  
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the outstanding winners  
of this year's Hall of Fame Gala



Business Hall of Fame - 2024

RYAN FINCH

JA South Western Ontario

As a partner of  
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South Western  
Ontario, we are  
honoured to recognize  
and support these  
exceptional leaders  
who inspire the next  
generation of  
entrepreneurs.

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

On behalf of the entire team at CGC, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Steve Copp on his well-deserved induction into the London and District Business Hall of Fame.

Thank you, Steve, for your commitment to excellence and unwavering partnership.

Here's to many more years of shared success!







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BOUNDLESS  
POTENTIAL**

**OF  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE**



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Congratulations to the inductees to the  
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# JA PROGRAMS

JA WORKS WITH SCHOOLS TO DELIVER EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS IN THE CLASSROOM TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-12. WE ALSO WORK DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS THROUGH SELF-DIRECTED ONLINE LEARNING AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING.

## ELEMENTARY LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### GRADE 4 MORE THAN MONEY

The earlier students learn how to manage money, the greater their chances of lifelong financial success. *More than Money* teaches elementary students about earning, spending, sharing and saving money.

### GRADE 5 OUR BUSINESS WORLD

Students explore how “getting a good job” after graduation could mean starting their own business. They learn how businesses are created and what makes them thrive.

### GRADE 6 A BUSINESS OF OUR OWN

Students put on their entrepreneurial hats and run their own retail business. They learn how to start a business, produce and promote products, track finances and manage a team.

### GRADE 7 DOLLARS WITH SENSE

Students get vital tools they need to make smart financial decisions, live debt-free and become savvy investors. Students learn personal money management skills that they can apply to their lives...beginning now.

### GRADE 8 ECONOMICS FOR SUCCESS

In *Economics for Success*, students take a closer look at the advantages of staying in school and what’s needed to succeed in today’s workforce, helping them see the link between education and achieving their goals.

### GRADE 7/8 WORLD OF CHOICES – CAREER HUNT

*World of Choices – Career Hunt* enables students to explore a variety of career paths and the steps needed to secure their own successful career.

JA  
Worldwide



ADVOCATE  
FOR THE  
IMPACT OF

RELEVANT,  
HANDS-ON  
LEARNING



# JA PROGRAMS

## HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### PERSONAL FINANCE

---

Students develop personal money management skills by exploring key elements of personal finance such as spending wisely, budgeting, saving, investing, and using credit.

### INVESTMENT STRATEGIES PROGRAM

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JA provides teacher resources that explore key investment principles and concepts. These lessons are put into practice during a 6-week online simulation that uses live data to teach students how to apply these skills in a real-world situation.

### WORLD OF CHOICES

---

Students meet with a variety of career mentors in a conference setting to learn about their personal brand, different career pathway options and the importance of career planning.

### COMPANY PROGRAM

---

Set yourself apart from the competition with a first-hand experience in business and entrepreneurship. Students work within a team to create a product or service idea, develop a business, launch their business and manage the operations for a period of 18 weeks.



EDUCATE AND  
**INSPIRE**





## OUR CONGRATULATIONS

The Copp Group of Companies would like to congratulate  
Ryan Finch and our own Steve Copp  
on their induction into the London and District Business Hall of Fame.

## SPRIET FAMILY COMPANIES

- Spriet Associates
- Metal Roof Outlet
- Norlon Builders
- Grand Bend Motorplex
- Executive Centre
- Charleton Building Credits



## In Celebration of Making the World a Better Place Every Day

Xerox Canada is a proud sponsor of JA South Western Ontario and this year's London and District Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala

Congratulations to **Steve Copp** and **Ryan Finch**. Like you, we know the power of hard work and all it can accomplish. We salute you for strengthening the community so our world can be a better place.



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The Larry Myny Investment Group is proud to support Junior Achievement and the London and District Business Hall of Fame in the ongoing commitment to improve opportunities for success for students.

We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the profound contributions and leadership of **Ryan Finch** and **Steve Copp**.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.



**Larry G. Myny**  
Senior Investment Advisor

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London, ON N6A 5R8  
519 640-7720 | 1 800 265-5982  
larry.myny@cibc.ca | www.larrymyny.com

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# LET'S GO!



**JA**  
**South Western**  
**Ontario**

Member of JA Canada



# HONOURLED PAST LAUREATES

**1990**

*John Labatt II  
Henry J. McManus*

**1991**

*Colonel Thomas F.G. Lawson  
J. Allyn Taylor*

**1992**

*William Mowbray Sifton  
Walter J. Blackburn*

**1993**

*Edwin R. Jarmain  
Sir Adam Beck*

**1994**

*A.M. (Mac) Cuddy  
Colonel D.B. Weldon*

**1995**

*Donald J. Smith  
Colonel J. Gordon Thompson*

**1997**

*Jack W. Adams  
Earl H. Orser*

**1998**

*Ron Logan and Gord Patton  
Merv L. Lahn*

**1999**

*Richard G. Ivey  
T. Fred Kingsmill*

**2000**

*Tony J. Crncich Sr.  
J. Allyn Taylor  
(Laureate of the Century Tribute)*

**2001**

*Ronald C. Dawson  
Norton P. Wolf*

**2002**

*Andrew M. Spriet  
John (Jake) H. Moore*

**2003**

*Warren R. Schram  
Mitchell A. Baran*

**2004**

*David Patchell-Evans  
Captain Joseph Jeffery*

**2005**

*T. Brayl Copp  
Peter J. Ivey*

**2006**

*H.J. (Hank) Vander Laan  
Henry J. Jones*

**2007**

*General Alexander R. McIntosh  
John C. Nash*

**2008**

*Gloria Dona  
Dr. Geno Francolini*

**2009**

*Sheldon Aaron  
Donald J. McDougall*

**2010**

*Bill Brady  
Bob Siskind*

**2011**

*Perry Ferguson  
John Strybosch*

**2012**

*Paul Cocker  
Carol Stephenson*

**2013**

*Tony Marsman  
Howard Rundle*

**2014**

*Denis Crane & Wayne Dunn  
Terry Zavitz*

**2015**

*Vito Frijia  
Colonel James G. Thompson*

**2016**

*Don Crich  
Ken Kalopsis & Paul Seed*

**2017**

*John Drake  
Mike Smith*

**2018**

*William H. (Bill) Gray  
Claude Pensa*

**2019**

*Jeff Macoun  
Richard Sifton*

**2020**

*Kyle MacDonald  
Ewart & Edwin McLaughlin*

**2021**

*Karen Fryday-Field  
Joel McLean*

**2022**

*Tina Bax  
Michelle Quintyn*

**2023**

*Allan Drewlo  
Jill Wilcox*





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Congratulations to Laureates

**Ryan Finch  
and  
Steve Copp**

on being inducted into the

**London and District  
Business Hall of Fame**



We are proud to be associated with such an esteemed group,  
that continues to inspire the youth of tomorrow.

Congratulations to the 2024 Laureates  
**Steve Copp & Ryan Finch**

Celebrating your **distinctive** paths and  
proud to recognize such industry **pioneers**.

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# 2024 LAUREATES

## RYAN FINCH

PRESIDENT

FINCH AUTO GROUP



As president of Finch Auto Group overseeing eight auto dealerships in London, Sarnia and Georgetown, Ryan Finch takes pride in building upon his father's Pontiac dealership and creating his own legacy.

Born with a competitive spirit, Ryan has always been driven to excel. This determination earned him an athletic scholarship to the university of British Columbia and later, a business degree

from the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Whether it's in the classroom, the boardroom to playing a round of golf, Ryan Strives to win.

And winning has evolved in meaning for Ryan, particularly as he watched his children, Wyatt and Georja grow. His approach to business and life now emphasizes creating a healthy work culture, teaching his children the value of helping others, making a difference and philanthropy.

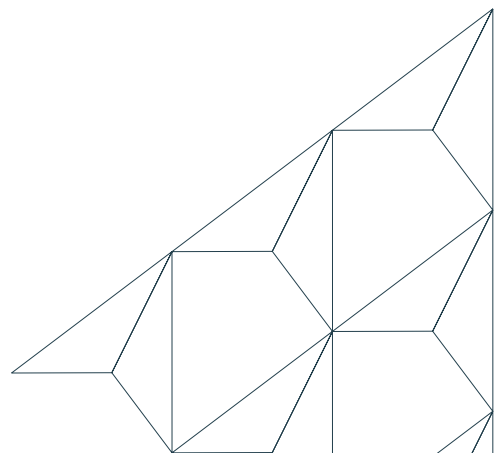
Growing up, he spent his summers working at his father's dealership in various roles from lot attendant, service advisor and sales person. These experiences instilled in him a strong work ethic and set the foundation for his future success. In 1999, he completed the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Academy and moved into a management position at his family's dealership.

Today, Ryan employees 500 people. Each with their own unique story. Despite his success, he remains approachable often seen in a hoodie and running shoes rather than a suit and tie. He prefers to be known as a friend, co-worker and boss at work. He takes joy in his staff's successes and provide support when needed. Continuous growth and improvement, strong management staff and a dedicated team who share his vision, are central to his success.

In addition to the automotive dealerships, over the years, Ryan has worked hard to create a formidable commercial real estate portfolio and invested in other local businesses, including Redtail Golf Club and Robert Q.

Outside of business, Ryan learned at a young age from his father, the importance of community giving. As his success grew, so did his philanthropic efforts. During the pandemic,

he launched the Finch Match My Donation community campaign raising \$2.5 million in support of more than 100 charities. He also donated \$5 million to St Joseph's Health Care Foundation for mental health research.



# Gala

Established in 1990, the Hall of Fame was created to honour respected members of the London and District Business Community, past and present, for their outstanding contributions to business, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. JA South Western Ontario is responsible for the geographic area including the counties of Essex, Chatham-Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Huron, Perth, Bruce, Grey, Wellington, Waterloo, Brant, Hamilton, Haldimand-Norfolk, and Niagara.

**SAVE THE DATE**

OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2025

**BUSINESS HALL OF FAME**



Member of  
JA Canada

# 2024 LAUREATES

## STEVE COPP

PRESIDENT  
COPP'S BUILDALL



From a young age, Steve followed Brayl around the lumber yards. His father was his biggest mentor, bestowing a strong work ethic, integrity, honesty and the importance of a work/life balance. With these qualities and his natural gift for salesmanship, Steve worked his way up at Copp's, becoming President in 2000. He has expanded the business and fostered deep roots in the construction and development industries.

Steve has been a conduit for many relationships built within these

industries. The friendships he has made over the years are some of the most important people in his life. There are no lines between customers, competitors and friends. His biggest reward is bringing people together.

Steve currently sits as a director of several boards: The Copp Group of Companies, Titan Truss, Sifton Properties, ILDC and many other smaller companies. Giving back is a family tradition and responsibility. Copp's proudly supports Junior Achievement of London, London Health Sciences, Mission Services, My Sister's Place, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, The Learning Disabilities Association of London and The Humane Society of London & Middlesex, among many others.

Steve and his wife Anne have two children, Mackenzie and Averil, who are currently both working in and contributing to the family business. Copp's is now in its 4th generation of ownership and is almost 150 years old. Steve is not planning on stepping aside any time soon, but hopes the 5th generation will find as much joy and reward as he has in the business.



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# MENU

## STARTER

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BIBB LETTUCE, LOCAL PEA TENDERS  
AND EDIBLE FLOWER CONFETTI,  
BLOOD ORANGE VINAIGRETTE (V/GF)**

---

## ENTREE

**COMBINATION PLATE OF ROASTED  
FILET-MIGNON (4OZ), VQA RED WINE AND  
THYME REDUCTION, ROASTED CHICKEN SUPREME  
(5OZ), HARISSA SAUCE (SIDE)**

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## VEGETARIAN ENTREE

**LENTIL GUMBO WITH CHICKPEA BASTAMI  
AND SEASON VEGETABLES  
(VEGAN/GLUTEN/DAIRY FREE)**

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## DESSERT

**GLUTEN-FREE DECADENT CHOCOLATE FUDGE  
CAKE WITH A STRAWBERRY COMPOTE (GF)**

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# BRAYL COPP DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

## KRITHIK DHANDABANI



I'm Krithik. I'm a JA alumnus who's honored to receive the Brayl Copp Distinguished Business Leadership Award. During my 2 years in JA, I evolved from a VP tech in a bracelet selling company with a mental health initiative to the president of a Tote Bag company with the goal of sparking political change. The JA Company program really helped me develop my ability

to communicate as well as approach new people in different settings. These skills have been very useful as I've begun my first year of university. Currently, I am at the University of Toronto on the Rotman Commerce program. At UofT, I hope to develop my skills in marketing and sales and hope to develop my career in the world of international business.





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## Celebrating community role models

CIBC is proud to support Junior Achievement South Western Ontario and their goal to inspire the next generation of business and community leaders.

Congratulations to the 2024 South Western Ontario Business Hall of Fame Laureates.

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# RAFFLE

# SILENT AUCTION



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Sidetrack Cafe  
Smooth Wax Bar  
Sport Clips London  
Storybook Gardens  
Stratford Festival  
Talbot Marketing  
Tasting Room  
The Fox Golf Club  
The Grand Theatre  
The Keg  
Twin Pines Orchards  
& Cider House  
Twin Streams Golf Club  
Vector Marketing Canada  
White Squirrel Golf Club  
(Grand Bend)  
Widder Station

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