



## **Oakville entrepreneur named first “Python”**

**Burlington, ON, July 3, 2012** – A high-achieving, strategic-thinking, well-known local entrepreneur has been secured to be one of the first judges in the upcoming Pythons' Pit, the Halton Region's answer to the popular TV contest “*Dragons' Den*.”

Randy Pilon, founder and current president and chief executive officer of [Virox Technologies Inc.](#) in Oakville, Ont., is the first “Python” to come on board. He will be one of six Halton business moguls who will evaluate and select winners in the first-ever Pythons' Pit competition, which begins this fall.

“I wanted to be a Python because I have a keen interest in propagating the entrepreneurial spirit in Canada, as our future economic stability depends upon it,” Pilon says. “I hope Pythons' Pit will inspire residents in Halton to consider entrepreneurial ventures and showcase some of the best and brightest from the area.”

Pilon spent 14 years with Bausch & Lomb, where he rose through the ranks eventually becoming Corporate Vice President of the Canadian subsidiary. In 1998, Pilon founded Virox, a company with a patented technology in disinfection and sterilization. Virox has been included in Profit Magazine's “Companies to Watch” rankings three times and, in November of 2006, was the recipient of the prestigious Canadian American Business Council Award for business excellence.

Pythons' Pit is a partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Halton and McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business to give creative, entrepreneurial residents and high school students of Halton an opportunity to pitch their innovative business ideas or products. An investment pool of more than \$150,000 will be up for grabs during the competition.

Pythons' Pit is divided into two streams: an open division and a high school division. Open competitors will receive investment capital from the Pythons in return for an equity stake. High school students will receive cash prizes and be eligible for scholarships. Applications open Sept. 1 and aspiring entrepreneurs will have until Dec. 1 to submit their applications. Finalists will be put to the test in front of the Pythons on March 23, 2013.

“For those who submitting an application, I suggest that they also have a clear, compelling and memorable pitch,” Pilon advises. “They should also be able to answer the “So What?” question by the same three standards. “

Community support for Pythons' Pit is strong, with RBC Royal Bank, RBC Wealth Management and Burlington's Interkom Smart Marketing already on board as sponsors. The competition will ramp up over the coming months, and additional Pythons to join Pilon on the judging panel will be announced.

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