

EMAGAZINE

Civic minded – Chris Farias gets tangled up in Hamilton

Compiled by Dave Kuruc - May 1, 2009

A partner in the local design firm kitestring and newly minted Chair of the Board for the James South District, Chris Farias lets us in on what he's been up to:

On Hamilton: "About five years ago I moved to Hamilton with the company I worked for. Before that I had lived in Windsor and London. Let me just start by saying that Hamilton is by far the best place to live, play and start a company. I grew up in a small town, and I love how Hamilton has the comforts of a small town, but all the excitement of a big city."

On kitestring: "My partner Jenn Hudder and I started kitestring in the fall of 2007. We were both working at another firm for three years where we discovered what great chemistry we have; Jenn calls me her "work husband". We wanted to provide Hamilton with quality design and branding that we felt it was lacking. Since then we have helped many new businesses in the community get their kite (business) off the ground. In May of 2008 we opened the doors to our new storefront office on James Street South."

On the James South District: "I have lived in Hamilton for 5 years now and I consider the James South neighbourhood to be the best district in Hamilton. Over the past year and a half it has provided me with the soil and the friends that have helped business bloom. I can't image living and working anywhere else. In 2008 I joined the District Board of Directors which was headed by Sue Greene, who did an amazing job promoting the District. Earlier this year I became Chair of the Board. This is something new for me as I've never been Chair of anything before. I'm very excited! In my role as Chair, I hope to highlight the James South area to the rest of the City by bringing the community together through such initiatives as local food drives and street festivals."

On the Creative Collective: "Four creative companies recently came together to provide a unique experience to local clients. The Creative Collective includes kitestring creative marketing + design, Marta Hewson Photography, Media Face Video Production, and Laura Jackson Communication. Each company is a small boutique firm, specializing in what they do. As the Creative Collective, we hope to provide the Hamilton market with a unique design experience and maybe spread the word on shopping local for all services, no matter what they are." www.thecreativecollective.ca

On HYPE: I started HYPE (Hamilton Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs) last year. HYPE is a business networking group for young professionals and entrepreneurs in the Hamilton community. We aim to empower members to achieve their full potential. Events are held at a different local bar or pub every month. When I started my business I had so many questions. But I knew that other small business owners had the same question or even the solutions. I wanted a non competitive forum where people could learn from each other. So far the events have been a big hit." www.whatsthehype.ca