



MORE THAN A PLACE

THE Y IS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO ...



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK!

Donor impact update from the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka



1 IN 10

YMCA MEMBERS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE



1,500

NEWCOMERS SERVED
THROUGH VIRTUAL AND IN
PERSON IMMIGRANT SERVICES

5
0
0
0



JOB SEEKERS
SERVED THROUGH
EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAMS



5,000

CHILDREN LEARNING NEW
SKILLS AND MAKING NEW
FRIENDS THROUGH OUR
DAYCAMP PROGRAMS



Message from CEO Jill Tettmann

Autumn is often referred to as the season of change, but with so many changes over the past year and a half, it doesn't have the same ring it used to. As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, it seems words like pivot and adapt may be the new normal regardless of the seasonal shift.

Although the world around us is ever-changing, some things remain the same here at the Y. We are still committed to our work supporting the growth of all persons in spirit, mind and body, and their sense of belonging to each other and the global community.

This fall, we celebrate the changes that bring us back closer to the normal we once knew.

- Our Health, Fitness and Aquatics Centres have reopened our doors in Collingwood, Innisfil, Gravenhurst, Midland and Wasaga Beach. Members have been so happy to return, getting active together, taking swimming lessons and reconnecting with old friends.
- September marked our 7th Annual Move to Give Event, and although we had to stay apart, this annual celebration still managed to bring us together in spirit.
- The return to school meant the safe return of YMCA Before and After School programs, which allow parents to resume a more manageable workday. It ensures the youngest members of our community can play with their peers, be inspired by mentors, and be reminded of their place in our community.
- As we continue to embrace the reopening of these spaces, we also hang on to the silver linings that were discovered throughout the pandemic.
- The shift to virtual offerings improved accessibility to many YMCA programs and services, and so we continue to offer virtual options for fitness, ESL classes, literacy and learning programs, employment supports and youth outreach.

The YMCA is more than a place; it is an opportunity to learn, grow, play, heal, create, transform, connect and belong. Your generosity makes this possible. Whether face to face or in a virtual space, YMCA programs continue to inspire people to reach their full potential. In these uncertain times, your support has meant the world to us. It not only provides the financial support needed to deliver our mission but more importantly, it sends a clear message to our staff, volunteers and communities. Your gift says "I see you," "I believe in you," "Your efforts matter," "You matter," and it gives hope that together we are going to get through this. Thank you for your continued support.

[**Click Here to Learn How the Y is More Than A Place**](#)



Move to Give Update

September ended off our 7th annual Move to Give fundraising event. Even though we were apart our communities really came together to get moving and give back.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, donors and participants, Move to Give successfully raised **over \$50,000** to help build healthy communities through YMCA programs and services. We are blown away by the generosity of the community, from our sponsors to individual donors.

Despite some tough decisions over the past year and a half, the Y is here for good and the success of this year's Move to Give speaks to how much our community believes in the work we do as a charity.

Thank you to all of our generous event sponsors including our presenting sponsor Parkbridge Lifestyle Communities. Learn more about our amazing [sponsors here](#).



Writers Changing Lives

This summer, the 20th Annual Muskoka Novel Marathon returned, uniting writers on a quest to raise funds to support YMCA Literacy and Learning Services. We are sincerely grateful for your support and commitment to supporting the Y and the Huntsville community, especially considering the dramatic impacts and challenges of Covid-19. Now more than ever, a person's ability to read, write and navigate digital resources affects many different aspects of their lives, including economic status, health, the type of job an individual obtains, and the kind of education our children receive. This event raised over \$11,000.

Proceeds from this event help the Huntsville YMCA Learning Services adapt to the ever-growing needs of the community by providing essential programs such as:

- Academic upgrading and specialty courses
- Digital Technologies Training (computers, smartphones, tablets)
- One-on-One lessons and support for low-level learners
- Our new "The Writer in You" program

What do participants think of these programs?

"I have gained so much through this class. The instructor is perfect and so friendly and accommodating. I never thought I would find strength or confidence in my writing and that has changed completely in such a short time. My outlook on many things has become more positive. I am forever thankful for this class and I believe it is something so special that a lot of people can benefit from in so many ways. Absolutely amazing experience."



Meet Teresa, A YMCA Member

I joined the Y because need fitness in my life for my mental and physical health. I must be active to be healthy and happy. When my old gym closed, I was relieved to find the Y, especially for seniors living in the Snow Belt. It can be difficult to keep active all 12 months of the year. The YMCA had not only fitness classes but also a pool. I love being able to go in and enjoy both kinds of workouts.

While the Y was closed I really missed my Zumba class. No matter my mood or the weather, as soon as that music starts, I feel good. I really missed the positive atmosphere. Most of the staff and volunteers know you by name, they're happy to see you, and they're saving lives by getting people moving, getting our heart rate going and giving our muscles a good stretch.

The Y is a safe space to help everyone stay active, which is so important for older adults, especially in the winter months when outdoor activities are limited and especially during the pandemic when we couldn't travel to warmer weather and when there were so many extra things to worry about. We've been locked in for two years, rotting away stuck at home; our minds and bodies really suffered. The Y is working so hard to keep things clean and safe. I love coming here and seeing people of all ages, and with many differences, it lets you know you belong. Keeping seniors active slows the need for long-term care and other supports.

It's quite the community there. It's so wonderful having all the programs geared towards older folks like On the Move, Aquafit and Chair Yoga. It keeps me moving and shows that fitness has no age limit.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Camus

To discuss leaving a legacy gift with the YMCA please call 705-726-9622 ext 1450



Time Capsule Discovered

Demolition crews at the former Barrie YMCA have discovered a piece of history behind the cornerstone of the Grove Street West YMCA. The building was constructed in 1964 and the plaque where the time capsule was found commemorates a renovation/addition from 1994. We do not yet know what treasures and mementos may be inside and are looking forward to revealing the contents with as many stakeholders as possible in the near future. [Click](#)

[here](#) to read the full article. Photo Credit: Chris Simon

Another Successful Camp Season

We can't reflect on summer without talking about camp, and wow, what a reason to celebrate! We are incredibly proud to have provided over 4,000 weeks of classic and consistent summer fun through our Day Camp programs this year. This experience was appreciated by our staff, campers and their families, especially after so many inconsistencies in the school year, social gatherings and everyday interactions throughout the pandemic.



It is important to note that some of our campers have never in their lives experienced a full school year. Some of our young staff have been isolated from friends and community for many months. Now more than ever the formative experience of camp is so important. Although we faced unique challenges due to the pandemic, our teams used this summer as an opportunity to reclaim the joy in life. Weekly camp themes reflected the connection, adventures and coming of age moments our staff and campers have missed out on during the pandemic. Imagination brought these ideas to life and kids were able to experience tacky tourism, carnivals, superheroes, prom and even a giant birthday party where everyone was celebrated. Y Day Camp offered stability and routine, safety and support, familiarity and friendship in communities across Simcoe, Muskoka and Parry Sound.

**Advertising tells your customers what you do,
sponsoring tells your community who you are.**

To learn more about sponsoring YMCA programs and events contact
givingback@sm.ymca.ca



New Barrie YMCA Capital Campaign

Plans for a new Barrie Y are moving forward. Thanks to the Province, our generous donors, and the County of Simcoe for committing to our vision to build a community hub in Downtown Barrie. We are currently working with the City on the property adjacent to the downtown branch of the Barrie Public Library. This site will lead to many exciting opportunities to bring people together in a safe and inclusive centre of community. To learn more, or to make a donation, go to www.100reasonsY.ca.

Camp Kitchikewana Update

This past summer was one of the most unique seasons Camp Kitchikewana has seen in over 100 years of operation. We assembled a cabin rentals team to provide a fun-filled summer for over 146 families. Overall, the cabin rentals experience simulated camp as much as possible within the public health guidelines, starting with the Kitchikewana boat ride from Honey Harbour and including many camp

favourites like tower jumping, sailing and classic camp food. While it will be a happy day when Kitchikewana is able to welcome traditional campers back to the Island, it was amazing to welcome this new group of families and show them what camp is all about!



The Staff Development Program of 2021 began in July and included 16 awesome staff members. During our six-week work term, they focused on five key pillars: Skill Development, Leadership Development, Stewardship, Community Engagement, and Work Experience. We completed courses including Canoeing Instructors, Lifesaving Instructors, and Wilderness Advanced First Aid to improve skill development. Our participation in these courses has prepared the team to be capable instructors next year.

The leadership program has been a camp staple since its inception as the Counsellor in Training program in the 1980s. The program is an essential component of a camper's transition from a camper to a community leader and strives to prepare prospective camp counsellors to be the best role models they can be. It has successfully bonded past generations of leaders to one another and has inspired them to continue their time on Beausoleil, as we hope it will continue to do so in the years to come. Many campers look forward to their month-long participation in the leadership program as the highlight of their camp experience, which is why we were ecstatic to offer a condensed program this summer.

Staff remained dedicated to community engagement, stewardship and keeping the spirit of the camp alive. If you would like to learn more about all of the amazing things that happened at Camp Kitchikewana and what you can look forward to next summer, take a look at the 2021 Soup Strainer.

Read the 2021 Soup Strainer



**This could
be you!**

**Win Big just
like Zach!**

YMCA 50/50 raffles have raised over \$20,000 this year. Tickets for the next draw go on sale December 1st, 2021. Be sure to get yours. You could win BIG while making a lasting impact on your community!



A YEAR OF CHALLENGES, CHANGE, AND OPPORTUNITY.

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka 2020/2021 Annual Report



Stay Connected

Be the first to know what's happening in your Y and catch up on any good news you've missed.