



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Donor impact update from the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka



Update from the CEO

Summer is here and with it comes lots of laughter, quality time with friends and family, and time to recharge.

As always, our Y is bursting with energy and activity. Your generosity continues to make an immediate impact, addressing the most pressing needs of our communities today. With your support, our friends and neighbours can access financial assistance, employment supports, youth outreach, a sense of belonging and hope for the future. Thanks to donors like you that future is looking bright.

I am happy to share the following updates with you:

-We've renewed our mission, vision and values to better reflect our new Strategic Plan; Forward, Together. Now, like so many others, the YMCA is looking forward to the future. This plan will help us meet the needs of our community in the wake of the pandemic, as well as fulfill our mission of bringing people together through experiences that build health and strength, skills and confidence, and opportunities. We are excited about where our Y and our new strategic plan will take us in the future, as we work together to build vibrant, connected communities.

-Our programs at YMCA Camp Kitchikewana and our Summer Day Camps are in full swing. We are proud to welcome children from all across the region and to continue to provide financial assistance for campers when needed and are inspired knowing that the campers of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

-The return of warmer weather means more opportunities to get active outdoors. Our members are embracing their favourite summer activities, balancing swims in the lake with participating in fitness classes at our YMCA Health and Fitness Centres and through YMCA AT HOME+ virtual programs.

-The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka participated in The ParticipACTION Community Better challenge. Throughout the month of June, our HFA's, Child Care, and Move to Give participants contributed nearly 5 million minutes to the 400,000,000 total minutes tracked across Canada and one of our communities, Collingwood, was in the running to be named Canada's most active Community. Support from ParticipAction allowed our YMCA locations to provide over 200 free day passes to the community to help encourage activity for all ages and abilities.

-Our teams continue to find and create innovative initiatives for the future of our communities and build strong relationships with our partners.

-We remain optimistic that our communities are continuing to recover from the effects of the pandemic and see so many more members choosing to return to our health and fitness centres and embrace social gatherings and opportunities to get together.



We are so happy to have our overnight and day camps running!

**We know our campers are making memories to last a lifetime this summer!
Thanks to support like yours, we know our campers are learning, laughing, and
developing their leadership skills.**

A Big Move To Give Thank You!

June marked the success of our 8th annual Move To Give fundraising event.

Because of generous support like yours, we were able to raise over \$50,000 to support the communities we serve across Simcoe, Muskoka, and the District of Parry Sound.

Nearly 1,500 participants joined together either virtually or in person to participate in Move to Give, raising funds while having fun and getting active. This was the first in-person Move to Give event since the pandemic, and we know our members missed this kind of connection.



It was incredible to reconnect with our communities through themed fitness classes, online engagement, community events, and a dance party! Participants of all ages took up the challenge and came together to celebrate and support the YMCA.

We can hardly wait to get moving again next year!

[Click To Watch Our Move To Give Thank You Video](#)

Collingwood Tri Club



On June 20th the Collingwood YMCA Children's Tri Club completed their first full session since 2019 with a fun run for participants. The three part event started in the Collingwood pool and finished in Central Park where all children had the opportunity to burst through the finish line and be awarded a medal.

This program practices fundamental swimming, biking and running skills and

introduces the concepts of transitioning between legs, supporting your teammates and competing for personal progress. This program is made possible by the dedication of YMCA staff and volunteers and the generosity of donors whose contributions provide financial assistance for children in need as well as supplies and snacks for the young athletes. The beautiful handcrafted medals donated by a local artist exemplify that there are so many meaningful ways to give back to your community. To learn more about how to support programs like the Triathlon club with your time and talent contact melanie.pockaj@sm.ymca.ca

Sierra Ovation Awards



We know we can't change the world alone, but we know together we can do more. That's the power of a global community.

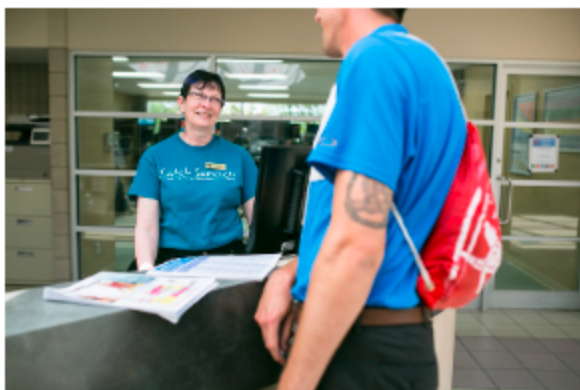
Since 2005, the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka and the YMCA of Sierra Leone have held a mutually beneficial partnership to support one another as global citizens – a principle of YMCA's around the world.

On May 28th 2022, YMCA-Sierra Leone received this special award from Sierra Ovations in recognition of exemplary work in contributing to the social and economic development of Sierra Leone.

This award is dedicated to the Board, Management, Staff and wonderful volunteers of the YMCA-Sierra Leone whose inspirational service to the organization made this award possible.

Good work continues to be noticed, and this only inspires us to do more for young people towards the African Renaissance through our partnership with Sierra Leone.

[Click to Learn More About Sierra Ovation Media](#)



Confidence & Growth; This is Amy's Y Story

I have been connected to the Y for over 20 years. My children grew up in the Y. They learned to swim in Y pools, went through all levels of Youth Leadership, had opportunities to go on exchanges and international trips, have volunteered, and now my eldest daughter has made the YMCA her career!

When our kids were little and we first joined the Y, we instantly felt connected to the community. The staff and volunteers at the YMCA made my kids feel like family, and I knew my kids were safe and happy in their care. The staff knew my family's names, events happening in our lives, and shared information about opportunities for our children.

As time went on and our kids were more comfortable, the Y really was like a home away from home. It's amazing how values learned at the Y stayed with us, and how my daughter is able to confidently say she's a "lifer" after starting work at the age of 15.

This whole experience has made our family appreciate the Y as so much more than a fitness facility- it's a community! My YMCA experience goes beyond fitness and child care, it has been a life-choice and wonderful career opportunity for my loved ones. We are strong believers in the YMCA's mission, vision and values and believe everyone in our community deserves this kind of community, no matter their background. I am so grateful to the Y and the donors that make it possible for everyone to benefit from a strong community.

"No one has ever become poor by giving"

-Anne Frank

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

Congratulations to 12 Advanced Aquatics Scholarship Recipients

The YMCA opened applications for the Buckley Mortgage Broker Advanced Aquatics Scholarship to local youth with a passion for swimming and an interest in further developing these essential skills to serve their community this past May.

A total of twelve students were awarded scholarships in the region to pursue the Life Saving Society's Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, or the National Lifeguard Course at the Collingwood or Wasaga Beach YMCAs.

"I have always wanted to become a lifeguard. Learning how to swim is a necessary life skill if you live in Wasaga Beach. My goal is to motivate others to develop their swimming skills and to become comfortable in the water," said Ashleigh, a recipient of the scholarship. Additionally, she said, "I'm looking forward to being part of the YMCA's family as a lifeguard. Growing up, I swam at the Wasaga Beach YMCA and honestly, the lifeguards and instructors were some of my favorite people. I want to be that for others."

Due to the overwhelming response of scholarship applicants and positive feedback from the community, we plan on working to open a second round of scholarship applications later in 2022.

To learn more about how you can sponsor aquatic scholarships in your community or learn more about special projects, please contact Melanie Pockaj.



We Want To Hear From You!

One of the best ways you can help our YMCA right now is by clicking the [link below](#) to our 2022 Donor Survey. This survey helps ensure we have up to date contact information and communication preferences from you, our valued supporter and allows an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and feedback on your experience. We would greatly appreciate if you could take the time to complete this survey at your earliest convenience.