



YMCA

We build strong kids,  
strong families, strong communities.

**For Immediate Release**

**January 23, 2009**

**YMCA CANADA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENTS  
TO THE YMCA FELLOWSHIP OF HONOUR**

(Peterborough, ON) – The YMCA Canada Board and the YMCA Fellowship of Honour Advisory Council are very pleased to announce the appointment of nine exceptional leaders to the YMCA Fellowship of Honour in 2009.

The YMCA Canada Fellowship of Honour Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Ottawa, Ontario. The Governor General of Canada will be presiding at this national event and will present each recipient with their award.

The YMCA Fellowship of Honour is the highest honour of the YMCA in Canada. This award recognizes the outstanding service, significant impact and exemplary leadership of volunteers and staff who have excelled at advancing the YMCA mission locally, nationally and internationally. This award also recognizes the remarkable YMCA volunteers and staff who have given tremendous leadership while strengthening and expanding the capacity of the YMCA to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. They have passed on a legacy of caring from one generation to the next, and have inspired civic responsibility in others.

There are two categories of recognition. “Companions” are recognized for their commendable service at the national or international level and have at least 15 years of YMCA experience. “Officers” have at least 10 years of YMCA experience and are honoured for their exemplary work at the local or regional level.

<b>Companion</b>	
Rich Bailey, YMCA of Greater Toronto	Staff
Donald McCreesh, YMCA of Greater Toronto	Volunteer
Don McCuaig, YMCA Canada	Staff

<b>Officer</b>	
Mollie Cartmell, YMCA of Peterborough	Volunteer
Ralph Connor, YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington	Volunteer
William Gallaway, YMCA of Niagara	Volunteer
Gavin Hume, YMCA of Greater Vancouver	Volunteer
Lorne Larson, YMCA of Calgary	Volunteer
Gordon Saunders, YMCA of Sault Ste. Marie	Staff

### **Mollie Cartmell, Officer**

Mollie Cartmell was recruited to join the YMCA of Peterborough's Board in 1982 and in 1986 was elected its first woman President. It was during this time that the YMCA was facing a crippling debt of \$700,000. Mollie and her Board had to make one of the toughest decisions in the Association's history: to sell YMCA Camp Kawartha to satisfy a bank imposed debt restructuring agreement. They made the significant decision not to sell to the highest bidder but instead sell to a buyer who supported the YMCA values and kept in mind the best interest of the community as a whole. They found a group of Rotarians who agreed to carry on the legacy of the camp (which still exists today).

Shortly after this, the CEO announced his resignation and a subsequent cash flow crunch ensued and led to a severe crisis. Mollie was asked to extend her term as President, which she did with great dedication. From 1986 to the mid '90s, Mollie, who is also a former Olympian, chaired the largest winter half marathon in Ontario, called the YMCA Gatorade Half Marathon, for the benefit of sending children to YMCA Summer Day Camp. It remains the single, largest annual fundraiser for this YMCA.

Mollie also wrote a book on the history of the YMCA of Peterborough (1868-1993). This published literary work was recognized as an "award winning publication" by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Mollie served on the National Board of YMCA Canada for seven years (1993-1999) and rallied around the development and construction of the new YMCA in Peterborough in 2007. After the death of her sister, an advocate in the field of early childhood education, Mollie gathered significant financial support from families and friends around the globe to fund the construction of "Leila's Place" named after her sister. This state-of-the-art Child Care Centre in the YMCA of Peterborough is home to over 50 children.

In recognition of her prolific contributions and personal commitment to excellence, YMCA Canada is most pleased to appoint Mollie Cartmell an Officer in the YMCA Fellowship of Honour.

Past, local recipients of the YMCA Canada Fellowship of Honour include Dr. Don Curtis (1989) and Doug Kirk (1998).

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