

YMCA Annual Giving Program

“Partners with Youth” – Who our Donors are Helping:

The cheerful sounds of Andrei (11 years old) and his friends, fills the background under the watchful eye of his mother, Rodica Manea, as she skillfully juggles the phone on one shoulder, adjusts the iron setting and says, “Sure, I’m free to talk!”

“We’re a family of two,” she explains. “I came here in the summer with no money and no job. I was on social assistance and looking for work. That’s hard to do with a child. Who could look after Andrei for me?”

Rodica hired sitters, but the experience was poor. “Andrei spent too much time watching TV and drinking pop. There was no stimulation, little interaction, and limited outdoor time. Once I found work, I knew I had to find another solution for my son.” Too old for Daycare, social assistance suggested the YMCA. “I brought in my income statements at the suggestion of some colleagues and was gratified to learn that I qualified for a camp subsidy. I was able to pay for five out of seven camp weeks. I was grateful to the YMCA for covering the rest, and excited that Andrei could go to camp.”

Being stuck at home all day was not good for Andrei. At camp, he enthusiastically jumped at new experiences – golf, floor hockey, water sports – everything. “All those new skills made me proud. I don’t swim – how could

I teach him? Y-camp taught him that.” And Andrei’s hopes for camp? Life at camp not only brought him the excitement he craved, but the companionship that he needed.

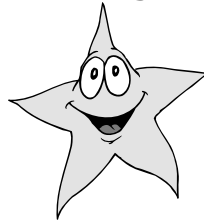
“Such a positive environment for my son. He has made so many friends.” Each year now, he renews old ties and forges new ones, strengthening his character through friendship building. This young boy is being shaped by these new experiences: self-confidence bolstered by camp counselors encouraging him to “try it one more time – you can do it;” pride in his achievements, and the support of his peers. “Now we bike to work and Andrei can go the rest of the way to camp on his own.”

On the subject of giving to our YMCA “Partners with Youth” Campaign, Rodica is definite. “I want to give back. It is wonderful to see that with all the charities in our society clamoring for money, people still find a way to give to our YMCA. These programs bring people together, which helps families feel better, safer and makes communities stronger.”

One thing is certain. What’s happening here is more than bricks and mortar: Our YMCA supports the heart of this community. We are a place to come home to.



Check This Out... Friday Night Youth Night Out!!



Friday Youth and Teen Nights with themes, special events, and lots of organized activities!

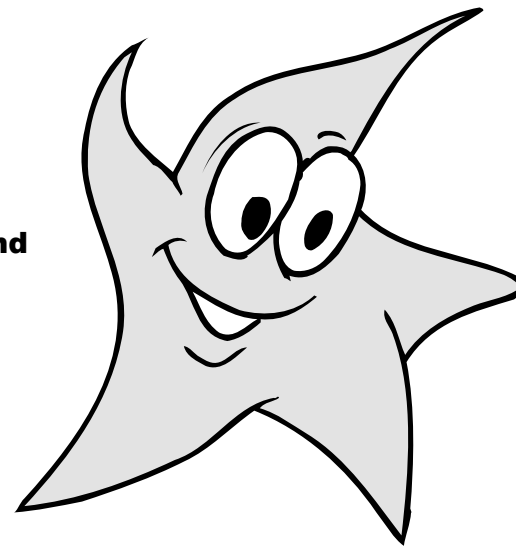
Who: Ages 7-17

When: Fridays 7:00 to 9:00pm

Where: The YMCA

Parents: Need a night out? Bring the kids to the YMCA for a Kids Night Out! If you are a parent looking for an evening filled with tons of fun for your 7-10 year old, we have just the program! Kids Night Out is packed with many activities and character building games for each child. Each child is given the opportunity to play games (cards, Clue, Monopoly, etc.), do crafts, watch a movie, swim and/or play sports all while learning character building skills and in a safe and supervised environment. This is a great way for children to make new friends and learn respect, caring, responsibility, and honesty. Children will be supervised for the entire evening at the various activity stations, allowing for a safe and fun night out!

Similar activities will be available for youth ages 10-17. These youth will have the opportunity to enjoy a safe, secure environment that is fun and dynamic, yet not overly structured. A chance to swim, play sports or simply hang out with friends! They can choose!! Special events will take place throughout the year including: special guests, pizza nights, cooking and more! Snacks will be available for sale each night.



Four YMCA Volunteers

after being recognized through the Ontario Volunteer Recognition Program
Left to Right: Allison D’Alessandro, Jim Martin, David Bignell, Elaine Rose. (Clair Leahy and Wayne Vandervoort could not attend the ceremony.)



Kids Korner



LUNCH BOX IDEAS

Kids lunch times at school are short ... so what do parents do to make sure they eat? The answer is: make it FUN and INTERESTING!! Kids like packaging... so, the better (and cooler) you make something look, the more likely they are to eat it. You don’t need to make it extra special every day, but maybe you can use some of these ideas once or twice a week. Here are some fun ideas

- ❖ Colored cellophane wrap
- ❖ Napkins with funny faces drawn on (or a message)
- ❖ A Hershey’s Kiss (or Hug) with a note attached
- ❖ Utensils wrapped in ribbon
- ❖ A Fruit Kabob
- ❖ Draw with food coloring on your child’s sandwich (or let them do it!)

HERE’S A FUN RECIPE:

~Surprise Banana~

Need: Toothpick, Banana
Using the toothpick, write a note to your child (like ‘I love you,’ or ‘have a great day’) on the banana that you put in their lunch. It doesn’t show up right away, but by the time they eat it at recess or lunch, your surprise message will show up! They’ll love it!!

HALLOWEEN CRAFT IDEA

~Handprint Spiders~

Paint your four fingers and palm black (remember – don’t paint your thumb) and stamp onto paper keeping fingers spread out. Paint other hand and stamp it in the opposite direction, overlapping palm prints. Add wiggly eyes, and there you have it! A Hand Print Spider. Great for Newborn to 5 years old!



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Yes! I want to help build *strong kids!*

Name _____ Phone # (H) _____ (B) _____

Address _____ City _____

Postal Code _____ E-mail Address _____

I would like to give this gift of: _____\$25 _____\$50 _____\$100 _____\$250 _____\$500 _____Other

I would like to make this gift now with:

a) _____ the enclosed cheque, payable to the YMCA b) _____ my Credit Card (please see credit card information below)

Or I would like to make my donation through a contribution of \$ _____ per month:

a) I authorize the YMCA to withdraw monthly donations from my bank account (cheque marked ‘void’ enclosed)

b) Please charge my credit card (see credit card information below)

c) I have enclosed post-dated cheques, payable to the YMCA

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Credit Card # _____ Expiry Date MM / YY

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Personal Best

John Hedges

If your YMCA visits take place in the early morning, then you probably know John Hedges!

John joined the YMCA 10 years ago. With a family history of heart attacks, John knew he had to stay active. He took part in many activities in the YMCA, from biking and doing weights, to running in the pool.

Unfortunately, John didn't outrun his risk of heart disease. In 2000, John suffered a mild heart attack, and was also diagnosed with Bell's Palsy. Two years later, John suffered a more serious heart attack as well as a stroke. One year later, he underwent open heart surgery.

Throughout all of these struggles, John has remained committed to coming to the YMCA. In fact, five weeks after his surgery, he was back in for his workouts! At first he could only do 15 minutes, and now he workouts out for an hour, riding the bike and working out in the pool. He is here most days of the week, with a ready smile and a story for the staff and members of the YMCA.

Way to inspire us John!

YMCA Peace Week

Peace in its many forms has long been a concern of the worldwide YMCA movement. It is with great passion that the YMCA of Peterborough, along side its worldwide partners in 126 countries, annually join together in November to observe YMCA Peace Week and to renew their commitment towards peace. Canada, devotes a full week to promote activities and educational programs to help people explore peace. This year, we will celebrate Peace Week November 15th thru the 22nd.

YMCA World Peace Week offers us a time to reflect on the issue of peace; not only as an international issue, but also in terms of how each of us can contribute. Today it is more important than ever to nurture and promote values associated with peace and development. At the YMCA, we have a strong vision of what Peace means. Every day, members, participants, volunteers, and staff are involved in bringing this vision to reality by demonstrating the YMCA of Peterborough's core values of Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility. As expressed in the World Alliance of YMCA's 1981 Statement on Peace, "Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of



relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us..."

To celebrate YMCA World Peace Week, the Peterborough Family YMCA presents the World Peace Medallion awarded to recognize the achievements of an individual or group in Peterborough City and County who- **without any special resources** – best represents the values of peace building. The 2002 Peace Medallion was presented posthumously to Mohammed F. Rahman.

Mohammed F. Rahman was a leader of Peterborough Muslim community who ministered to people of all faiths, fed the hungry and preached tolerance and compassion to all. He will be remembered as someone who wanted to unite people.

Please join us as we celebrate Peace week. If you have questions about nominating someone or about how to get involved in our Peace Week celebration, Please contact Ryan Stabler at 748-9642 ext. 401.



Land Acquired – A Milestone Reached The New Facility Update

By Bob Gallagher, CEO.

It was with great pleasure that on Wednesday October 1st 2003 the YMCA hosted Her Worship Mayor Sylvia Sutherland; Angela Lloyd, Chair of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board; and Chief Terry McLaren, President, YMCA of Peterborough as they met to announce an historic agreement securing land for the new YMCA facility in our community.

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board declared the King Edward School as surplus earlier this year. "We are pleased that we have been able to create a win-win situation," said KPR District School Board Chair, Angela Lloyd. "The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board has disposed of a school that has remained a community asset, the YMCA has a new home and the City has gained a more modern YMCA for the citizens of our community."

"As the site can no longer be used for a school, I am delighted that it will remain with an organization that has such a long standing commitment to community development. So many of our students benefit from the programs of the YMCA that the transfer of property is both welcome and appropriate," said KPR District School Board Director of Education, Dr. Avis Glaze.

Under the current agreement, the City will purchase the full 5.4 acres from the KPR District School Board for \$550,000. The City, in turn, will sell approximately 4.5 acres of vacant land to the YMCA for \$500,000. The City will retain ownership of the King Edward School building for future use. The YMCA has a first right of refusal on the 1906 school building. The City's involvement was key, based on the Ministry of Education's guidelines for school boards in dealing with surplus schools.

The King Edward site meets the criteria the YMCA Board has been working with for the last three years. Some of the main criteria indicated a site that was 4 – 6 acres, centrally located and at an accessible and visible location was needed. While land procurement has been a long process, the result of securing a site that fits our criteria is very rewarding. The new YMCA will allow us to meet our goal of serving more people in the City and County with more programs and services.

In past newsletters we have shared other steps that have been reached in the planning for the new YMCA, such as the design principles created through member focus groups and other member feedback. This member consultation will continue through the next 12-18 months as the planning process continues. Please watch for opportunities to contribute your thoughts and suggestions to the new facility.

We are committed to maintaining our current building, until the day we move, in the best possible condition. We have recently installed new carpeting in the entrance to the Lifestyle area and we have more painting planned over the next few months. The small gym also received a facelift – the walls were painted and the floor was beautifully refinished. Please continue to let staff know, either verbally, through member's survey or the blue comment cards, if there is anything we can do to continue to meet your needs. The planning and development of a new YMCA is an exciting process. Planning for future community needs is a challenge that we look forward to.

One of our next major steps will be the planning, development and launch of our capital campaign. Community support is a critical component of a healthy YMCA. As one of our community's major charitable organizations, financial contributions from our members, volunteers, staff and participants is critical. We will also look to members of our community, corporations, service clubs, and the three levels of government for financial support. Please consider the legacy that your financial gift can have on your new YMCA and our community into the future.

