



Barrie YMCA

connections



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Photo: Barrie YMCA 12:15pm Drop-In Adult Floor Hockey Group are getting ready to support the 2007 Strong Kids Annual Campaign.

Outstanding Spirit

An enormous thank you to all our YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka supporters, donors and volunteers who helped us raise over \$239,000 for last year's 2006 YMCA Spirit of Giving Campaign.

Funds raised through the campaign are directed to our YMCA Spirit of Giving Fund and support individuals who are unable, not unwilling, to pay full-fee for our programs and services.

Last year, through the YMCA Spirit of Giving Fund, our donors supported over 7,000 individuals across our whole Association to participate in and enjoy YMCA programs in Camping; Child Care; Employment and Newcomer Services; Health, Fitness and Recreation; and Leadership Development.

Your support made a difference. Thank you!

MAC is Back

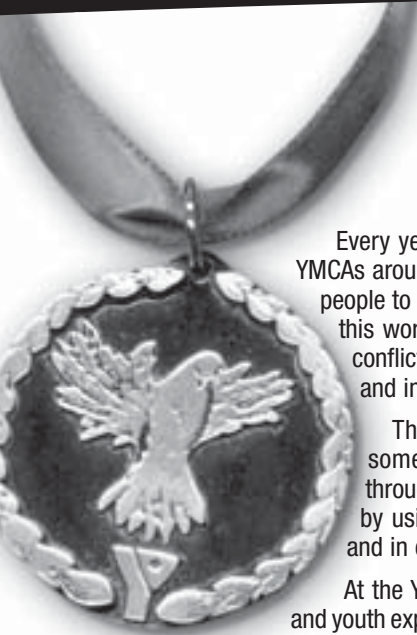
By: Doug Partridge, Membership Advisory Committee (MAC) Chair

As chairperson of the Membership Advisory Committee (MAC), it has been my privilege, along with fellow MAC members, to liaise with YMCA staff in pursuit of the YMCA mission and vision. Our role at MAC is to provide feedback to staff regarding Barrie YMCA programs and services, to encourage member participation in volunteer programs, and to enhance communication between members and YMCA staff.

Members of MAC at the Barrie YMCA include Doug Partridge (Chair), Dana Barakaukas, Gordon Downie, Anson Geddies, Ted Geddies, Nancy Lalany, Gerrie Maitland, Michael Monteith, Leslie Pressnail and Brian Wiles.

Our meeting held on Wednesday January 31, 2007 was very productive. MAC meets on Wednesday evening from 7-9 pm every second month and discuss issues pertaining to YMCA membership, providing feedback to the YMCA membership team. We welcome new members, particularly teens, seniors, and parents of preschool children. Join us and have a voice!

To find out how you can become involved, contact General Manager Lisa Stiver at (705) 726 6421 ext. 226, or email lisa_stiver@ymca.ca.



YMCA Peace Medallion

Every year in November the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, along with other YMCAs around the world, celebrate YMCA International Peace Week and urge people to make peace their personal cause. Let's believe that we can make this world a better place – a place where each of us can live free from conflict, violence and war, from greed and hunger and from inequality and injustice.

This involves determination, courage, compassion, hope and sometimes forgiveness. Building peace begins with you and me, through changes in our relationships with those around us. Let's begin by using our values to shape how we act every day with our families and in our communities.

At the YMCA, through games and activities during Peace Week, children and youth explore the meaning of inclusion, respect, commitment, responsibility, equality and justice. They are able to translate values into actions by exploring topics such as cooperation, empathy, positive communication, conflict resolution, and parallels between community and global issues.

The highlight of YMCA Peace Week is the awarding of the YMCA Peace Medallion to recognize the best person or group, who through their volunteer efforts, demonstrate and model how each of us can contribute to peace at the Volunteer and Donor recognition event held every year in November at Horseshoe Valley Resort.

The Peace Medallion went to: ROTARY CLUBS OF BARRIE



PHOTO: Representative from each of the 3 Barrie clubs – Robert Reid, Chair of the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka; Ruben Orr, Past President Rotary Club of Barrie; Doug Moody, President, Rotary Club of Barrie - Huronia; Ken Pickering, President, Rotary Club of Barrie - Kempenfelt, Tom Coon, CEO of YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

Rotary Clubs are known for Club Meetings and their fundraising projects but little is known of their work in promoting community building, values-based relationships, international youth exchanges, and support for projects that help improve equality and justice. The work that they do is done on a totally voluntary basis and has a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

The three Rotary Clubs in Barrie – the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Rotary Club of Barrie/Huronia, and the Rotary Club of Barrie/Kempenfelt – exemplify the objectives of Rotary International to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.

Whether it has been local community projects such as improving literacy, or international projects such as PolioPlus to eradicate polio, or encouraging international understanding through the Youth Exchange Program, or vocational programs, or abroad that increase someone's chances for a better future, Rotary stays true to its values.

Promoting honesty and fairness, along with building goodwill, Rotary also ensures each project is beneficial to all concerned. In particular, Rotary promotes the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through the fellowship of people united in the ideal of service.

We are proud to honour the three Rotary Clubs of Barrie for their work and commitment to the community and to peace.

YMCA Annual Giving Campaign 2007



For those people who are only vaguely aware of the presence of the YMCA in our communities, and even for regular users of the YMCA, it is often a forgotten fact that the YMCA is a charity. In Simcoe Muskoka, the delivery of social services by the YMCA (for example Newcomer Services or YMCA Child Care Services) is mixed with the delivery of life style enhancement and personal development programs (for example fitness classes or leadership programs). All Barrie YMCA programs reflect the needs and values of our local community. In other communities, you will find that the local YMCA offers a different mix of services and facilities – complimentary to the needs of those communities. For example, at the YMCA in Sierra Leone, Africa you will not find any sports and recreation facilities. You will find family planning and disease control centers.

The commonality among the various YMCA centres throughout the world is that nobody is turned away solely on an inability to pay. Each YMCA runs on a budget that derives funding from a variety of sources. The vast majority of operating costs of the YMCA facilities in Simcoe Muskoka region come from operating revenues. A small portion comes from the philanthropic contributions of members of the local communities in which the YMCA centres exist. The philanthropic portion of YMCA operating revenue goes directly to support people in our immediate communities who would otherwise not be able to afford to participate.

That's what the YMCA Annual Giving Campaign is all about. Each year, each local YMCA raises money from its own community that is spent on behalf of people in that same community who could not otherwise afford to participate in their YMCA programs and services. These contributions most often come from YMCA members and staff and other friends in the community who understand the philanthropic nature and social benefit of the YMCA. Last year's Annual Campaign in Barrie raised more than \$70,000. That's a very handsome contribution from our community.

Many thanks to all who graciously donated their time, talents and treasure.

George Cameron
Chair, YMCA Annual Giving Campaign
Barrie YMCA

YMCA Volunteer of the Year Awards

Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Recognition

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka has over 500 volunteers who help us support the communities we serve and fulfill our Mission. Volunteering is a cornerstone of our YMCA philosophy. Every November we take time to celebrate our volunteers' significant efforts at the YMCA Volunteer Recognition evening held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

YMCA volunteers who have a positive effect on the lives of others in our YMCA Association are recognized as a YMCA Volunteer of the Year.

GEORGE CAMERON



By utilizing his strong and well-respected community networks, George pushed the Barrie YMCA presence forward through philanthropic community events, and helped re-establish and re-engage more members and more of the community into the Spirit of Giving. As a result, he has further raised the awareness of the Barrie YMCA in the community.

George has personally committed to the campaign as well as attending the North American YMCA conference on fundraising in order to help create a culture of giving.

This has resulted in 3 more Service Club donors this year plus 12 teams of 4 totaling 48 participants in the Rotary Fun Run. The individuals who participated were those who would never have otherwise participated in the Fun Run.

George has committed to growing the campaign in number of donors, financial contribution and number of volunteers. George is an ambassador of the YMCA both within the Y and out in the community.

GABRIELE WOLF

As a teenager, Gabriele Wolf volunteered at the YMCA in Germany, working with city children who came to summer camp set in the German countryside. Today, married to a Canadian and the mother of a two-year old son, she's a YMCA volunteer again.

"The Y in Germany is completely different from what we have here," says Gabriele. "Perhaps they have big centres in the cities, but I never saw anything like the Barrie YMCA. Here they have something for everyone and I've made so many new friends here too."

Gabriele moved to Barrie in 2000. Her first encounter with the Barrie YMCA was in 2004, when she took pre-natal classes. In January 2005, she joined as a member to participate in fitness classes and it didn't take long before she started to consider becoming a volunteer aquafit instructor.

"Everyone at the YMCA is so friendly and welcoming," she said. "People encouraged me to start training as a fitness instructor. I worried a bit about my accent, but the only thing I have ever had complaints about is the music I choose. The daytime aquafit classes like slower music and the evening aquafit class want music with a faster tempo. But mostly participants in my classes are

great and really give me lots of support, and they tell me I'm improving."

Gabriele sees the YMCA as playing an important role in keeping children fit. Growing up in Germany, her school day ended at noon and all the children were active all afternoon. "In North America, children don't get the same opportunity for physical exercise," shares Gabriele, "the YMCA is really important here."

"I'm pleased that through my volunteer efforts I can help people enjoy being physically active and improve their overall health. It's great."

Gabriele shares that our YMCA helps her out too. With her family all in Germany, the YMCA has become Gabriele's Canadian family. "People are welcoming and interested and they help with my son. I walk through the doors here and it's just like one big family. I find that really supportive, it's a great community that I have found here."

Gabriele says she plans to continue being a stay-at-home mom and stay involved with her YMCA. Her husband is a member too and an avid squash player and she's planning to train as a volunteer pilates instructor.

Gabriele, we are delighted to have you as part of our family and look forward to your pilates classes.

BRIAN KALLIECHARAN



PHOTO: Robert Reid, Chair of the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka; Brian Kalliecharan; Theresa Matthews and Tom Coon, CEO of YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

Brian's involvement as a committed fitness volunteer has allowed us to grow the delivery of fitness classes both in quantity and quality. His impact has had a strong influence in helping the Barrie YMCA to better meet the needs of our growing membership, and is helping us move forward towards our Strategic Plan.

- He attended YMCA Fitness Fever and brought back new skills to help drive the quality of program delivery to a higher standard.
- He co-instructs classes to bring an improved dimension of relationship development and value added experience to participants.
- He actively seeks unique methods in which to enhance relationship building among the committed fitness volunteers beyond the parameters of the facility.

Brian motivates others to be the best that they can be by providing opportunities to look beyond the day to day and get involved in the bigger picture.

Brian is the epitome of moving from casual to connected and has become committed to being an excellent role model. He successfully motivates and supports other members and has a particular understanding for those who are working their way through personal challenges.

YMCA Core Values in Action:

Our YMCA Core Values are Caring, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, and Responsibility.

Since January 2006, our YMCA staff, volunteers, and members have been working together on what our Core Values look like in action. Identifying our Core Values as concrete and measurable will help all of us remember what they are, and understand how to include them in our daily lives. We will continue forging forward and keep you up-to-date with our progress.

Here's what we discussed for our YMCA value Caring.

VALUES IN ACTION: CARING

Commit to building relationships and demonstrate compassion towards the needs of others.

| TYPE | INDIVIDUAL |
|--|--|
| Location/Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change Rooms - Conditioning Room - Gym/Courts - Pool - Membership Service Desk - Parking Lot - Classes - Member as part of a Community | Acknowledge Presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smile - Say hello - Get to know people's names Courteousness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean up after yourself - Engage in dialogue to: address concerns, inform, make the Y a better place for all - Use appropriate language - Respect privacy - Observe established guidelines: avoid fragrances, avoid use of cell phone in change rooms, observe suggested time limits |

If you are interested in helping us ensure our YMCA Values are demonstrated in everything we do, please talk with General Manager, Lisa Stiver at (705) 726 6421 ext. 226, or email lisa_stiver@ymca.ca.

Did You Know?

One hundred and eleven years ago, William G. Morgan, who was an employee of the YMCA Chapter in Holyoke, Massachusetts, developed the first game of Volleyball. Morgan called the game "Mintonette" (from Badminton) and created it for businessmen as a game that afforded less physical contact between players than Basketball which he knew from YMCA colleague, James Naismith. Morgan borrowed aspects from several games in creating volleyball: tennis (the net, though it was 6 foot 6 inches high, so it was just over the heads of average men), a German game called Faust ball, basketball, baseball, and handball. It was during one of the demonstration games of the sport that volleyball got its name when one of the spectators commented the game was more about volleying.

One hundred years ago, the first official game of volleyball was played at the YMCA's Springfield College and became a pet sport at a variety of different colleges. By 1900, volleyball was popular enough to have its own ball. Amazingly, volleyball became an international sport in its early days and to this day remains popular.



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GM Message



In December, 2005, I made the professional move from the Vancouver YMCA where I served for seven years, to the Collingwood YMCA. I am now looking forward to my new role as General Manager of the Barrie YMCA. I knew then, and it continues to be reinforced everyday, that this is the right move for me and my family.

Our YMCA is an amazing part of the community with a rich history of service, dedicated volunteers, and a staff team that is second to none. It is an honor and a privilege for me to be welcomed into your Barrie YMCA family by the members, staff, volunteers, and all of you who love this great organization. In the coming months, I look forward to the opportunity to get to know this community and your YMCA and meet many of you. Everyone has been welcoming and friendly which speaks to the strength of this community.

This fall session we introduced a number of new programs and classes for children, youth and adults, and it's been great to see so many participating. I'm also delighted to report that our YMCA membership is growing. I would like to take the opportunity to thank and recognize our long-time members and also welcome our new members.

For many of you who use our YMCA facilities and programs, serve as volunteers, make contributions, and carry fond memories of years in YMCA programs, you know what it is like to feel at home here at your Barrie YMCA. As I get to know you more I'm looking forward to sharing this home we call the YMCA.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to serving with all of you to continue our mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities through our YMCA.

Lisa Stiver
General Manager
Barrie YMCA

Staff changes

For the past year, YMCA Canada has been working diligently on developing new standards and best practices in all aspects of Health, Fitness and Recreation. To ensure that standards are in place, the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka has decided to allocate staff resources to this initiative.

Effective January 15th, Anne Marie Candy will start her new role of Product Manager, Health and Wellness Program Development. Anne Marie is excited about her new role in the YMCA. Lisa Stiver, former General Manager at the Barrie YMCA, has agreed to take on the role of General Manager at the Barrie YMCA. The staff and members congratulate and welcome both Anne Marie and Lisa.

Letter from a Member to one of our Individual Conditioning Trainers:

"Thanks for a great year, and being who you are. You inspire me and encourage me to be a better person. Also, thanks for being wonderful with the girls. I love how you have inspired them to become fit and healthy"

- Mona



**Register Now for
Summer Camp 2007**
www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/daycamp

YMCA Priority: SAM, Scores:

For the last ten years, YMCAs in Canada have committed to a nationwide YMCA initiative entitled YMCA Priority: SAM, (Serving All Members). This enterprise was developed as a tool for improving the performance and member perception of YMCA program and service sites. In particular, YMCA Priority: SAM rates our membership centres via survey on qualities such as cleanliness, safety, communication, convenience, customer service and more. The YMCA Priority: SAM, Survey is sent out to a random selection of our members every other year. The results of the 2006 Survey are in, and this is what you have said;

Since 2004 your YMCA has improved its skills in:

- member communication
- goal setting and achievements
- program convenience

Areas that we need to work on include:

- Facility cleanliness
- Customer/Member Services

We take these scores very seriously. While we are thrilled at our achievement areas, we are most interested in developing high scores in all areas. This way we know we are meeting our YMCA members' needs. To reach this goal, we are implementing the following changes:

- We have increased the breadth of our programming and are committed to ongoing regional training for all YMCA staff and volunteers.
- We have heightened our focus on developing a clean culture by improving the standards, and using measurable targets and audits to ensure cleanliness in all areas of our facility.

And finally, we welcome Sharon Brule as our new YMCA Membership Sales and Services Supervisor. Sharon will bring leadership to the membership staff team. Her 18 years experience with our YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre will be an asset to us as we advance the quality and service standards of our staff offered to our members.

Supporting Communities, Shaping Their Future

*YMCA Child Care; Conference Services; Day and Residential Camps;
Employment and Community Services;
Health, Fitness and Recreation; International and Philanthropy.*



What a great year it was at our YMCA.

It was wonderful to see our Health, Fitness and Recreation (HFR) Centres filled with community members cooling down from the summer's extreme heat - our swimming pools were especially popular. Now, with winter upon us, they are still popular.

Under the care and guidance of our camp counsellors, we watched children in our Summer Day Camp programs enjoying themselves and learning through camp activities and games.

Our resident camp YMCA Camp Kitchikewana had another great summer with more children and youth attending this year over previous years, and we had a full summer of families enjoying the wonders of YMCA Geneva Park on Lake Couchiching. I am glad to report that as severe storms blew through our communities, our Kitchi campers and Geneva Park cottagers remained safe.

Our Employment Resource Centres were busy this summer too. Our staff provided resources and programs that helped students find summer jobs and aided our communities' unemployed youth and adults to return to the workforce. This fall we relocated our Midland Employment Resource Centre to be more accessible and serve more people.

This summer was also exciting for us at the YMCA as we moved forward with our 2012 Strategic Plan. In the fall, our YMCA opened the new Wasaga Beach facility and construction is proceeding on the new Innisfil YMCA, which will open in late fall of 2007.

The Child and Family Development Department has undergone significant growth this fall opening 9 new locations across Simcoe and Muskoka allowing us to serve hundreds more children, thanks to the generous support of the municipal and provincial governments.

Last year's 2006 YMCA Spirit of Giving Campaign raised over \$238,000 to support our YMCA financial assistance program which helped over 7,000

children, youth, and adults participate in YMCA programs they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. This success is due to you – our donors, funders and volunteers – and I am sincerely grateful for your tremendous support. Thank you.

Our YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka has over 700 volunteers, and in November we celebrated and recognized their efforts at our annual Volunteer Recognition Event at the Annual General Meeting. In November, we also recognized the tremendous efforts of our communities' peacemakers as our YMCA celebrated YMCA World Peace Week at events held across the communities we serve.

Our YMCA is blessed by the support and involvement of the individuals and communities that our Association serves. It is a privilege for me to give staff leadership to your YMCA and work in partnership with our many outstanding volunteer leaders as we build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Tom Coon
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

mission: The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is a charity that excels at strengthening our communities by providing opportunities for all to grow in spirit, mind and body.

vision: The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka will be the recognized leader in lifelong health and personal growth.

values: Caring, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, Responsibility.

Comments & Contributions

Please contact Lynda Inglis, Editor, YMCA Connections Newsletter regarding the articles and information provided in this issue of YMCA Connections at (705) 726 9622 ext. 245.

We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.



Plus de vie à la vie
des jeunes, des familles
et de la communauté.

YMCA

PRIVACY STATEMENT: The YMCA strives to ensure that volunteers and staff conduct their relationships with each other, participants and all other Association contacts with integrity, good judgment and fairness. The YMCA respects the right of individuals to the protection of their personal information. The YMCA is committed to maintaining the confidentiality, privacy and accuracy of personal information it collects, uses and discloses about its participants, members, donors, parents/guardians, staff and volunteers.

Barrie YMCA

Tel:(705) 726-6421 | Fax:(705) 726-0508
22 Grove Street West, Barrie, Ontario L4N 1M7
email:barrie@ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca