



# This Week at Your Y!

## Weekly YMCA Northumberland Association Update

For the weeks of August 23 to 27, 2010

### Welcome to **This Week at Your Y!**

*This communication piece is meant as a way for all our staff, volunteers, members and our community to keep connected and up-to-date with activities and planning taking place around our association on a weekly basis.*



**Every day in every program we have, little things happen that change lives for our participants, our members, our staff and our volunteers. Summer Day Camp is always a great place to see growth and change and here's a story from this summer.**

Emily (*name changed to protect her privacy*) came to camp this summer to help prepare her for her upcoming year in Kindergarten. Always having three older brothers to look after her to help out their mother, Emily was used to having things done for her and getting her own way.

In her first week of camp, Emily experienced some difficulties. Although her brothers were in camp too, she was with the younger age group and away from them and she found the separation difficult. She now had schedules to follow, tons of activities to tackle on her own and other campers to deal with. It was an overwhelming situation for her. When she started to feel really overwhelmed, Emily would return to her old habits and run towards one of her brothers and the separation again would be difficult.

Over her weeks at camp, our camp staff started to notice some big changes in Emily. She was listening better, sitting still at circle time, and making friends with other campers her age. She stopped sitting alone at the side of the pool and refusing to go in. Now she was jumping in and swimming with the other kids. In only a few weeks, Emily made significant changes in her life. Each and every day we see her becoming more independent-an experience she would not have had without being at YMCA Camp Wunjo this summer.

*~ Oona Ashmore, Coordinator, Youth Development & Outreach Programs*



## Association • CEO's Office-Kyle Barber

Hi everyone!

- It is with considerable regret that I accept the resignation of Linda Givelas. Linda has been serving in her current role of General Manager, Children's YMCA since 2003 when she joined the YMCA team to manage the fledgling YMCA Ontario Early Years Centres and the YMCA Child Care Centres. Under Linda's guidance, these expanded programs have continued to play a critical role in the development of children and families throughout our county. This is due to Linda's solid administrative abilities, networking skills, strong financial management skills, and her excellent human relations with the many employees that she has supported. Linda has been an excellent representative of

our YMCA throughout the broader community. Linda has accepted a position with the Ganaraska Regional Conservation Authority as Forest Centre Manager. Her final day with us will be Friday, September 10, 2010. Please join me in thanking Linda for her considerable contributions to our YMCA. Please also join me in congratulating her on her new position with the GRCA. In the interim, please be advised that Debbie Brown (Director, Child Care) and Marina Turner-Johansson (Director, OEYC) will be providing leadership to their respective departments.

- The Facility Development Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, August 31 at 7:00pm. We are currently looking for 1-2 more members for this committee. Candidates would be YMCA members with an interest and expertise in building maintenance, renovation and other facility systems. Please let me know if you are interested. Have a great week. ~ Kyle

## Association Services ~ Mike Bunn

### Human Services

- Our staff complement will be decreasing gradually as our summer students prepare to return to school and camp and aquatics wind down for the end of summer. ~ Lynne

### Development

- The goal for our YMCA Strong Kids Campaign 2010 is \$75,000.00. So far we have raised \$60,558.00-enough to help 60 families participate at our YMCA with access to recreation and healthy programs for a year!
- **REMEMBER** - You can donate any time from the comfort of your home computer at [www.ymcastrongkids.ca](http://www.ymcastrongkids.ca) and help our local YMCA directly with ensuring more kids in our community are active and healthy, as well as their families, and people of all ages from all walks of life right here in Northumberland.
- Last week the Children's YMCA hosts their annual Mega Machines and Fun Fair and raised \$2,883 for YMCA Strong Kids! Thanks to all the Children's YMCA staff, Y staff and volunteers who make this event happen-rain or shine.
- This week Jason is busy designing the fall schedules for Adult Programs, Youth Programs and Aquatics and I have been designing the Brighton Fall Schedule. All should be printed next week.

~ Happy

## Communications ~ Jason

## International Program

- Our International Committee is working on a project to link the YMCAs along the 401 corridor between Cobourg and Montreal to support YMCA International programs and specifically the work of our partner, the YMCA of Nicaragua. Our YMCA would be the lead on the project and help the YMCAs to integrate international development and understanding at their YMCAs and garner more support for our partner. We'll keep you posted as we work on this project.
- Two of our 2009-2010 Youth Exchange Participants were inspired by their development experience with our program and applied to be Rotary Exchange students this year in order to continue their international and language learning. Both were accepted and have just left for their year-long exchange experiences - James Forestell to Brazil and Rémi Mireault to Belgium. Best of luck to both youth. ~ *Happy*

## Volunteer Development

- There have been many events going on these last weeks of summer and we are not finished yet! There is a **Blood Donor Clinic** happening here at YMCA Northumberland- Cobourg YMCA on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12noon and they need some helpers. Can you spare an hour or two to greet donors and hand out juice and cookies? The first group of volunteers would need to arrive just before 8:30am – until about 10:30am and the next group, after that until about 12:30pm. Please let me know if you can spare some time for this worthy cause.
- We have had some newsworthy volunteers over the last couple of weeks: Congratulations go out to 15 year old Brandon Wheeler, YMCA Camp Wunjo volunteer, who was a quick thinker when he and a friend were swimming off the pier in Cobourg. Brandon's friend got into trouble in the deep water and Brandon jumped in and brought him safely back to the rocks where they were able to climb out. The brave move was witnessed by a local police officer and a few onlookers. You can check out the news story on the Northumberland Today website at [www.northumberlandtoday.com](http://www.northumberlandtoday.com) - type "teen dives in to save friend" in the search box.
- Mary-Ellen Morris, a former C.D.C.I. West co-op student with the Y, has recently returned from a nine month stint with Katimavik. Mary-Ellen suffers from a mild form of Autism and the Katimavik experience has really helped her find herself and her voice. Check out this other great article on the Northumberland Today website; "Katimavik helps Castleton girl find her voice" We are thrilled for Mary-Ellen and hope that she pays us a visit soon.
- If you are interested in joining our terrific team of volunteers, please contact me, Nancy Little - [nlittle@ymcanorthumberland.com](mailto:nlittle@ymcanorthumberland.com) or 905.372.9247x313. ~ *Nancy*

## Asset Management

- A reminder that Centennial Pool will be closed from August 31 to September 2 for the installation of solar panels.
- Another reminder that the Cobourg YMCA indoor pool is going to be closed from Friday, September 3 to Sunday, September 19 for renovations. During the closure of the pool we will keep Centennial Pool open and offer aquafitness and open swim times. A schedule will be available shortly. Thanks for your patience as we continue to keep the building active, clean and renewed for everyone. ~ *Keith*

## Cobourg YMCA Membership

- Membership is at 3355 as of August 26
- The Fall session will begin on September 19 to accommodate the closing of the pool for upgrades. Information will be available September 3 with Member Sign Up starting on September 5 and Non-Member on September 9. ~ *Lynne*

## Adult Program ~ *Leslie & Mette*

## Youth Development ~ Joel & Oona

## Aquatics ~ Leslie & Eunice

### Brighton YMCA Membership & Programs

- Membership is at 410
- Our fall schedule is completed and will be ready next week. Check it for class changes and some new programs.
- Our August Member newsletter will be out next week via e-mail. If we don't have you on our e-mail list, please drop by Membership Services and let us know or call it in.
- Our first Nutritional Seminar of the fall will be offered on Tuesday, September 7 from 5:30 to 6:30pm This is a FREE seminar. Registration is required at Membership Services. ~ Anne

### Children's YMCA • YMCA Ontario Early Years & YMCA Child Care

*Well the rains came and the pirate ship didn't.  
The bouncy castles folded and the gym was a mess.  
The cakes were a-swim and the road underwater.  
And even as a senior was being rescued from flooded ground,  
Every drenched staff ensured that the show would go on!*



- And that pretty much wraps up the Children's YMCA Fun Fair and Mega Machines event for 2010! But the really good news is that we raised \$2,383 at the event, plus \$500 in donations for a grand total of \$2,883 which is just short of miraculous given the torrential rain and reduced crowds. Many, many, many thanks to the Y's Membership Services for so quickly and efficiently accommodating as many sodden participants as possible in the gym and putting up with the huge mess. And of course, our immense thanks to the Y's Facilities Services for helping out right from the beginning to end. It takes many hands to pull off an event like this and we really couldn't have done it (particularly yesterday!) without all of you.

And a most heartfelt thanks to all the Children's YMCA staff who helped: from flipping burgers to spinning candy floss; from scooping sno-cones to manning the games; from customer relations to crisis management; from soliciting donations and directing traffic, right to helping wipe gym walls! There were so many tasks and they were ably covered by all of you who were there. Thank you all so very, very much!

- The Children's YMCA new Fall Program Guide will be available early next week. The guide lists all of the programs offered at each OEYC across Northumberland from September until December 31, 2010.
- The field trips for the week for the School Age group included the perennial favourite at the Toronto Metro Zoo and the grand finale at Trenton's National Air Force Museum of Canada.
- Debbie Brown and I travelled to Peterborough this week to meet with Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board officials regarding their new policies around Community Use of Schools. With four of our child care centres located in schools, it's important that we understand what their expectations of us are, as their tenants.
- The Teen Education and Mothering (TEAM) program is gearing up to resume on September 7th, with several intake interviews taking place this week. The program will have a new teacher, Emily Field, this year, working alongside our Program Coordinator, Michelle Weaver.

~ Linda