



YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

As we embark on this holiday season, we are thrilled to announce a significant milestone in our capital campaign journey: unveiling the brand-new site signage that proudly stands as a testament to the unwavering support of our incredible community. We extend our deepest gratitude for the support we have received. Together, we have laid the foundation for a brighter future.



Celebrating a Milestone: Unveiling Signage at the Site for the New Centre for Life

In a celebration of community spirit and shared commitment to wellness, the Belleville YMCA proudly unveiled the site signage for its highly anticipated new facility. The event, which took place on Friday, November 24, 2023, brought together dignitaries, community leaders, and residents to celebrate the realization of a project made possible through the collaborative support of three levels of government.

The vibrant signage showcases the Belleville YMCA's logo and the logo of each level government. This not only symbolizes a significant step forward in the project but also highlights the strength of community partnerships and the positive impact of government support. The generous government support demonstrates a recognition of the vital role that community organizations play in enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. During the unveiling ceremony, representatives from each level of government expressed their enthusiasm for the project and the positive impact it is expected to have on Belleville and the surrounding area.

"This sign is a reminder of the welcoming space to come, a place for all members of the community. I am proud that our investment of over \$8.9 million will make a difference in the day-to-day lives of Canadians in Belleville and the Quinte region as they will be able to access more modern and affordable recreation and community services," said Sean Fraser, Minister for Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. He continued, "This project will strengthen community connections and enable the YMCA of Central East Ontario and its partners to provide greater access to fitness, recreation, and community services in the region."

Todd Smith, MP for Bay of Quinte called the new YMCA Centre for Life a transformative project in Belleville's west end modernizing facilities and improving access to health and wellness programs for many. "On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I'm looking forward to when construction begins. By working together with all levels of government and the community, we can achieve great results for Bay of Quinte residents."

Belleville Mayor Neil Ellis said the City is proud to provide the land for the new YMCA Centre for Life. "It is great to see the progress that has been made so far. The new fully accessible and inclusive facility will be a wellness hub for everyone in our community to enjoy for many years to come in the rapidly growing west side of Belleville."

David Allen, President & CEO of the YMCA of Central Ontario, highlighted the collaborative spirit that has made this initiative possible and underscored the shared commitment to fostering a healthy and active lifestyle for all everyone. The Centre for Life is not just a building; it represents a shared commitment to building a healthier, more connected community.

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to all three levels of government for their investment in the well-being of Belleville residents." The project represents a significant milestone in the ongoing development of Belleville and exemplifies the positive outcomes that can be achieved through collaborative partnerships.



Holiday Message from the Campaign Co-Chairs and the President & CEO

David Allen, President & CEO of the YMCA of CEO and Campaign Co-Chairs, Kristin Crowe and Ed Lehtinen

On behalf of the YMCA's Community Building Campaign, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the Campaign Cabinet's support throughout the year. The incredible level of dedication and generosity have brought us closer to our goal and made a significant impact on the progress of seeing the new Centre for Life become a reality.

Reflecting on the past year, we have achieved milestones and laid the foundation for a brighter future. The spirit of giving and

collaboration that defines our community has truly been the driving force behind our success.

This holiday season, we wish you and your loved ones moments of joy, peace, and warmth. May the spirit of the holidays fill your hearts with gratitude and hope for the coming year. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and are confident that we will reach new heights in the upcoming year.



Belleville Peace Medal Recipients

It is with great joy that we announce the distinguished recipients of the YMCA Peace Medal in Belleville. These individuals have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering peace and making a positive impact on our community. The YMCA believes peace is more than the absence of violence and conflict. Peace is the ongoing work of building and rebuilding conditions of fairness, inclusion, empathy, security, and respect for diversity.

Golda has lived in the community for over thirty-five-ish years, thirty of those married to Tom, raising their family here so that they had a community to call home and be proud of. The last twenty-six years working with TD she has been proud of the opportunity to represent the bank through their support for the community but even more proud to help personally where she can. Throughout the years, Tom and Golda have supported many organizations by serving on boards, donating and volunteering.

Cassandra is a Marketing Strategist at Quinte Broadcasting. She has volunteered her time and resources to many local organizations including the Belleville General Hospital, Trenton Memorial Hospital, Pathways to Independence, Cancer Society, Quinte Arts Council, National Air Force Museum, Festival of Trees, and YMCA Strong Kids. Currently, she is 1st Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of The Children's Foundation, a member of the Community Building Campaign Cabinet for the YMCA Centre for Life and a member of the Rotary Club of Belleville. Kris and Cassandra are the proud parents of two adopted children, Grace and Fraser, who share their passion for peace and community service.



Golda & Tom Lafferty and David Allen

Tom & Golda Lafferty

Born and raised in Belleville, Tom proudly served on Belleville council for two terms as his community is so important to him. Tom and Lafferty's Men's Wear have been the go-to spot for 45 years, now dressing the grandchildren of life-long clients. He generously gives of his time and resources personally and through his business.



Golda & Tom Lafferty, City of Belleville Councillor Lisa Chatten, Kris & Cassandra Bonn

Kris & Cassandra Bonn

Kris is a lawyer at Bonn Law who has been advocating for the rights and well-being of injured victims and their families for over 20 years. He is the current president of the Brain Injury Association Quinte District, a past member of the Rotary Club of Trenton, and a long-time supporter of the Belleville General Hospital, Trenton Memorial Hospital, The Children's Foundation, and the Children's Safety Village.



Kris & Cassandra Bonn and David Allen

250 Sidney Street, Belleville, ON K8P 3Z3

campaign@ceo.ymca.ca

(343) 362-9622 ext. 225

campaign.ymcaofceo.ca