



YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN



SUMMER 2024 SPECIAL EDITION

In this special summer edition of the Community Building Campaign newsletter, we're thrilled to share exciting updates on our YMCA Centre for Life project! Construction is set to begin this fall with key design changes and major investments driving our progress. Plus, we announce two significant investments in the campaign that are making a big impact.



YMCA Centre for Life Project Nears Construction Start

Construction on the much-anticipated YMCA Centre for Life is set to begin by early fall, with the project's design nearing completion and several key sub-contracts secured. TaskForce Engineering, the firm leading the project, announced that a 60% design review will be finalized in August, marking a critical step forward in the development process.

With a building permit expected soon, groundbreaking is anticipated by early October. The first major construction milestone will be pouring the pool before winter, allowing the structure's framework to be erected during the colder months. The project remains on track for completion by the end of the first quarter of 2026.

A notable change in the project is the building's orientation, which has been adjusted to face a yet-to-be-named road instead of Bridge Street as originally planned. This redesign reflects the integration of the Centre for Life into the City of Belleville's broader infrastructure plan.

In a positive turn for the budget, current pricing conditions are more competitive than a year ago, helping to keep the project on track financially. Key sub-contractors have been finalized: Quality Mechanical for mechanical work, Diamond Mechanical for electrical, and Acapulco Pools for the pool installation. Additional sub-contracts are expected to go out for tender in the coming months.

The YMCA Centre for Life will serve as a vital hub for health, wellness, and community connection in Belleville.



Pool area



Exterior elevation of the YMCA Centre for Life

Sheppard Family's Generous Investment Marks a New Chapter for the YMCA Centre for Life

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, Wayne and Wendy Sheppard have made a generous investment of \$225,000 to the YMCA Centre for Life, underscoring their dedication to health and wellness in Belleville. To honour their support, the YMCA has named the Café and Café Seating Area within the Centre for Life after the Sheppards.

"We are thrilled to support the YMCA Centre for Life and its mission to enrich the lives of individuals and families in Belleville," said Wayne Sheppard. "Having seen firsthand the transformative power of community involvement, we are confident in the YMCA's ability to make a lasting difference."

The Sheppards interests align with the new YMCA Centre for Life serving as a vibrant community hub, uniting the YMCA with four community partnerships to address the diverse needs of the local population through a comprehensive array of programs and services. This collaborative approach aims

to enhance community engagement and promote holistic well-being.

David Allen, President & CEO of the YMCA of Central East Ontario, highlighted the broader impact of the Sheppards' support: "Their investment reflects their belief in the power of community centres to encourage education, wellness, and social connections among residents of all ages. Their generosity will enable the YMCA Centre for Life to expand our programs and create a welcoming space for everyone for generations to come."

Kristin Crowe, Community Building Campaign Co-Chair, expressed profound gratitude: "The Sheppards lifelong dedication to community support has always been inspiring. This significant investment further solidifies their legacy, directly impacting countless lives by creating a more connected community through the new Centre for Life. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their generous support."

Wayne Sheppard's legacy of community service extends far beyond this investment. After a distinguished 32-year career as a teacher with the Hastings Prince Edward District School Board, Mr. Sheppard retired to pursue his passion for community service and entrepreneurship. From his family's heating business, he expanded into construction and residential accommodations. He currently serves as chair of local condo corporations.

The Sheppards' investment in the Centre for Life is a testament to their lifelong dedication to community development and their faith in the YMCA's mission to connect and support the Belleville community for generations to come.



L-R - David Allen, President & CEO, YMCA of Central East Ontario, Doug Peterson, Community Building Campaign Cabinet Member, Kristin Crowe, Community Building Campaign Co-Chair, Wayne & Wendy Sheppard, Sue O'Brien, Community Building Campaign Cabinet Member and Wolf Tausendfreund, Community Building Campaign Honorary Co-Chair.

Building Community: Duvanco Homes' Investment in the YMCA Centre for Life

In an exciting development for the Belleville community, the YMCA and Duvanco Homes, one of Quinte's premiere builders, have announced a substantial investment in the new YMCA Centre for Life. This generous contribution will see the Kids Fit Zone named in honour of Duvanco Homes, showcasing their commitment to building a vibrant and healthy community.

"We believe in building more than just homes – we build communities," said Dustin VanSoelen, co-owner of Duvanco Homes. "Our investment in the YMCA Centre for Life reflects our commitment to the Belleville community and its future. The YMCA provides essential services that align with our values of promoting healthy, vibrant communities and space where physical activity can enhance well-being."

Duvanco Homes was founded in 2001 and has made a name for itself by developing lifestyle-oriented homes tailored to the needs of homeowners. With successful projects throughout Belleville, Quinte West, and Prince Edward County, Dustin and Julie VanSoelen have been instrumental in shaping some of the region's most desirable residential areas.

"We are incredibly grateful for Duvanco Homes' generous investment," said Dave Allen, CEO of the YMCA Centre for Life. "Their support will allow us to enhance our programs and services, reaching more people and making a greater impact in our community. Partnerships like this are vital to our mission of fostering an inclusive and healthy community."

Ed Lehtinen, Campaign Co-Chair, summed it up perfectly: "Duvanco Homes' investment is not just a contribution, it's a catalyst for positive change. Their commitment to our vision empowers us to expand our reach and enhance the well-being of every individual the YMCA serves."

The Kids Fit Zone, thanks to Duvanco Homes, will be a playful, energetic space, destined to become every kid's favourite spot, where exercise feels like play and healthy habits are formed. This stands very much in line with Duvanco Homes' vision of a thriving, connected community and their dedication to building more than just houses, but joyful, active futures for Belleville's youngest residents.

