

For Immediate Release: October 27, 2023

## YMCA NORTHUMBERLAND APPRECIATES STAFF & VOLUNTEERS AT HALLOWEEN EVENT

**Cobourg, Ontario** – On the evening of October 26th, 2023, YMCA Northumberland held their Staff and Volunteer Appreciation night with a ghoulish Halloween theme downstairs at the Mill Restaurant and Pub. Not only did the event offer those attending to connect but key leaders spoke and awards for both volunteers and staff were presented.

Board Chair, Elizabeth Vosburgh, welcomed attendees, expressing gratitude to the YMCA Northumberland Board, staff, and volunteers for their exceptional contributions and dedication to community well-being. "The impact of your service extends far beyond our organization's walls," said Vosburgh. "It ripples through the lives of the individuals and communities we serve, fostering positive change and enhancing the well-being of all."

Next, CEO Eunice Kirkpatrick of YMCA Northumberland expressed gratitude to staff and volunteers. She then highlighted key statistics to demonstrate their commitment to healthy living in Northumberland. Creative programming and barrier-free access enabled them to serve 6,039 members this year with over 150,000 visits at the Cobourg and Brighton sites! Also, as the county's largest childcare provider, the YMCA Northumberland served 212 children with accredited play-based curriculums, staffed by 90. Also, this year they delivered 5111 days of summer camp, and taught 1583 children swim lessons. A number of innovative initiatives were recognized, including the Mothers of Newborn, Alternative Suspension, and UpTurn programs for addiction recovery, as well as Operation Red Nose's Safe Ride Home Service, which raised \$23K in 2022, covering 3,291 kilometers. Kirkpatrick ended by celebrating a year of growth, recognizing contributions from volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners, to make a significant positive difference to 1,000s of lives across Northumberland County. Board members were then called up to announce awards for staff and volunteers.

### Awards and Recipients:

- **Michael Moore Memorial Award:** Presented to a YMCA Youth who has demonstrated YMCA values in their actions and words and has made significant advancements in personal development and leadership through their YMCA involvement.
  - Recipient: Alia Shirzad.
- **Mchael Moore Scholarship Award:** Presented to a student currently volunteering or working at YMCA Northumberland who is committed to Y values and aims to pursue studies at a post secondary institution in the field of study of their choice.
  - Recipient: Lila Sparks.
- **James Commerford Youth Award:** Presented to a YMCA Youth who has demonstrated high academic standards and strong leadership skills within the YMCA and the community. Two deserving individuals were honoured.
  - Recipients: Olivia Worth and Grace McLean

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- **J. Gordon Dunlop Award:** Presented to a YMCA Volunteer who has made extensive contributions to YMCA Northumberland and who has provided long-term leadership in the program or policy areas.
  - Recipient: Deb Patton
- **Rolph Family Spirit of Giving Award:** Presented to an individual, family or group, who exemplifies the values of the YMCA philanthropy program, through contributions of time, talent, and treasure.
  - Recipients: Stewart Richardson and Nancy Oliver

Following these award presentations, staff and volunteers were given years of service awards, ranging from 5 years up to 45 years. Special acknowledgement was granted from Chair Elizabeth Vosburgh to honour volunteer Dan Bulger, who has given 45 years of dedication and commitment to YMCA Northumberland. Prizes for Halloween costumes through applause and dancing to the tunes of "Beyond Entertainment" rounded out the night.

**About YMCA Northumberland:** The YMCA Northumberland is a local organization dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility programs. With a steadfast commitment to making a positive impact, YMCA Northumberland continues to be a driving force in promoting well-being and fostering a sense of unity among residents of Northumberland County. As a charity, YMCA Northumberland provides vital community services that have a positive impact on pressing social issues—from chronic disease to unemployment, social isolation, poverty, inequality and more. The Strong Community Campaign helps countless children, teens, adults, and seniors in the community. Visit [ymcanrt.org](http://ymcanrt.org) to learn more.

YMCA Canada is one of the longest standing and largest charities nationally, with a presence in Canada since 1851 and now serving more than 2.1 million people annually across 1,700 program locations.

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