



YMCA Northumberland

MEDIA RELEASE

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YMCA NORTHUMBERLAND HONOURS LOCAL PEACEMAKERS

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY – Yesterday morning, Thursday, November 23rd, YMCA Northumberland celebrated the presence of peace in our communities, and reflected on the peace-building work that happens all year both inside and outside the YMCA.

The 2023 YMCA Peace Medal Breakfast Event, held at the Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre, generously sponsored by BDO Canada LLP and Cobourg Police Services, marks the 35th year of YMCA Peace Medals being awarded in Northumberland County. Over that time, YMCA Northumberland has recognized and celebrated dozens of adults, groups and youth for their efforts to change our community and our world without special means or resources.

“YMCA Northumberland believes it is important to recognize people in Northumberland County who strive every day to make a difference through their acts of PEACE,” says Eunice Kirkpatrick, Chief Executive Officer of YMCA Northumberland. “This year’s recipients show how any one of us can improve the quality of life in our community; inspiring hope and motivating others to act.”

Folk-indie duo, Fiona Milner and Katia Legakis of Ladybird, set the tone for the event with their harmonious performances.

Elizabeth Vosburgh provided her perspective on PEACE as YMCA Board Chair. Board Members, Lynda Kay and Yvette McCartney presented two adult and two youth Peace Medals. Congratulations to this year’s YMCA Peace Medal recipients.

Marie Lytle (Adult Peace Medal): Over the course of her 40-year volunteer leadership role at the Port Hope Synchro Club, Marie has empowered over 600 swimmers, inspired generations to volunteer, and collaborated with several organizations to create ripples of positive change throughout our community.

Ryan Huffman (Adult Peace Medal): The Ryan Huffman Foundation, Y UpTurn Program, Ryan’s support of various sports teams and other fundraisers, plus his open sharing of his mental health struggles make him a proactive force in improving the lives of others.

Anandita Choudhary (Youth Peace Medal): Anandita, has already volunteered 40 hours in community service and participated in numerous initiatives to demonstrate her care for the environment, social justice, and cross-cultural understanding.

Sophie McInnes (Youth Peace Medal): Through selfless acts of kindness, including supporting Ganaraska Trail teachers, working as an Earth Ranger, raising caterpillars for a hospitalized friend, and making gifts during COVID, Sofia has inspired a broad wave of positive energy locally.

Thanks also to Dr. Bob Scott, a past Peace Medal Recipient who spoke about the eradication of Polio and Guest Speaker, Celia McBride, who spoke about how to bring peace into our everyday lives.

This event was part of YMCA Northumberland’s Annual Peace Week, which ran November 18-24.

For more information, please contact:

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ABOUT YMCA Northumberland

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.

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.