

Celebrating Inclusion and Diversity at the 2024 Rainbow Run Hosted by YMCA Northumberland

There was no shortage of rainbow pride at the 2nd annual Northumberland YMCA Rainbow Run this past Sunday, June 2, 2024. Nearly 200 participants came out in rainbow gear to help paint the town of Cobourg in acceptance and love for the LGBTQIA2S+ community, as well as dozens of volunteers. Attendees of all ages showed up to this family-friendly event in colourful garb, displaying their Pride Spirit as they took off from the picturesque Cobourg Yacht Club's waterfront and headed through the rainbow-adorned downtown core.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of all participants and allies, over \$2000 in funds were raised this year for YMCA Northumberland's Strong Communities Campaign, which not only helps those facing financial barriers access YMCA programs but also supports specific programs for mothers of newborns, youth mental health, recreational events, digital literacy for seniors, kids summer camp and swimming lessons.

Eric Mejorado, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Lead, who led the group in a warmup to the Village People's Y.M.C.A, said, "our mission is to strengthen our community, and we want to support everyone, whether that's Trans, Gays, Lesbians or Two-Spirited."

Eunice Kirkpatrick, CEO of YMCA Northumberland, expressed gratitude afterwards, stating, "we are thrilled with the success of our second Rainbow Run and deeply appreciate the community's support. This event is a testament to our commitment to being allies of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and we are happy to provide this opportunity for unity, celebration, and inclusivity."

The run was once again partially funded by the Government of Canada's ParticipACTION grant, with additional support from local sponsors and partners Cameco, Lakeland Multi-Trade, Vandermeer Toyota, SMM Law Professional Corporation, and Linmac Inc., as well as with gifts from Arthur's Pub, Home Hardware, Justin's Pet Store, Dairy Queen, Herc's Nutrition, McDonald's, PJ's Custom Outfitting and Davis' Independent Grocer.

The 2024 Rainbow Run was not just a race; it was a joyful morning where every step and every colour mattered. Thank you to all who joined and made this event a memorable and inclusive triumph.

Please see a selection of photos from the event on the following page.

For more information, please contact:

Kathryn Harrison, Manager, Marketing Communications & Media Relations, YMCA Northumberland, 905.376.0293 / kathryn.harrison@nrt.ymca.ca

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.

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