

## Diversity Festival Celebrates New Citizens, Unity and Generosity in Port Hope

Port Hope, ON – The Memorial Park in Port Hope came alive with vibrant colours, music, and a sense of community on July 20, 2024, as the Diversity Festival took place. This celebration of multiculturalism and inclusivity drew new Canadian citizens, residents and visitors from all walks of life, creating a tapestry of cultural exchange and unity.

The event, which aimed to promote community spirit and embrace the many different nationalities within the communities of Northumberland, featured various live performances, food trucks, and activities for kids. From traditional dances and music to circus acts and more, there was something for everyone to enjoy – including an Arriba Fitness Class from YMCA staff and volunteers.

“We’d like to thank Northumberland County, the Northumberland Hispanic Cultural Club and Northumberland 89.7 FM for acknowledging the YMCA and championing donations to our Strong Communities Campaign during the festival,” said Eunice Kirkpatrick, President & CEO, YMCA Northumberland. “At the Y, we embrace diversity and inclusion, recognizing that our strength comes from welcoming people of all backgrounds, identities, and experiences. Together, we create a community where everyone feels valued and inspired to reach their full potential.”

Donations were collected all week, as well as at the festival, for YMCA Northumberland. The collective efforts raised more than \$1,200, which will directly support the YMCA's ongoing Strong Communities Campaign. The campaign helps change lives by offering special support programs and making YMCA services accessible to more people. Your donations made a difference in funding essential services like support for new mothers, mental health resources for youth, recreational programs, kids’ summer camps, swimming lessons, and health and fitness memberships for all ages.

Moreover, the festival also served as a collection point for food donations to benefit Food4All, a vital organization committed to addressing food insecurity in the Northumberland region. The non-perishable food items were collected and donated to help support families in need after the event.

Event organizer Emilio Ojeda, Settlement Services Coordinator, Economic Development, Planning and Strategic Initiatives for Northumberland County, thanked everyone who participated and contributed to the festival's success. He further commented that they were thrilled with the dedication of all the performers and deeply appreciated the generosity shown towards YMCA Northumberland and Food4All.

The Diversity Festival is a testament to the strength and unity of our community. It highlighted the importance of embracing cultural differences and demonstrated the power of coming together for a common cause. As the community looks forward to future events, the spirit of unity and generosity showcased at the festival will undoubtedly continue to inspire and strengthen Northumberland County. Together, we have positively impacted the lives of those in need in our community.

For more information about the Diversity Festival and how to support YMCA Northumberland, please visit [www.ymcanrt.org/diversityfestival](http://www.ymcanrt.org/diversityfestival)

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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.

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