

YMCA Northumberland Celebrates Community and Inclusion at Rainbow Run

There was no shortage of rainbow pride at the 3rd Annual YMCA Northumberland's Rainbow Run this past Sunday, June 1, 2025. Over 150 participants donned rainbow gear to help paint the town of Cobourg in acceptance and love for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, alongside dozens of volunteers. Attendees of all ages arrived at this family-friendly event in colourful attire, showcasing their Pride Spirit as they set off from the picturesque Cobourg Yacht Club's waterfront and through the rainbow-adorned downtown core. The Rainbow Run is more than a celebration; it reflects YMCA Northumberland's ongoing commitment to fostering a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for everyone, including 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and their allies.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of all participants and supporters, over \$10,500 in funds were raised this year for the YMCA Northumberland's Strong Communities Campaign. This initiative not only helps those facing financial barriers access YMCA programs and services, but it also supports ensuring our spaces are welcome for all identities while also funding specific programs for mothers of newborns, youth mental health, recreational events, kids' summer camp, and swimming lessons.

Eric Mejorado, Centre Manager, Campbellford YMCA who was the MC and led the group in a warmup to the Village People's Y.M.C.A, said, "as a proud member of this community, the Rainbow Run means so much more than just a morning of movement. It's a chance to show up for each other, to make our town a place where everyone feels seen and supported not just today, but every day."

Eunice Kirkpatrick, CEO of YMCA Northumberland, expressed gratitude afterwards, stating, "the Rainbow Run is a powerful reminder that when we come together, bringing our own colour, energy, and spirit - we can create something truly extraordinary. This event uplifts our community and reflects the strength found in unity and hope. Through the funds raised, we're able to support vital programs that ensure our YMCA is welcoming, accessible, and safe for everyone, including our 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. We believe in building a community where everyone feels valued and empowered, and the Rainbow Run is an inspiring step toward that vision.

The run was once again partially funded by the Government of Canada's ParticipACTION grant, with additional support from local sponsors and partners: Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre, Burnham Family Farm, Cameco, Part-Time CFO Services, Arthur's Pub, Stadtke Plumbing and Heating Ltd., Pentel Realty Executives, Vandermeer Toyota, SMM Law Professional Corporation, and Linmac Inc., as well as in-kind items donated by many local businesses for our Online Silent Auction.

The 2025 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.

For more information about ongoing programs and initiatives, visit ymcanrt.org

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.