

YMCA Northumberland Celebrates Staff, Volunteers and Donors at their Shining Bright Together Thank You Night

Cobourg, ON - YMCA Northumberland staff, volunteers, and donors gathered on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the Keeler Centre in Colborne to celebrate the achievements of another year. The evening honoured the efforts of YMCA Northumberland's staff, volunteers, and donors for their role in the organization's success and growth during 2025.

"We have achieved so much this year in Northumberland and every success is rooted in your hard work, dedication, generosity, and the trust our community places in us," said Eunice Kirkpatrick, President & CEO, YMCA Northumberland to a full room of staff, volunteers and donors. "I am excited about the years ahead and confident we will continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do. We are shining bright — because of you."

Guests enjoyed a Greek-inspired buffet dinner by Lisa's Catering as they listened to opening remarks by Eunice, who highlighted the organization's ongoing success and expanding impact during this period of growth. Board Chair, Mark Galonski, also addressed the audience.

"The impact of the YMCA extends far beyond our organization's walls," said Mark Galonski, Board Chair. "It ripples through the lives of the individuals and communities we serve, fostering positive change and enhancing the well-being of all. It is something we should all be proud of."

A select group of individuals were also honoured with special awards for their outstanding contributions.

The James Commerford Youth Award, which recognizes a young person who reflects the best of the YMCA, was presented by Board Director and Philanthropy Committee Member, Yvette McCartney. This year's award was given to Connor Ross for his kindness, enthusiasm and dedication to the mission and values of the YMCA.

Board Director, Bob Biffin, presented the J Gordon Dunlop Volunteer Award to a volunteer who has made significant contributions to the Y. This year's recipient was Brighton Y instructor, Nikki Parks. Her consistency, positive attitude and leadership brighten the experiences of the participants she leads.

Board Director and Chair of the Philanthropy Committee, Lynda Kay, presented the Rolph Family Spirit of Giving Award to Roger Chernuck and Peg McCarthy for their steadfast commitment to the Y over many years, contributing time, talent and treasure to the betterment of Northumberland.

Lynne Caffin, Manager, Administration and HR, recognized YMCA Staff with Years of Service Awards. She acknowledged the following individuals:

- **5 Years:** Jessica Auger, Hailey Davis, Kathie Clark, Judy Cook, Lisa LeBlanc, Haydn Mather, Amber Roddy, Cassidy Rogers, Samantha Wright
- **10 Years:** Diana Krakenberg, Stacie Femia, Chantal Forbes, Rachel Woodruff, Jennifer Fernandes
- **15 Years:** Danielle Roberts
- **20 Years:** Kasie Taylor

Leanne Clarke, General Manager of Health, Fitness and Aquatics, also acknowledged Paul Paget and Michelle Spagnolo for earning a place in the 100 Percent Club – a recognition reserved for staff and volunteers who achieve a perfect score across every secret shopper category. They are two of only twelve individuals across all of Y Canada to receive a perfect score.

Samantha Kelly, Coordinator of People and Community Engagement, acknowledged those volunteers who had reached milestones of service with the Y:

- **5 Years:** Darren Cecchetto, Spencer Selhi, and Cobourg Police Services Auxiliary
- **10 Years:** Jessica Fraser-Thomas, Derek Blackadder, Alec Dewdney, Wendy Gibson, Royce McCracken, Lisa Munday and Paul VandeGraaf.
- **15 Years:** Derrick Cunningham and Kat Ross
- **20 Years:** Stephen Hoftyzer
- **25 Years:** Yvonne Kay
- **30 Years:** Mark Galonski

Sam also acknowledged the importance of volunteers and sponsors to the ongoing success of Operation Red Nose Northumberland, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2025. She gave a special shout-out to extremely dedicated volunteers, Judy Brown and Darren Cecchetto.

Finally, YMCA Northumberland would also like to acknowledge DJ Bumble, The Mill Restaurant & Golf Course, Ganaraska Brewing Company, and Board Member Bob Biffin for their generosity and support of this year's event.

YMCA Northumberland appreciates the hard work and dedication of all its staff, volunteers and donors who contribute to the organization's mission. YMCA Northumberland is dedicated to the growth of all people in spirit, mind, and body, fostering a sense of responsibility to each other and the global community. Together, we ignite the potential of everyone!

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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.