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MEDIA RELEASE
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4th YMCA Rainbow Run Unites Community in Celebration of Inclusion

COBOURG, ON | June 9, 2026 – Pride was bursting at YMCA Northumberland's 4th Rainbow Run on Sunday, June 7, 2026. 150+ attendees and volunteers donned rainbow gear to help paint the Town of Cobourg in acceptance and love for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Organized by YMCA Northumberland, who partnered with Northumberland Pride and the Lion's Club of Cobourg, the event brought the community together to celebrate love, diversity, inclusion, and a shared commitment to building a healthier, more connected county.

The day began with the first ever Bubble Dash through a path filled with shimmering bubbles to burst for kids and kids at heart, led by Northumberland Pride's mascot, Pickles the Pride Unicorn. Following this iridescent sprint, runners and walkers alike set off for the 2.5 or 5km event from the picturesque Cobourg Yacht Club's waterfront, through the town streets to the rainbow-adorned downtown core.

Adding to the festive environment, Northumberland Pride served up colourful and refreshing snow cones while the Cobourg Lions Club hosted a post-run event BBQ with hot dogs, veggie dogs and beverages.

But the Rainbow Run was more than a celebration; it was a fundraiser that reflects YMCA Northumberland's ongoing mission to foster a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for everyone, including 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and their allies. Participants of all ages ran, walked and dashed to help raise critical funds for the YMCA Strong Communities Campaign as well as Northumberland Pride. Through this collaboration, the event raised funds to break down barriers and help everyone in our community to have the opportunity to belong, grow, and thrive.

While helping at the event, Eunice Kirkpatrick, President & CEO, YMCA Northumberland commented, "the Rainbow Run is so much more than a morning of movement. It is an opportunity for us to work side by side with other local organizations to offer a place where everyone feels seen and supported. When we come together, we can create something truly remarkable. This is what community looks like!"

The success of the 4th annual Rainbow Run was also made possible through the generous support of presenting sponsor, The Government of Canada through ParticipACTION, whose investment supports opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active. YMCA Northumberland also extends its sincere gratitude to its year-round community partners who helped bring this event to life: Pentel Realty Executives, Vandermeer Toyota, Linmac, and SMM Law Professional Corporation.

Last but not least, YMCA Northumberland is very grateful to the large team of dedicated YMCA volunteers and staff, Cobourg Police Services Auxiliary Officers and Saint John's Ambulance who came out to make this event possible.

The 2026 Rainbow Run brought the community together to create a more welcoming, inclusive and vibrant Northumberland. Thank you to everyone who joined to share joy together.

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.