



New YMCA Child Care Centres Open in Gastown

Critical learning takes place in the first six years of a child's life—learning that requires a nurturing and caring environment to prepare kids for success. The YMCA is excited about a partnership with the City of Vancouver to provide 74 much needed childcare spaces, serving vulnerable families in Downtown Vancouver.

Construction by the City of Vancouver is now complete for the two Y childcare centres. Recognizing a significant need for licensed childcare in the Strathcona and Downtown neighborhoods, these innovative developments utilize space on the rooftops of two Gastown parkades to increase the number of quality childcare spaces serving the Downtown Eastside. In this area, many children have physical and emotional needs that require additional supports for childhood success.

The Human Early Learning Partnership classifies these neighbourhoods as some of Vancouver's most impoverished communities, with between 33% and 52% of kindergarten children identified as vulnerable on one or more developmental domain. These neighbourhoods also have amongst the lowest household incomes in Canada with half of children under six living under the poverty line and as many as 80% of Indigenous children in the area living under the poverty line. For these reasons, we need to provide so much more than just childcare services.

Designed with a community-centered approach to helping vulnerable children and families, the Water View and Portside YMCA Child Care Centres will offer supportive, caring havens for vulnerable children and their families. "Thanks to our generous donors, our kids

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Message from the Chair

Hello,

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver (YGV) Foundation's AGM on June 6th provided an opportunity to look back on the challenges and opportunities of 2020. The YGV Foundation's strong financial position going into 2020 provided the stability and financial support necessary for the YMCA to continue its vital community work during the pandemic. We grew from a combined value of \$87 million in assets and properties in 2019 to \$90 million at the end of 2020, enabling us to invest \$1,617,872 in the YMCA's lifechanging community programs and services in 2020.

I'm honoured to assume the role of YGV Foundation Board Chair, previously held by Mary Beck. Mary's commitment to the Y's mission continues as Past Chair and with her exciting new role as Chair of YMCA Canada Board of Directors. We also said goodbye to three retiring board members. Jeff Calbick's charitable sector experience has been invaluable. Special thanks to Shirley Broadfoot for her 25+ years volunteering to help families thrive. And to Gerry Humphries, whose tenure rivals Shirley's and continues his family's legacy of volunteering for the YMCA. Your leadership and service leave us a better organization.

While our Y's response to the pandemic has been nothing short of fantastic, we know our communities will be looking to the Y for leadership as we reactivate, respond and recover. The YGV Foundation will continue to be a committed partner in the effort of (re)building healthy communities over the coming months.

Melinda McKie,
Chair, YMCA of Greater Vancouver Foundation



Read our 2020
YGV Foundation annual
report online at
gv.ymca.ca/AboutUs

New YMCA Child Care Centres Open in Gastown continued...

get to experience a safe place with extra staff to meet their emotional needs and we are able to provide a safe and inviting place for their families to gather," says Kim Adamson, General Manager, Child Care Development at the YMCA of Greater Vancouver.

The enriched programming at Water View and Portside, like at our nearby Woodward's YMCA Child Care Centre, will give kids—and their parents—a larger family of people who care, understand, and can help. We'll provide extra support with meals, literacy programs, special needs educators, and support workers plus access to all the Y has to offer including family camp and social activities.

The Y is dedicated to building stronger healthier communities. By providing early support for families,

we're changing the trajectory of kids' lives—preparing them to succeed at kindergarten and beyond.



Inspired to help?

Donor opportunities exist to help vulnerable families at these two new YMCA childcare centres thrive.

Contact Lisa Stiver, GM Funds Development at:
lisa.stiver@gv.ymca.ca or 604-622-4964.



Y@Home: Free YMCA Workouts and Programs

In an effort to help individuals and families stay healthy, active, and connected to their communities during the pandemic the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, along with other participating YMCAs across Canada, launched the exciting virtual space, *YMCA at Home*.

YMCA at Home began in March of 2020 with a few exercise videos when YMCAs first started temporarily closing due to COVID-19. We were proud to use our Chilliwack and Robert Lee Family YMCA spaces to film many of the videos created. As more closures and lockdowns became a reality across the country, there was a realization that more YMCA programs could be turned virtual to support both the mental and physical health of Canadians during a challenging time.

This spurred the launch of free virtual Y programs, in both English and French, to help people remain healthy and connected, including:

- Fitness activities and workout challenges for all stages and ages
- Family and children's crafts, songs, stories and physical literacy
- Mental wellness programs including the YWellness Speaker Series
- YGym: physical activity videos for children during school closures, with a French platform made available thanks to McCall MacBain Foundation
- An 8 week children's virtual camp over the summer months
- A 6 part diabetes prevention program in partnership with UBC's Small Steps for Big Changes
- A fitness series in partnership with ParticipACTION
- Leadership and personal development

Today, *YMCA at Home* has expanded to provide healthy programs and activities for all audiences including kids of all ages, families, adults and older adults. There are programming and workouts from YMCAs all over Canada and more than 450 videos online. People from across Canada are using these videos – along with viewers in the U.S., Australia and the U.K. **Learn more about *YMCA at Home* and access the content by visiting www.ymcahome.ca**

Creating a Community Comeback

If this past year has collectively taught the world one lesson, it may be that staying mentally and physically well during stressful times is a huge challenge. Many of you supported the YMCA of Greater Vancouver directly through the YMCA Covid 19: Community Action Fund in 2020. Thank you! The fund was created to help the Y pivot quickly to help our community during covid. Now, as we continue responding to the Delta variant and cautiously enter the recovery phase, we want to ensure no one is left behind during the (re)building of healthy communities.

The new YMCA **COMMUNITY** CAMPAIGN was created to lower barriers so anyone in a stressful situation, from global health crisis to personal financial stress, can access healthy and vital programs and services when they need it. The **COMMUNITY** CAMPAIGN supports COVID recovery, financial access, and urgent needs, to ensure that our community remains strong and resilient no matter what comes our way.

The **COMMUNITY** CAMPAIGN was created to support and lift up families when they need it most, like it did the day two women walked through the doors of the Tong Louie Family YMCA in Surrey, and their lives were changed forever. Both were refugees facing a very difficult situation for themselves and their families. "Not only were they trying to adjust to life in a completely foreign country but they were also not in a position to provide for their families and were really struggling to make ends meet," said a YMCA staff member.

Because of donations to the YMCA **COMMUNITY** CAMPAIGN, the YMCA was able to provide full memberships to these two families, and they enrolled in job support, immigration support, and English language programs at the Y. Two of the families' children joined the Youth Leadership Development program, giving them new friends, positive peer support and expanded opportunities.

These two new Y families are now familiar faces at Tong Louie Family YMCA and instead of experiencing potential isolation, they've been able to de-stress and get active together. They enjoy belonging to a new community where they are valued and empowered.



To make a donation to our **YMCA COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN** or learn more about its impact, contact:

Evan Caros, Officer, Funds Development

Phone **604-622-4959**

Website **gv.ymca.ca/community-campaign**.



YMCA
COMMUNITY
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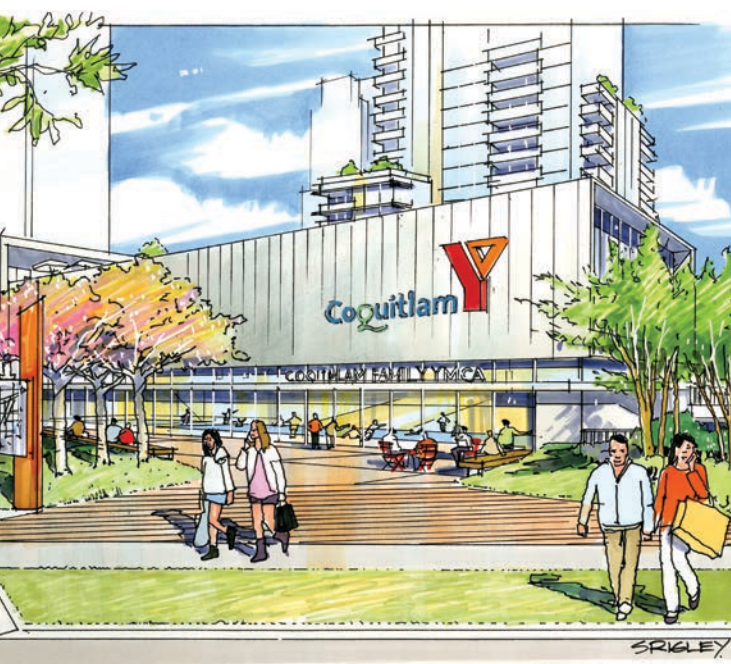


YMCA Camp News

YMCA summer day camps ran at the majority of our locations this year, providing safe, reliable and fun child care for young families.

Unfortunately, for the second consecutive year, the need to ensure camper safety and follow provincial health orders forced YMCA Camp Elphinstone on the Sunshine Coast to remain closed to overnight campers this summer. However, we really enjoyed having camp alumni, their families and others from across Canada join us for our first ever virtual campfire and benefit concert on July 8th featuring songs from favourite camp performers and award-winning Canadian musicians like Bedouin Soundclash, Dan Mangan, Joel Plaskett, Partner and Hunnah.

Site maintenance and asset preservation projects took place at Camp Elphinstone so we can welcome back campers for Spring 2022.



What Really Matters Now

The YGV Foundation is a committed supporter of the What Really Matters Now Capital Campaign to help provide new centres of community. Construction of the new Coquitlam Y remains on schedule, with the roof set to be in place this fall. This ambitious project is set for completion in Fall 2022.

On the topic of construction, earlier this year, renovations on our new administration home on Royal Avenue, New Westminster wrapped up and staff moved into the new office in February.

YGV Foundation's 2020 Community Investment



**Social
Infrastructure**

\$510,435



**Children
and Youth**

\$417,786



Leadership

\$33,332



Global

\$95,894



**Healthy
Living**

\$451,116



Inclusion

\$109,309



Total

\$1,617,872

Youth Peace Network Goes Virtual

The YMCA Youth Peace Network (YPN) has gone virtual for 2021. Twenty young leaders from all over the world are meeting monthly, May through December for live virtual sessions in addition to weekly small group work and discussions. They're exploring topics focused on respect, non-violent conflict, spirit of sharing, diversity, leadership and global citizenship. Each will create plans to apply their learning within their own YMCA and home communities. Plus, through sharing their experiences and traditions with local participants, our Canadian youth and families can better understand the world and become more effective global citizens.



Strength in Diversity

The YMCA is committed to providing safe spaces and equal access to programs for everyone. However, the pandemic has revealed that there is more work to be done in the area of equity, diversity, and social inclusion (EDI). The YMCA of Greater Vancouver wants to bring voice to these issues, and in doing so, strengthen our ability to serve the whole community. To that end, the YMCA has undertaken research and established a senior position and staff steering committee to develop an equity, diversity and social inclusion plan and resources to advance outcomes across the Y's policies, practices, training, education and advocacy. We'll update you on this important work in a future Newsworthy issue.



Heritage Club In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the passing of some longtime YMCA Heritage Club members and supporters who will be warmly remembered by all their YMCA friends and associates:

Marion Barnes
Douglas Carnahan
Dorothy Condie
Jim Condie
Janet F. Davis
Terrence McMullen
David O'Donnell
William (Bill) V. Owen

Bill Owen A Caring Y Leader

It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Bill Owen, past CEO of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver and loyal donor. During his 44 years with the YMCA Bill championed volunteerism, youth and fitness programs. Bill was a listener, teacher, mentor, competitor, storyteller and friend. His passion was to help people reach their potential—to bring out the best in others and make them better than they thought they could be. As CEO, Bill was also Secretary of the YGV Endowment Fund. His vision and commitment to building planned giving opportunities created a legacy that ensures the YMCA of Greater Vancouver can continue to serve the community for generations to come. Bill passed away peacefully on February 3rd at the age of 89. Though he is gone he will not be forgotten. Our hearts are with his family.

Helping YMCAs in Ethiopia

The past year and a half has clearly shown that the world is highly interconnected. The Y's social impact extends beyond our borders—we're a part of the global community of YMCAs in over 120 countries worldwide.

For many years, the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, as part of its Global Initiatives, has provided support to YMCA Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a beautiful country full of resilient people. However, this year more than ever, the YMCA of Greater Vancouver Foundation's support enabled by the Foundation's grant has been vital in enabling YMCAs in Ethiopia to address the urgent and ongoing needs of children and families.

COVID-19 and increased violence have made difficult conditions more difficult for children in Ethiopia. As an agricultural country, natural disasters like drought and flash flooding put the entire economy of Ethiopia at risk for living in poverty. Many youth live in condensed areas and have to work to help support their families. This has exposed them to greater risk of COVID-19 infection— if they are able to find work at all. And, the escalating war in Ethiopia's northern region is aggravating the areas already dire food shortages.



In 2020, the YMCA of Greater Vancouver increased funding to support YMCA Ethiopia's COVID-19 emergency response assisting 3,000 families through provision of food, protective health and hygiene supplies and public health training in disease prevention.

And, ongoing support from the YMCA of Greater Vancouver and other YMCA associations in BC is helping in multiple other areas:

- Training youth leaders in HIV education and prevention to provide training to peers and parents in schools and through recreation and sports activities
- Helping orphans' extended families or foster families care for these vulnerable children by providing child care services, schools and vocational training
- Providing library and school supplies for kids in the YMCA Elementary School for children from impoverished families and those impacted by HIV/AIDS
- Supporting tutorial programs for kids who are struggling in school

To date, more than 25,000 young people and parents have been reached through these ongoing YMCA programs. Thanks to generous YGV Foundation funders our support for Ethiopian YMCA's lifesaving and life-changing programs is enabling them to help more people at this critical time.



Ellen Bell Memorial Scholarship

The Ellen Bell YMCA Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually not only for scholastic achievement, but also for a recipient's drive, optimism and the way in which they are giving back to the community. Ellen was a life force, as talented, energetic and driven as she was creative. Highly respected in the field of marketing and advertising, she managed some of the largest accounts in the province. At the same time, she was also a dedicated YMCA of Greater Vancouver volunteer.

Thirty-one years ago, after Ellen passed away, her friends and family, impelled by Shirley Broadfoot and Nick Vos, created this scholarship in her honour.

It is awarded to outstanding women pursuing studies in marketing or advertising who also embody Ellen's qualities of intelligence, kindness and dedication to the betterment of community. Congratulation to this year's well-deserving recipient, Helen Su.

Helen is a bright and creative SFU student pursuing a business degree in International Marketing. She's a Dean's honour roll academic who has sought out multiple work experience opportunities with graphic design and social media. And, she's active in the community as a volunteer.

Helen is currently the Vice President of Events at Young Women in Business (YWiB) SFU. "My passion for social sustainability in women's empowerment pushed me to take on an executive leadership club position," she explains.

Her successful creativity, planning, and execution skills have more than doubled attendance at their monthly events and panel sessions - attracting students from diverse backgrounds and majors. And, Saturday mornings

Helen volunteers at Villa Cathay Care Home. Engaging seniors in meaningful conversations, Helen then uses her design skills to sketch images the seniors use to passionately narrate their stories.

Helen won over the scholarship selection committee with her passion, enthusiasm and leadership potential. As one of her professors shared, "Helen's greatest strength lies in her tremendous eagerness for learning and life experiences - she truly loves to learn. Helen is a true leader to her fellow classmates, inspiring them to elevate their level of commitment to education to equal her own."



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