

It's a vision we can Share



BUILDING *Our* NEW 
for a healthier Chatham-Kent

Imagine the difference a place can make...

Imagine a place where family and friends can play together, where youth can connect, where we can all gain strength, where everyone is welcome. Imagine a place that's the centre of a growing, healthy community, a place that exists solely to make that community a better place for kids, families and seniors. Imagine a place where children learn to swim and we all stay active as we grow older. We can see it too, but to make it a reality, we need your help.

Our community has grown and changed since the first YMCA building was built more than 50 years ago. To ensure we can continue the wonderful things a YMCA should do and is expected to do in a community, we must renew our building to be the place our community needs.....for today and for tomorrow.

As Chatham-Kent continues its work to attract and retain families, companies and new investment to our community,

having a state-of-the-art recreational facility will directly improve the health of our local economy as it provides a healthier quality of life for its citizens.

Not every community has a building like this. The new YMCA and its many programs and services will be a real selling point for companies, families and individuals considering Chatham-Kent for their future investment.

But the YMCA is more than just a building. It's where one in four of our kids will learn how to swim. It's where you and your family will improve your health and wellness in spirit, mind and body. It's a place where families who want to connect will find a world of opportunity to grow and learn, where youth will have a place to call their own. It's a place where wellness and healthy lifestyles are encouraged and supported.



What are we building?

With your help, we will create a 46,000 square foot space to house....

Two pools everyone in our community can use.

From lessons to endurance swims, you'll find a 25-metre lap pool with a 1-metre diving board. We'll also build a separate warm water leisure style pool to allow easy access for children, seniors and people with disabilities and limited mobility.

A multipurpose exercise studio and full gymnasium.

Innovative, comfortable space for large classes will be complemented by smaller, specialized rooms for cycling, dance, pilates, yoga and other exciting classes and programs. With state-of-the-art weight machines, free weights, cardiovascular machines, a stretching area, drop-in child minding and outdoor space for recreational activities, we'll make sure members of our community can participate in their own way.

A community meeting place and wellness centre where we'll all stay connected.

Whatever is happening in Chatham-Kent will be happening at your YMCA. You'll see more multi-purpose rooms, flexible spaces and social areas where community members can meet and gather. For community groups and events, we'll provide rental opportunities.

A place where children receive professional, high-quality care.

A licensed Child Care Centre with expanded preschool, before and after school and school age programs will be a valuable, affordable resource for parents and families. A terrific Child Minding Centre where parents can entrust their kids while they use the facility will also be included.

“ Turns out getting involved with the YMCA has played a bigger role in my life than I knew at the time. I really appreciate the life lessons that can be learned here that mirror those I believe in...like trust in others, teamwork, positive values. I hope every child has the chance to grow and learn these kinds of lessons through the YMCA. ”

Pete Brennan, Past YMCA Board Chair



“ My wife Ginette and I are passionate supporters of the YMCA. If we work together, we can make it happen. Chatham-Kent needs and deserves a YMCA that will have an impact on the whole community. Whether its teens playing basketball, kids learning to swim or seniors taking yoga, the Y is a place to learn, grow and foster friendships for a lifetime. ”

Rocky and Ginette Gaudrault, Campaign Co-Chairs

Why is a new YMCA needed?

Our current building, after more than 50 years of use by generations of children, individuals and families, has aged to a point where it is no longer able to meet the growing needs of our community.

After conducting a thorough and significant strategic planning process, we know the YMCA must renew its anchor facility to continue its work of building strong kids, strong families and a stronger community.

This new building will offer all that's traditionally expected from a YMCA, but will also provide space to operate day camps, childcare programs, leadership development, international programs, employment programs and many other community activities.

Above all, the YMCA needs to engage many more people throughout the community in our programs and services. We can do so much more to influence the pursuit of healthier, more fulfilling lifestyles, and we intend to do so!

“ A building like this and all it has to offer is good business. A community resource like this attracts people, attracts investment and attracts positive changes. What we're doing here will have a lasting impact on our community. ”

Derek Robertson, Vice President Operations, Selectore Communications



Is there a community need?

Absolutely, now more than ever.

Our community needs:

A fun, supportive place where kids can take lessons, get involved and be more physically active. We have an important role to play in combating the alarming increase of childhood obesity that leads to serious health issues now and in their future.

A safe, positive location where youth can participate in a value-based environment, be physically active and build their own sense of community and wellness.

A friendly, affordable place where families can be together, where they can connect, play and learn together. Where they can access professional, high quality childcare and become involved in our greater community.

A warm, inviting, welcoming space where baby boomers and seniors can meet, gather and take part in recreational activities to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. A gathering place for activities, for ideas, for meetings, for the building of our future.

An economic stimulus that not only benefits local companies and creates new jobs, but also improves the health of our local economy and helps make Chatham-Kent a more attractive place to live and work.

A state-of-the-art recreational facility that leads to a healthier quality of life for its citizens and improves the health of our local economy.

“ From being overweight and insulin dependent as well as having hypertension and sleep apnea, the Y has led me to become symptom and medication free. The Y staff and members provided me with the knowledge and encouragement to make some significant lifestyle changes. The Y has literally changed my life and how I live it. ”

Rod McKenzie, YMCA member



“ The health of a community is measured by many indicators that go beyond the healthcare system - its doctors, nurses and hospitals. The measure of a community's health also includes the resources it has to help people stay active and fit. An investment in the YMCA is an investment in healthier communities, healthier citizens, healthier children and healthier families. Count us in, we fully support the building of our new “Y” for a healthier Chatham-Kent. ”

Ken Tremblay, President and CEO, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance

Campaign and project information

Our Goal

The campaign goal is \$5 million toward the total project cost of \$15.7 million. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has committed \$2.4 million towards the project, and the YMCA will contribute \$2.6 million. The project will also require significant support from both the federal and provincial governments, and those processes are underway. We'll need your help to build a YMCA where everyone in our community can benefit.

Local Impact

Even as we build our new YMCA, we want to have a positive impact on our local community. We're committed to the involvement of local labour and skilled trades. We will include "local content" as a key factor in awarding construction and design contracts to ensure a significant portion of the total project cost is spent locally to directly benefit our community.

Location

Our new YMCA will be located on Grand Avenue on the site of the former Thamesview Lodge. This central location is easily accessible by car or bus and will provide for ample free parking. Construction will begin in October 2009. The doors of our new YMCA will open in December 2010.

How can you help?

Make an investment in our community and become part of this new YMCA today. With your help, we'll continue to help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

“ Everyone in our community can choose to be a part of the YMCA. No one is excluded here, everyone can participate. What other charity can say that? ”

Roger Beaudry & Joe Whittal, YMCA Volunteers



Our history

The YMCA of Chatham-Kent was started by a group of interested citizens in 1945 as a storefront operation. In 1962, the Y built and moved into its current facility on King Street. In its 64 years of service to the community, the YMCA's programs and services have constantly evolved to meet the needs of the community. From its humble beginnings, the YMCA of Chatham-Kent today serves almost 7,000 people annually through the core services of childcare and membership in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

The YMCA of Chatham-Kent is a charter member of YMCA Canada. YMCA Canada is a federation of 47 YMCAs and eight YMCA-YWCAs that work together to achieve common goals for improving the health of Canadians.

Our core services are:

- Membership
- Child Development
- Community Learning & Careers

Our YMCA offers programs in several key areas:

- Health, Wellness, Fitness & Recreation
- Youth Day Camping
- Licensed Child Care and After-School Programs
- Employment Education & Training
- Community Outreach and Newcomer Services
- International Development

The YMCA is the largest provider of not-for-profit childcare in Canada. We operate three YMCA licensed childcare locations, six school-age sites throughout Chatham-Kent and three youth employment initiatives in Blenheim, Wallaceburg and Chatham.

The YMCA is accessible to all. We work to ensure that no person, especially youth, will be denied the opportunity to participate in our programs due to financial constraints. YMCA financial assistance ensures youth, families and individuals who cannot afford the full cost of our membership or any YMCA programs and services are able to participate, regardless of who they are, where they live or what they need.

Through the incredible dedication of our staff and volunteers and the strong support of donors, members, friends and community partners, the YMCA will continue to provide programs and services to our community.



“ The Y has been a very large asset for Chatham-Kent. Our new YMCA will be able to serve more members of our community - young and old. Nearly 50 years ago, my father, Grant, was one of the founders of the Chatham Y. I also served many years ago on the Board. Being asked to be the Honourary Chair of the upcoming campaign is just that, an incredible honour. ”

Mr. Darcy McKeough, Honourary Campaign Chair

“ It’s hard to imagine the impact a new YMCA can have on a community. It’s too easy to think of the Y as just a building. A YMCA can be so much more than that. It can be an institution that magnifies the efforts of people, programs and services to inspire, to motivate, to grow and to learn. Now more than ever, it’s time to bring this energy to Chatham-Kent.

Other Ontario communities like Goderich, Peterborough, Welland and Innisfil have recently experienced the benefits that a new YMCA can bring. These communities had aging or non-existent YMCA centres with limited membership and limited opportunities to stay in touch with their community, not dissimilar to our current situation in Chatham-Kent. Today, their new YMCAs have become the centre of the community. YMCA membership participation has soared and there is new optimism and new levels of excitement and energy. It’s given their communities opportunities they didn’t have before and couldn’t have imagined - a place to connect, to share and to live a healthier life.

With your help we can make this kind of positive change happen here. I believe a new Y will improve our quality of life, it will be an agent for changing attitudes toward health and wellness and it will transform the way we define community.

Please, help us create a vibrant, healthier, more active Chatham-Kent. Together, we can make an incredible difference. ”

Jim Janzen, CEO
YMCA of Chatham-Kent

Find out how your gift of time or money will make a lasting, real difference in our community for years to come.

Please, consider a personal or business contribution to the “Building Our New Y Campaign” today. Your one-time cash donation or gift-in-kind, pledge (gifts can be pledged over time up to five years) or planned gift will shape the future of our YMCA and all it has to offer.

Call our campaign office today at 519.352.0950
Visit our website www.buildingournewy.com
Come see us at 335 King Street West in Chatham

Our Mission

The YMCA is a charitable organization dedicated to serving our community through the development of all people in spirit, mind and body.

Our Vision

The YMCA is the recognized community leader in building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Our Values

Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Honesty and Inclusiveness

For more information contact:

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