

# TIELINES

The Newsletter of the Canadian YMCA Alumni



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**October 2025**

Here at the Canadian YMCA Alumni, your Executive has been busy preparing for the upcoming 'program' year. Too many years at the YMCA still has me thinking about the beginning of our new program year in the fall where we refocus our energy and attention on all that needs to be done in the next eight months. Those slightly slower months in the summer have allowed us to relax, enjoy and re-charge the batteries.

Your Executive has continued to be active this past summer. Now I don't want you to roll your eyes when I tell you that the Membership Engagement Committee has been looking at and tweaking our Constitution and By-Laws. Many of us will recall how essential and engaging those update processes were at work. We are looking forward to showing you our work in late November when we ask you to approve the changes – I know you will be sitting on the edge of your chairs waiting for that to happen.

The other major item on our agenda this past number of weeks has been and continues to be the YMCA Storytelling Project. Our small committee of Executive members and others that we've recruited have been working very long and hard over the summer. We've formalized our partnership with YMCA Canada and have engaged with the YMCA Young Leaders group. There is much to be done on this project, but it is such an exciting and I believe an important project. Look for the update from the working committee in this newsletter and in future editions. And don't be surprised when we reach out to you and say we need your help with this project.

Until next time,

Janet Giles

[janet.giles@shaw.ca](mailto:janet.giles@shaw.ca)

# Canadian YMCA Alumni News

## Celebrating Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to:

### September

Gilda Evelyn, Ed Fox, Tom Hirst, Sol Kasimer,  
Amelie Koloska, Heather Patterson, Patricia Pelton,  
Ron Watson.

### October

Susan Fortino, Lee Fraser, Agnes Lamb,  
Barrie MacGregor.

## About TieLines

TieLines is the newsletter of the Canadian YMCA Alumni published bi-monthly at the end of February, April, June, August, October, and mid-December. Please forward articles for inclusion, any corrections/comments to Diana Deakin-Thomas and Trudy Brydges indicating TieLines in the subject line at [geegeenb48@gmail.com](mailto:geegeenb48@gmail.com) and [dianadeakinthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dianadeakinthomas@gmail.com). Don't want to receive TieLines anymore? You can unsubscribe by emailing [editor.cdnyalumni@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cdnyalumni@gmail.com). To find back issues of TieLines, [click here!](#)

## Who are our members?

The Canadian YMCA Alumni is a fellowship of former YMCA or YMCA-YWCA staff, volunteers and/or their partners. We stay connected through TieLines and various ZOOM events. If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Alumni, please share this issue and connect them with Mimi Price, our Membership Chair, at [mimi.price@hotmail.com](mailto:mimi.price@hotmail.com).

# THOUGHT *for the* MONTH

I lied and said I was busy. I was busy; but not in a way most people understand.

I was busy taking deeper breaths. I was busy silencing irrational thoughts.

I was busy calming a racing heart. I was busy telling myself I AM OKAY.

Sometimes this is my busy and I will not apologize for it.

b. oakman

BE HAPPY...  
ENJOY LIFE.



© Scott Haldane

**We encourage you to write to your editors — whatever is on your mind (well, within reason)!**

Please send to [dianadeakinthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dianadeakinthomas@gmail.com) or [geegeenb48@gmail.com](mailto:geegeenb48@gmail.com) anytime!

# YMCA Storytelling Project:

## Capturing the spirit and legacy of the YMCA in Canada

The YMCA Storytelling Project steering committee\* is pleased to announce the launch of the YMCA Storytelling Project, where the collective wisdom and insights of YMCA leaders will be captured through first-person oral history accounts. This initiative is being coordinated through a unique partnership that brings together representatives from YMCA Canada, the Canadian YMCA Alumni Group and YMCA Young Leaders.

Building on the historical account of the YMCA's first 100 years in Canada written by Murray G. Ross, the YMCA Storytelling Project is focused on telling the YMCA leadership story that has emerged over the subsequent 75 years (1951-2026). The collected leadership stories will be made available through a book (hard copy and digital) that will be released at YMCA World Council, being held in Toronto for the first time in July 2026.

The book will also lay the groundwork for:

- an ongoing YMCA storytelling repository through the development of a proof of concept, by working in partnership with subject matter experts at Canada's National History Society
- a practical "how-to guide" for this type of project that can be presented at a session during YMCA World Council

These initiatives will ensure the stories behind the organization's rich history and its enduring impact on communities will be captured for future generations.

Get involved to ensure that the foundation laid by past leaders remains a vital resource, offering lessons learned and a shared understanding of the YMCA's mission.

- Do you know someone who should be interviewed? Contact committee member Janet Giles at [janet.giles@shaw.ca](mailto:janet.giles@shaw.ca)
- Would you like to support the YMCA Storytelling Project with a donation? Make a tax-deductible gift through YMCA Canada's online platform: [Click Here!](#)

With the global YMCA gathering in Canada in 2026, this is an opportunity to unite and inspire current and future leaders, helping the organization retain its essence and thrive in an evolving world.

### For more information

Please contact Franco Savoia, Chair of the YMCA Storytelling Project committee, at: [fsavoia@shaw.ca](mailto:fsavoia@shaw.ca)

\*YMCA Storytelling Project steering committee members: Franco Savoia (Chair), Franca D'Angelo, Angela de Burger, Maeve Devries, Janet Giles, John Haddock, Scott Haldane, Marilyn Kapitany, Laura Palmer Korn, Bryan Webber



# Congratulations to Medhat Mahdy becoming a Member of the Order of Canada!



## **Medhat Sabet Mahdy, C.M. | North York, Ontario**

Community builder Medhat Mahdy devoted five decades to serving the YMCA and various charitable and health-focused sectors. As president and CEO of YMCA of Greater Toronto, he transformed the organization into a hub for social infrastructure and health equity, offering programs that benefited newcomers, children and marginalized communities like 2SLGBTQI+ youth, Indigenous groups and individuals with mental illness. His impact resonates across Canadian and global YMCA initiatives, shaping their approach and success.

The Order of Canada is how our country honours people who make extraordinary contributions to the nation.

This morning #GGSimon invested 1 Companion (C.C.), 14 Officers (O.C.) and 46 Members (C.M.) into the Order of Canada during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Find out more about these remarkable individuals. [\(Click Here!\)](#)



## New TieLines feature

# HI MY NAME IS...

## Meet Other Alumni Members

### **Why the Y means so much to me:**

TieLines works to keep our membership informed about what is happening in the YMCA around the world, in Canada and in your local areas. As Alumni, we continue to enjoy learning about the wonderful activities being carried out in these locations.

We also want to learn more about each other. We'll be featuring members in each edition to learn about "What the Y means to me..." Here are two more people you may already know or they may become new acquaintances for you. Hope you enjoy reading about "What the Y means to me..."





## Trudy Brydges

The YMCA has been the greatest influence in my lifetime. Through the training events, professional opportunities and friendships I have experienced the Y has made me the person I am today. Being a member of this worldwide charity I value the focus of leadership development.

## Diana Deakin-Thomas

I was hoping to make a word cloud for my submission but I can't figure out how to do it! When I think of how the YMCA has impacted my life (since I was three years old), I think of many words:

Opportunity, friendship, challenges, mistakes, forgiveness, parenting, skiing, swimming, sailing, camping, leadership, taking chances, willing to risk, support, caring, inclusivity, understanding, helping, fundraising, community, laughing, development, accepting responsibility, listening, patience and many others. I am who I am in large part because of the YMCA. I continue to learn and grow with the YMCA as my solid base.



© Scott Haldane



A photograph of several wild turkeys in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red shape that covers the bottom half of the page, creating a gradient effect. The turkeys are in various poses, some looking towards the camera and others looking away.

# SECOURS SPECIAUX

## **World YMCA Secretary General, Carlos Sanvee, Comments on Impact and Importance of Secours Speciaux.**

John Haddock

**Following is an excerpt from Carlos Sanvee, Secretary General of the World YMCA, from a letter in the Secours Speciaux Annual Report:**

Dear Friends,

Each year we reflect on the impact of the Secours Speciaux Fund, we are reminded of the bonds that unite our global YMCA family, bonds built on compassion, solidarity, and shared purpose.

In many countries, YMCA staff members work for decades with no access to pensions, retirement benefits or even emergency funds in times of crisis. When illness strikes, when disaster hits, or when they reach the end of the working years, there is often nowhere to turn. Your support has stepped into that gap -- offering dignity, stability and hope.

This is the true spirit of the YMCA in action --- lifting each other up in times of need, and showing that even in the most difficult moments, no one is ever alone.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Carlos Sanvee,  
Secretary General

*The Canadian Y Alumni will be undertaking its 2025 Secours Speciaux campaign this fall.*

# THIS IS WORTH A READ!

Something to think about. We can each take action in our own way—a LinkedIn find by Gayle.



Janice Cardinale VEMM

LinkedIn

What can our industry learn from a country that prioritizes empathy training for children aged 6 to 16? Since 1993, Denmark has made empathy a weekly class for every child aged 6-16. Not an extra. Not optional. It sits alongside math and science.

Kindness isn't considered a trait. It's treated as a skill. Neuroscientists now know empathy changes the brain. Practicing it strengthens the medial prefrontal cortex, the region responsible for perspective-taking and emotional regulation. Kids literally wire their brains to understand and respond to others. Nearly 60% of Danish school work is done in teams.

Over years, collaboration stops being an activity. It becomes instinct. ... [Read the full piece!](#)





# WORLD YMCA

## Interested in knowing more about what is happening internationally?

Here you will find the latest [World YMCA news](#). If you haven't already, we invite you to subscribe to our [monthly e-newsletter](#) to stay updated on YMCA news and upcoming events.

## BRIDGES

WORLD FELLOWSHIP  
OF YMCA RETIREES (WFYR)



**Check out the most  
recent editions of Bridges**

**Sep. 2025**  
[\(Click here!\)](#)

## COUNTDOWN TO WORLD COUNCIL 2026!

With less than a year to go until World Council. This video from World YMCA and YMCA Canada outlines the vision for the event and what participants can expect. Early Bird registration is open. We encourage early sign-up to secure your place and allow sufficient time for visa applications.



**[\(Watch the video\)](#)**  
and find full details.



## News from Y Canada our RDCs and our Hubs

### Y Canada

YMCA Canada is excited to share that our new brand awareness campaign, **“Greater Together”**, launched recently across Canada in English markets outside of Quebec. Watch for it on TV, streaming, digital, and podcast platforms. The campaign emphasizes the YMCA as a place for well-being and belonging, where we help bring out the potential in each other. When we are together, we are stronger, braver, bolder. We are more than we are alone. We are “Greater Together”.

The campaign has two main areas of focus: brand awareness and fundraising. The spots highlight the wide variety of programming available at the YMCA and raise awareness of our charitable status. To capture the energy of the YMCA, a new, custom song was created. Its dynamic sound is designed to grab attention, bring a feeling of energy and joy, and help our campaign break through the noise in a very competitive marketplace.



The full length video



30s Fundraising video

Although our campaign reflects our vision and message for Canadians across the country, its execution may vary by region due to several factors, such as audience concentration, budget, market relevance timing, etc. The campaign will be running in English language markets across Canada, except in Quebec.

## YMCA Connections Snapshot 2025 Released

The YMCA Connections Snapshot, commissioned by YMCA Canada and the YMCA of Greater Toronto, conducted among Angus Reid Forum members, launched today alongside the YMCA's latest brand awareness campaign “Greater Together.” It's the first of an annual series, offering a recurring snapshot to help the Y monitor how Canadians are feeling over time.

For the national press release, [Click Here!](#)

# Public Support for Child Care Programs in Canada

Environics  
Institute  
For Survey Research

YWCA  
CANADA

Shine On  
Y



## Public Support for Child Care Programs in Canada

(Source: Peter Dinsdale LinkedIn)

Today, YMCA Canada, in partnership with the The Environics Institute for Survey Research and YWCA Canada, released new national polling on public opinion toward child care. The survey, conducted with over 4,000 Canadians, is also featured in The Globe and Mail (Dave McGinn).

The results are clear: Canadians overwhelmingly support affordable, high-quality child care.

### Key Findings

- 83% agree Canada should be a country where affordable, high-quality child care is available to all who need it.
- 75% believe preschool children benefit from attending child care outside the home.
- Canadians prefer maintaining government funding (61%) for child care over providing tax breaks (26%).
- 68% support the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program — with support spanning parents and non-parents alike.
- Canadians identify affordable child care as one of the most impactful supports for families.

### Why it Matters

As the largest not-for-profit provider of child care in Canada, YMCAs see first-hand the impact these programs have on families, communities, and the economy. Affordable child care is:

- Economic infrastructure: it drives workforce participation, productivity, and long-term growth.
- A social priority: uniting Canadians across regions and generations.
- Dependent on Early Childhood Educators: yet many ECEs remain underpaid and undervalued.

As the federal government weighs tough budget decisions, this research reinforces what Canadians already know: child care is not just a social policy. It is a nation-building investment.

We recommend that Budget 2025 include a 25% wage increase for Early Childhood Educators, backed by an initial federal investment of \$1.2 billion, alongside commitments to wage grids, benefits, and working conditions.

To read the full report, [Click Here!](#)

## News from our RDCs and our Hubs

### Canada East

#### Update on Association Responses to Wildfires in Atlantic Canada

As wildfire season continues across the country, our YMCAs have stepped up to be there for their communities in the moments that matter. Below are some of the ways Associations are being impacted and are responding in Atlantic Canada:

##### Newfoundland and Labrador

The YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador is facing significant operational disruptions due to wildfires in both Labrador and the Avalon Peninsula. Two major fires—one in Kingston and another in Paddy's Pond—have led to community evacuations and the closure of multiple YMCA child care centres. Specifically:

- One child care centre was closed due to the Kingston wildfire, which affected communities in Conception Bay North.
- Four centres were closed due to the Paddy's Pond wildfire near Metro St. John's.
- YMCA employees have been directly impacted by both events.
- The Central Labrador YMCA has been designated as a shelter, though it has not yet been activated this year.
- Additional communities (Placentia, Marystown, Bonavista) are under water conservation orders, potentially affecting YMCA swimming pools and showers.
- The YMCA NL Crisis Response Team has been activated, with the crisis assessed as approaching Level 2. Their focus has been on communication and employee support, including the establishment of an emergency fund.
- Find out more: [Click Here!](#)

##### Nova Scotia

As of the end of last week, the YMCA of Cumberland had 3 fires that were considered being held near one of the communities where they have a Child Care Centre. They are monitoring this closely. Their HFA location in Amherst operates as a comfort centre during extreme weather events, and while they have not had to initiate a response there yet, they are prepared to respond if circumstances worsen. In the meantime, their town has called for voluntary water conservation, and the Association will continue to monitor to determine any needed adjustments to pool operations.

In Pictou County, the Association is supporting several households who have had their wells run dry. Folks are showering at the YMCA for free. The YMCA of Pictou County has also been supporting with water jug filling. In the past, they have been a 'comfort centre' when needed and are preparing the team for that if needed, in the case of evacuations.



The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth has not been directly impacted by wildfires but has proactively designated its facilities as cooling and charging centres for the community. Similarly, the YMCA of Southwestern Nova Scotia is a designated Comfort Centre and works closely with their local Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) to respond to community needs in emergencies. As many rural households are experiencing wells that have run dry, the YMCA of Southwestern Nova Scotia has ensured that folks know that they can use shower facilities at no charge.

## **New Brunswick**

In the Greater Moncton region there was one out-of-control wildfire in the Irishtown community last week which has since been contained. The YMCA of Greater Moncton's North End YMCA (approximately 15 kms away from Irishtown) is listed as a 'comfort centre' providing complimentary air-conditioned spaces with device charging access and shower services. The Association has spoken with staff who reside in danger areas and offered support.

The YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick has not been directly impacted by the fires but have adjusted programming and access to their two outdoor education centres to reduce risk.

As we have already seen in central and western Canada this year, our YMCAs are stepping up to support their communities, even when impacted themselves. For those interested in making a donation, the Canadian Red Cross has set up appeals to support their responses across the country: [Click here!](#)

If you would like to support specific appeals or related response work of any of the YMCAs across the country, you can reach out to them directly.

Our thoughts are with the YMCA staff and volunteers impacted by the wildfires and thank our Associations for the work that they continue to do to actively support their communities throughout these emergencies.

## News from our RDCs and our Hubs Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

### Anchor Youth Space North End Halifax - Grand Opening! Canada



We're thrilled to share that Anchor Youth Space North End Halifax had its grand opening to the community on Wednesday, September 17 at our Community YMCA. Anchor Youth Space Halifax is one of eight Integrated Youth Services sites being developed across Nova Scotia. Other coalition partners in Halifax include One North End, Hope Blooms, and the North End Community Health Centre.

These sites offer walk-in supports for youth ages 12-25 including counselling, peer support, life skills groups, mental health and wellness services, as well as help with employment, education, and training.

Community Y youth, Rakim Gray, spoke a bit about the impact of having a "third space" for youth, "I think having a space like Anchor, will have a positive impact on the youth in our community. I've been coming to the Y for over 10 years, and I can say it has helped build my confidence, valuable life skills, and long-lasting connections. It's a second home. I appreciate the investment that has been made in my community, and I hope more youth get the same opportunity to become their best selves and have a brighter future."

"This is an exciting day. Youth in Halifax now have more access to safe spaces where they can get the help and support they need," said Brian Comer, Minister of Addictions and Mental Health. "It's important that young people and their families have a comfortable place to access services. These sites are run by people who care about their communities and who offer support without judgement."

The strength of the IYS model lies in collaboration. Brian Posavad, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth, emphasized:

"The strength of Anchor Youth Space Halifax lies in integration: provincial funding ensures sustainability, the IWK provides clinical excellence and our coalition partners bring the trust, connection and community delivery that make it possible. The YMCA has a long and proud history of youth development in Nova Scotia, especially in Halifax's north end, and we are committed to helping youth access deeper supports without barriers and reaching potential together."

We are deeply grateful to The Honourable Mike Savage, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and The Honourable Minister Brian Comer for joining us on this special day. We were also honoured by Elder Geri LeBlanc, who opened the space with a beautiful blessing, her presence made this milestone even more meaningful for our community and the youth we serve.

A special Thank You to Tanade Adan and TL Johannesson for co-emceeding this event, and to the incredible Anchor staff team for their hard work, dedication, and for providing tours to nearly 100 guests. Please enjoy some photos from the event below.



## News from our RDCs and our Hubs Canada West

### A Message from the Chair of the Board of the YMCA of Northern Alberta

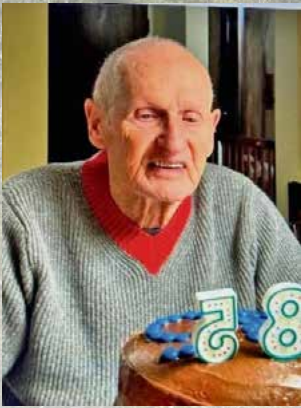
The CEO Selection Committee and our Board of Directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Katherine O'Neill to the position of President and CEO of the YMCA of Northern Alberta. Katherine will be taking the helm from Nick Parkinson, who is retiring following a successful career at the YMCA.

For the past five years as the CEO of YMCA Edmonton, Katherine demonstrated her motivation for mission-driven work and a passion for creating safe, strong, and inclusive communities. She successfully led the organization through an organizational reset, balanced budgets, and significantly improved fundraising efforts, which included partnership efforts, program standards, and the ongoing capital renewal of its historic social enterprise (Camp Yowochas) to a thriving charity, supporting 10,000 women and families through counselling, disability services, youth programming, and outdoor education.

Jeremy Herbert  
Board Chair  
YMCA of Northern Alberta



# REMEMBERING OUR ALUMNI



## **Trueman Hirschfeld** January 26, 2025

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**HIRSCHFELD, Trueman Buettner**

**February 12, 1939**

**Goldenville Guysborough County, Nova Scotia- January 26, 2025**

**North Vancouver British Columbia**

At the age of 12 Trueman attended the YMCA Big Cove Camp and from then on, he devoted his life to the YMCA until his retirement from the Greater Vancouver YMCA.

Predeceased by his parents, his sister and his two brothers and his son James Hirschfeld.

Survived by his wife of 68 years Beverly and their daughters Kimberly ( Larry), Karen (Randy); his 7 grandchildren, Lars, Amy, Kathleen, Christopher, Kiara, Dylan and Gabrielle; his 5 great-grand-children Aprilia, Eleanor, Trueman, Oliver and Parker.

Trueman was the love of my life for 68 years, I will miss him forever. No service, Please remember him.

**Published by North Shore News from Feb. 26 to Mar. 28, 2025.**



## Keitha Marie Davey

October 3, 2025

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Keitha Marie Davey, at age 94, slipped away from her vibrant life on this earth in the early hours of October 3. She had been fading for some time, her husband Russ at her side, faithfully treasuring the last strands of her life. Her children, Karen (Joseph), Cindy (Sam), Marilyn (Blake) and Greg (Vida) remember her as a challenge to keep up with even beyond her seventies. She returned for post secondary education while they were teenagers, frequently being taken for their sister. Turning out delectable four course meals while carrying on multiple conversations? No problem. She

honed her flair for photography using equipment that required a high degree of skill. As Nursing Curriculum Coordinator for Georgian College, she wrote 'The Caring Curriculum' between adventurous sailing vacations, hosting sparkling parties and creating stunning quilts. She decided to improve her golf game by watching videos. Soon she was winning championships continuing into her eighties. The "grands" as she called them, Karen's Dani and Michael, Cindy's Heather, Luke and Evan, Sam's Liat, Marilyn's Jordan, Nicole and Logan and Greg's Joshua, Kendra and Vilija also enjoyed her as a force of nature and centre of family gatherings. She must have continued to inspire this great productivity as twenty-five (and one on the way) great grandchildren have been added to the family. Caleb, Kira, Damien, Kayden, Beau, Anne, Kendrick, Jane, Susannah, Christopher, Tabitha, Keziah, Nicholas, Ethan, Grant, Parker, Casey, Aylin, Nora, Conner, Tara, Roya, Paige, Ayva and Tal brought her great joy.



## Russell Edward Davey

October 6, 2025

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Russell Edward Davey, the love of his life having passed from this earth this October 3, joined her on October the 6th. He was adamant about keeping his promise to never leave her, to care for her for through their 73 years of marriage. His final mission accomplished, he could say he had fought the good fight, he had finished his course. Although this was his last fight, he went to war in many arenas. With love, with passion and tenacity he fought for family, for friends for healthy community and 'doing the right thing.' Always. The YMCA was often his vehicle. He was the problem-solver for

challenged Ys, both as Executive Director for four of them and as National Field Consultant for YMCA Canada. He finished his career as Director of YMCA Geneva Park, developing and expanding the cottage vacationing aspect and the conference centre as well as two national initiatives, one of them the pilot for a National Youth Leadership Institute. He was recognized for his contribution by being appointed a Companion to the Fellowship of Honour. His vision to make the world a better place started with his own family. His children, Karen (Joseph), Cindy (Sam), Marilyn (Blake) and Greg (Vida), grandchildren Karen's Dani and Michael, Cindy's Heather, Luke and Evan, Sam's Liat, Marilyn's Jordan, Nicole and Logan and Greg's Joshua, Kendra and Vilija and twenty-five (and one on the way) great grandchildren, Caleb, Kira, Damien, Kayden, Beau, Anne, Kendrick, Jane, Susannah, Christopher, Tabitha, Keziah, Nicholas, Ethan, Grant, Parker, Casey, Aylin, Nora, Conner, Tara, Roya, Paige, Ayva and Tal. He knew each one, 'saw' them, their strengths, where support was needed and where vision would inspire. All of that would seem to leave little room for anything else. But, not true for him. An avid golfer, die hard sports fan, (his teams losing year after year), sailing vacations where he steered through typhoons, trips all over the world, a social life that was exhausting just to hear about-topped off with a lively romance with his wife of 73 years. He was 96 years old. He couldn't attend Keitha's funeral but as it was the day he died, his close-knit family was already in town. They could crowd into his room to pour out love, gratitude, hugs and kisses in his last hours.





### **THE LAST LAUGH**

Did you ever take a nap so good that you thought you missed the school bus but it's the weekend and you are 65?

**BE HAPPY  
ENJOY LIFE**



# Thank You!

I would like to start off by saying thank you to Trudy Brydges (Executive member and AWESOME Atlantic Hub member) who has graciously agreed to help me with the preparation and development of our TieLines. We will be co-editors—so now you have two of us searching for stories to keep you engaged!

And, as always, a hearty thanks to staff at YMCA of Northern Alberta for laying out and preparing TieLines for production. This incredible team makes us look so good every issue! The team to thank includes:

Nick Parkinson (President and CEO), Amber Niemeier (Chief Community Engagement Officer), Curtis Shurvell for copy editing and Abdullah Al-Nono for designing.

Franca D'Angelo (General Manager, National Office YMCA Canada) and Alexandra Mooney (Y Canada) distribute TieLines for us. And, of course, thanks to Nancy Dube and Marg Flett who check your editors' work! To Scott Haldane for his beautiful photography used in our TieLines. And to those of you who have contributed this month — **THANK YOU!**



Canadian YMCA Alumni  
**TieLines • October 2025**

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Photo credit: Scott Haldane