



YMCA-YWCA OF NORTHEAST AVALON

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ribbon cutting ceremony kicks off preview week at the Ches Penney Family Y – see you at the new Y!

St. John's, NL – this morning, at the new Ches Penney Family Y at 35 Ridge a special ceremony was held for donors, campaign volunteers, staff, and families to cut the ribbon on the new Y.

“My family and our companies have done well in business, and this is our way of giving back. I am happy to be here today and to be a part of building this new Y for generations of children, youth, and families and to encourage others to give” says Ches Penney, Chairman of the Penney Group and \$1 million donor to the new Y.

The ribbon cutting ceremony kicks off “preview week” with additional events scheduled for staff, volunteers, current members and families, and neighbourhood residents. Finishing touches on construction will also be completed over the week with a public opening on 15 July, 2011 followed by opening the aquatics centre later in the summer.

“We are delighted to be able to cut the ribbon today and welcome people for tours of the new Y later this week, this wonderful project is a landmark,” says Craig Rowe, Past Board Chair and Project Committee Chair for the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon.

“The new Y secures our service to community for generations to come, I'm very proud of our volunteers and staff and very grateful for the generosity of our volunteers and donors,” says Sharon Sparkes, Board Chair of the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon.

Over the past few years the Y has acquired 4.55 acres from the City of St. John's and the Pippy Park Commission; hired Sheppard Case Architects as the prime consultant for the project; received confirmation of \$4.94 million from municipal, provincial, and federal governments; raised more than \$3.4 million with the Y Strong Families Campaign; and sold the former Y at 34 New Cove Road. N.D Dobbin Group, the general contractor, started construction in July, 2009.

The YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon is a charity offering programs in health, employment and child care since 1854. Every year, over 14,000 people take part in Y programs in our communities.

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More information:

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