

# Newsletter



YMCA-YWCA of  
Northeast Avalon  
**VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS**

## Generous Donor Helps Start New Y Playing to Learn Program

Elinor Gill Ratcliffe has given \$20,000.00 to help the Y start a new Playing to Learn Program for pre-school age children. The program will operate all day 5 days a week and is based on the principle that children learn through play. Certified staff will deliver the program to children following the national Y Playing to Learn curriculum. It is located at the Y's New Cove Road location in St. John's.



*YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon CEO Jason Brown, Board Chair Gerry Carew, Y Donor Elinor Gill Ratcliffe, Y General Manager of Children's Services Maxine Mercer, and Board Vice Chair Craig Rowe attend cheque presentation for new Y Playing to Learn Centre at 34 New Cove Road.*

"I am just so pleased and honoured the Y would use my gift this way," says Elinor Gill Ratcliffe, "children are our future, and this

will help give these children a great start."

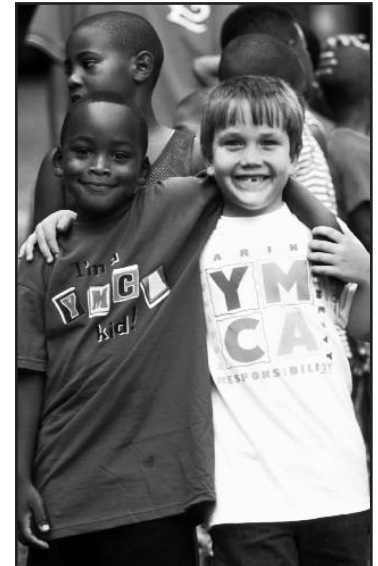
The program is licensed by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Both provincial and Y financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

"This gift helps us start a program we would not have been able to without Elinor's support, she is a great Y person and a very generous donor," says YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon Board Chair Gerry Carew.

The Y is the largest provider of not for profit charitable child care in Canada.

Parents struggle to find quality care for their children. This new program adds 16 spaces to the Y Children's Services operation. In addition to health programs and employment & enterprise programs, the Y operates licensed school age child care programs at 16 locations in St. John's, Torbay, and Mount Pearl, a kinder care program for kindergarten aged children in St. John's, licensed pre-school programs and pre-school & toddler programs in St. John's and Mount Pearl, and summer day camps in St. John's, Mount Pearl, and CBS.

The YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon is a multi-service charity serving our communities since 1854.



**We build strong kids,  
strong families,  
strong communities.**

### what's inside:

- jump start program
- Y summer camps
- peace week 2006
- volunteer spotlights
- everyone is welcome!
- message from CEO

# The Y is proud to be a community partner with Canadian Tire Jump Start Program

Strong communities include strong kids and at the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon we believe every child should have a chance to participate in physical activity. Canadian Tire Foundation for Families shares this belief and has created the Canadian Tire Jump Start Program.

Canadian Tire Jump Start provides financial assistance to help kids participate in organized sport, and recreation such as hockey, dance, soccer, swimming, etc. National in scope, but local in focus, Canadian Tire



Jump Start works through a network of community partners committed to helping kids get active.

Our Association is proud to be a community partner with Canadian Tire Jump Start, increasing opportunities for kids from the communities we serve to participate in sport and recreation, and get active and healthy.

Thank you Canadian Tire Jump Start for your commitment to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities, and choosing our YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon as a community partner.

## Do you know a Peace Maker?

The YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon is proud to participate in the 22nd Annual YMCA Peace Week. Ys across Canada are recognizing Peace Makers in their Communities. Under the leadership of our Leaders in Training, children in Y programs will be making art work to highlight peace – both at home and around the world. Y Board Member Jason Whiteway will be the guest speaker at our Peace Week Breakfast November 24, 2006 7:30a.m. 34 New Cove Road to reflect on his experiences at the Lebanon YMCA during a recent family trip to Lebanon. All funds raised during Peace Week will be used to support the Lebanon YMCA through YMCA Canada.



### volunteer spotlight



Lloyd Osmond started volunteering for the Y in 1967 and has been a strong supporter ever since. His initial involvement led to being Chair of the Board of Directors when the YMCA and YWCA joined in 1975. Lloyd has been a donor, volunteer, Board Chair, and is presently on the Nominating Committee for the Association. "The Y changes lives and, through my involvement with the Y, my life has changed for the better. Giving back to our communities by volunteering for the Y makes our communities better places to live."

Lloyd is also giving his priceless advice to the group working on our upcoming capital campaign to pass the torch to the next generation of Y volunteer leaders.

# The Y is Open to Everyone

No one is turned away from the YMCA-YWCA for inability to pay program fees. In employment and enterprise services, children's services, and health fitness and recreation membership the Y is open to everyone. Every year the value of the assistance the Y provides to individuals and families increases. People participate in programs that transform people's lives – from unemployed to employed, from unsupported to supported, from unhealthy to healthy. The Y works with over 14,000 people a year in the Northeast Avalon, many thousands of whom pay no fee to be involved or receive financial assistance. This number is growing every year.

The Rotary Club of St. John's East gift will help individuals and families join the Y and will help sponsor 180 children at the Y Day Camp at Fox Trap.

YMCA-YWCA CEO Jason Brown says "in a province where adult and childhood obesity rates are the highest in the country and leisure time physical activity rates are the lowest, access to healthy active programs for those who cannot afford it is essential. This gift will help us involve more individuals and families in our health programs and also help us

## A Heartfelt Thank You

The Y Assistance program has given my three children the opportunity to participate in one of the best summer camps in the city.

Being a single parent I appreciate all the benefits this program has provided my children which I otherwise would not be able to offer them. This is the second year attending this camp and they thoroughly enjoy the activities, the sleepovers and the many skills they are learning throughout the summer. A heartfelt thank you to all those who support the Y programs and services!

Sincerely, Karen Kennedy

## Y Summer Camps

Did you know that the YMCA has offered summer camps for over 100 years? This year there were over 800 campers in the Y summer camp operating out of three different locations. More than 50 teenagers registered for this year's Counsellor in Training (CIT) program, a great introduction into the world of becoming a Y leader.

Camp Beothuck has returned to the roots of the Y camping tradition by offering a week long outdoors camp with an overnight once a week. Campers and CITs can learn a wide variety of skills related specifically to camping in Newfoundland and Labrador.

sponsor children to day camp, children who will learn about the natural world by canoeing, swimming, hiking, and cooking over a fire." At present, more than 10% of Y members are assisted and more than 25% of day campers receive financial assistance.



*Rotary Club of St. John's East President Brian Martin and Foundation Chair Shannie Duff present YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon CEO Jason Brown with a \$2500.00 cheque towards the Y Assistance Program.*

As a community based charity serving the communities of Northeast Avalon since 1854, the YMCA-YWCA relies on the support of groups and individuals. The Y thanks the Rotary Club of St. John's East for this very generous gift.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Kathryn Banoub, 16, has been involved with the YMCA-YWCA since she was a small child. She started attending Aikido classes when she was just 8 years old. Kathryn has also spent time being a camper in the Y's summer camp program. Her commitment to the Y has always been strong as her family has always been involved with her.

As Kathryn grew older she stepped into a leadership role through the Y's Youth Leadership programs. She has completed both the Leaders in Training program and the Counsellor in Training program. In September, Kathryn will become a member of the Y's Youth Leaders Corps.

As a student at Holy Heart High School Kathryn found it hard to juggle her many responsibilities, but she always found time to volunteer at the Y. This past year you could see her every Saturday helping out with the Y's new Pirate Ship Bouncer and this summer helping out with the summer camp.

Away from the Y Kathryn is a very busy person. She is preparing for her final year of High School and still trying to figure out how to balance her other commitments. For fun Kathryn likes to listen to music, design her own clothes and work in theatre.

## a message from the CEO



Jason Brown, CEO

## It Feels So Good to Give

The Y is a special charity built by a unique partnership between volunteers, donors, staff, and participants. In Northeast Avalon the Y has been a part of people's lives since 1854. The Y works with over 14,000 people in our communities every year. Every one of these people has something to give.

Every year, hundreds of people volunteer for the Y, their reward is feeling good about serving their communities through the Y and making our communities even better places to live. Y volunteers volunteer to give and not to get, yet so many volunteers have told me they have gotten more from the experience than they could ever hope to give back. Y volunteers work in every part of our Association - in employment and enterprise services, children's services, health, fitness, recreation & membership, philanthropy, and governance. Our volunteers are leaders and role models and I want to thank them for their important contributions.

Every year, generous people also give charitable gifts to the Y. These funds are used to help ensure the Y is open to everyone and no one is turned away for inability to pay fees. As our needs grow, we will also be relying on donors to give towards capital funds so we can grow and make sure we can

serve more people in a bigger, better way. I want to thank our donors for their generosity.

As we move ahead with our Association Strategic Plan 2006-2009 we'll need even more support. I am confident our volunteers, donors, staff, and participants will be there in the future as they always have been in the past.

Jason Brown, Chief Executive Officer  
709-754-2960 ext 41  
jbrown@ynortheastavalon.com

### Our Mission

The purpose of our Association is to encourage all people in our communities to join together by providing opportunities for growth in spirit, mind and body through an environment that is built on respect, trust and safety.

### Our Vision 2006-2009

The YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon is a leading charity that fosters self confidence and a sense of community. We empower people to be the best they can be.

### YMCA-YWCA Core Values

Caring  
Honesty  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Health  
Inclusiveness



health fitness & recreation - employment & enterprise services - children's services - voluntarism and philanthropy

YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon  
34 New Cove Road, P.O. Box 21291  
St. John's, NL A1A 5G6  
Phone: 709-754-2960  
Fax: 709-576-0410  
www.ynortheastavalon.com