

Five Key Priorities

To take on our Association's new challenges, Medhat has identified five key priorities for his period as interim leader:

- 1. Focus on staff.** Medhat wants to ensure that our passionate and dedicated staff stay motivated, engaged and inspired under his leadership.
- 2. Achieve performance objectives for program, finance, fund raising and asset development.**
- 3. Deliver a new strategic plan to the Board by March 31, 2010.**
- 4. Deliver an Association annual plan and budget for the year 2010-2011 to the Board by March 31, 2010.** These plans will reflect the goals for the first year of the new strategic plan.
- 5. Continue to position the YMCA externally.**



Interim President and CEO
Medhat Mahdy.

Medhat Mahdy: Laying the Foundation for the Future

As Interim President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Toronto, Medhat Mahdy is meeting challenges head on and charting a course for our Association's future success. Says Colleen Albiston, Board Chair, "The board was very pleased that Medhat agreed to take on the role of Interim President and CEO. His depth of experience and knowledge about so many facets of our operations made him an ideal candidate to help us during this transition period. His intimate knowledge of the strategic planning process will also assist us in moving forward while we are in the search process."

Medhat joined the Y in 1976 as a temporary part-time tennis instructor. He recalls, "I was blown away by the people at the Y." Medhat was impressed by the passion of not only staff, but of members and volunteers. As a newcomer to Canada, the YMCA was also a very welcoming place. Says Medhat, "The Y was the first institution that made me feel like I belonged. It valued diversity rather than seeing it as an obstacle."

The YMCA has had a profound effect on Medhat's personal life as well. He met his wife when she volunteered at the Y and through the Association their children have participated in swim classes, child care and camp.

When Medhat joined the Y, it was recovering from near financial bankruptcy. "Being part of the revitalization of the YMCA in Toronto and reestablishing our role in the community was exciting. It was a challenge that was very rewarding," Medhat says.

Medhat has taken on many roles at the YMCA over the years, including Lifestyle Project Director; Vice President, Marketing, Program Development and Communication; and Vice President/General Manager, Central YMCA Region. From 1996 to 2005, Medhat worked with YMCA Canada in several roles including Director, YMCA Membership and Senior Vice President, YMCA Program Development and Research.

While at YMCA Canada, Medhat had the opportunity to visit every YMCA Association in the country. He toured employment centres, camps, child care centres and HFR facilities. Medhat recalls, "I had a wonderful opportunity to see our country and its people. As an immigrant, it was a real gift. I had the chance to see, from small towns to big cities, how much we all have in common, and how the YMCA builds communities."

When Medhat returned to the YMCA of Greater Toronto in 2005, he took on a series of senior roles revolving around strategy. As Interim President and CEO, Medhat believes that staying on strategy now will ensure our Association's success in the future. He adds, "No matter how many years I've been with the YMCA, I learn something new each day. This is thanks to the people — staff, volunteers and members. When we work together, I truly believe the sky's the limit."

Pro-Tech Media Centre Model Expands: YMCA hands over operational control after three-year pilot

After a successful three-year pilot, the YMCA of Greater Toronto will hand over operational control of the Rexdale Pro Tech Media Centre as the program model prepares for expansion.

The YMCA began operating the centre in 2007 after the concept was presented in partnership with the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Humber College, the Humber College Students' Federation and Microsoft Canada. The purpose of the centre was to create a youth-friendly space that focused on media arts training and leadership.

Since opening, 1,258 youth have developed skills in graphic design, web design, video production, 3D animation, photography, word processing and video game design. A number of participants have received recognition for their work in these areas through contests, including 17-year-old member Ivan Kizito, who won the Mobile City Photo Contest and went on a five-week art exchange to Milan, Italy. In March 2008, 10 participants visited Quesnel, British Columbia, as part of a YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada program. Participants also had a chance to meet a Canadian Olympian when Adam van Koevreden, a three-time medal winner in sprint kayaking, donated eight Lenovo computers to the YMCA for use at the Pro Tech Media Centre in November 2008.

The model has proven incredibly successful and the City of Toronto has begun to expand the service across the GTA with a new primary operator. MicroSkills, a non-profit organization that provides settlement, employment, and self-employment services to low-income individuals, will begin operating the Rexdale location on March 1, 2010.

"During the three years that the YMCA has operated the Pro Tech Media Centre, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with our members, partners and staff in creating a program that teaches leading-edge media arts skills for youth," said Darlene Holowachuk, Acting Vice President, Employment Programs. "We believe strongly in the media centre model and will continue to share our insights and experience with MicroSkills and the current partners as they expand the program model across the GTA."

While the YMCA will no longer operate the Pro Tech Media Centre, we will remain active in that neighbourhood. We operate 10 licensed child care centres, a Youth Employment Centre, a YLC program and a Newcomer Centre. We will also continue to look for partnership opportunities that meet the needs of the community.

YMCA Supports Young and Potential Fathers

The YMCA has taken on the role of sponsoring agency for a group of young black men in Toronto teaming up to make a difference in their community. They have formed a collaborative group called Young and Potential Fathers (YPF). The initiative is funded by the Youth Challenge Fund, which is affiliated with the United Way.

YPF's goals are to provide a means for young black men to gain an understanding of and develop skills to parent their children. YPF seeks to coordinate access to community supports and provide a "male friendly" space in which young men are exposed to cultural mentorship and practical parenting skills workshops.

This initiative will help strengthen the role of the young father within the family structure and address the need for resources and visible role models. Young fathers will be encouraged to overcome feelings of disengagement, and embrace their role as an important figure in the life of their children.

YPF will meet the needs of these young fathers by:

- Creating a welcoming, father-friendly space for young fathers and their children to interact
- Developing a culturally relevant resource manual for young black men, providing how-to tips, available community resources and practical parenting guides from an Afro-centric perspective
- Supporting young fathers in their transition from youth to manhood through cultural identity and mentorship programs

The YMCA is very pleased to be a part of this important initiative that we hope will have a lasting legacy for the community. For more information on YPF, or to join their steering committee, please contact Noah Boakye Yiadom at 647-868-6624 or nboakye@lakeheadu.ca

Get Back to Nature at Pine Crest Winter Camp

For the first time since the late '70s, YMCA Camp Pine Crest will be holding a winter session. Activities will include snowshoeing, animal tracking, ice skating, outdoor survival and cooking, low and high ropes courses, and indoor crafts and games.

Wilderness First Responder – Wilderness Medical Associates will be leading a Wilderness First Responder Course for outdoor educator and wilderness guides. The course is 80 hours and includes a practical and theoretic component. The course will run from April 9 to 16, 2010, and is \$900.

Mother/Daughter Weekend – Experience a weekend away together! Programming will focus on the connection between mother and daughter, although aunts, grandmothers and guardians are all welcome. The program runs from Friday, March 26 to Sunday, March 28, 2010. Arrival on Friday is from 4 to 6 p.m. and departure on Sunday is 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$175 for adults and \$125 for children.

Father/Son Weekend – This weekend is for bonding in the outdoors away from distractions. You will ski, snowshoe, cook outdoors and participate in other great activities. The weekend is also open to grandfathers, uncles and guardians. The program runs from Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7, 2010. Arrival on Friday is



Enjoying the outdoors at YMCA Camp Pine Crest Winter Camp.

from 4 to 6 p.m. and departure on Sunday is 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$175 for adults and \$125 for children.

March Break Camp – Pine Crest is offering a camp experience during March Break from March 14 to 19, 2010. Participants will ice skate, snowshoe, experience ropes courses, and learn animal tracking and outdoor cooking. The program runs from Sunday, March 14 to Friday, March 19, 2010. Arrival on Sunday is from 1 to 3 p.m. and departure on Friday is from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$675 per person, including transportation from Toronto.

For more information and to register, please contact Suzy Pollard at suzy.pollard@ymcagta.org or 705-762-3377.



Former President and CEO Scott Haldane plants a tree in his honour at YMCA Cedar Glen during the new staff orientation in November.

Calendar of Events

January 13 – 15

- MRC Entry Level Management (Geneva Park)

January 27

- Family Literacy Day – Sing for Literacy Sing-a-long (42 Charles Street)

Boost Your Fitness Resolutions with



Launching January 1 at all eight Health, Fitness and Recreation Centres is Circuit Blast, a new YMCA fitness program that offers a total body workout with cardio and muscle conditioning components. You'll blast through cardio and muscle conditioning using a variety of equipment, including hand weights, weighted bars, resistance tubing, stability balls or resistance with your own body weight. Get fantastic overall health benefits and the results you want with this total body workout.

Check out a class at your local HFR centre today and experience the latest in YMCA fitness.

Brampton

Monday 12 – 1 p.m.
Wednesday 12 – 1 p.m.
Thursday 12 – 1 p.m.
Saturday 12 – 1 p.m.

Durham

Wednesday 6 – 7 p.m.
Thursday 12:15 – 1 p.m.

Markham

Monday 5:15 – 6 p.m.
Thursday 5:30 – 6:25 p.m.

Metro-Central

Monday 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 5:15 – 6 p.m.
Thursday 6:15 – 7 p.m.
and 7:15 – 8 p.m.
Friday 6:30 – 7 p.m.

Mississauga

Thursday 5:30 – 6:25 p.m.

North York

Wednesday 6 – 6:45 p.m.

Scarborough

Thursday 7 – 8 p.m.
Friday 6 – 7 p.m.
Saturday 10 – 11 a.m.

West End

Monday 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Milestones

We salute the following YMCA employees who celebrate anniversaries with our Association in January 2010.

30 Years of Service

Robert Armstrong Association Services

25 Years of Service

Annette Nugent Child, Youth & Family Development

15 Years of Service

Donovan Brown Health, Fitness & Recreation

Eileen Gerber Child, Youth & Family Development

Vivian O'Neill Child, Youth & Family Development

Jane Thompson Child, Youth & Family Development

10 Years of Service

Denise Borkwood Child, Youth & Family Development

Carla Kendall Employment & Community Services

Ouphavanh Khounsarith Child, Youth & Family Development

Ewa Ottaviani Employment & Community Services

5 Years of Service

Samantha Benson Child, Youth & Family Development

Maria Cardozo Health, Fitness & Recreation

Sherieka Dawson Employment & Community Services

Shahnaz Dowla Child, Youth & Family Development

Malcolm MacFarlane Employment & Community Services

Michelle Trigiani Child, Youth & Family Development

Xuong Vuong Health, Fitness & Recreation

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this list, but if we've made any errors please contact Tammy Walker in Human Resources Department at 416-513-1522 ext. 182 or by email at tammy.walker@ymcagta.org.

Mission: The YMCA of Greater Toronto is a charity offering opportunities for personal growth, community involvement and leadership.

Vision: The YMCA of Greater Toronto will focus on making connections: connecting people, connecting with youth, and connecting with the community.

Values: Caring • Health • Honesty • Inclusiveness
• Respect • Responsibility

Contact Jamie Slater at 416-413-1020 ext. 2362 with your story ideas.

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www.ymcagta.org



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



Your YMCA's charitable registration number is 11930 7080 RR0001