



Newsworthy

Endowment Newsletter for the YMCA of Greater Vancouver Spring/Summer 2015



Bruce McQuaid

Message from the Chair

Happy spring to all our YMCA Heritage Club Members!

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees since 2010, I have had the privilege of working with a dedicated team of people who share one very important thing in common: the belief that children, youth and families deserve every chance they can to reach their potential. As a new grandfather, I know firsthand how critical it is to get a good start in life. I have considered it an honour to chair this board and share in our successes.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the trustees who stepped down at the May 20th AGM: Cindy Lee, David Steffins, Brian Ward-Hall, Russ Johnston and Martin Finch. Each of you have demonstrated a passion and commitment to the YMCA cause, and your contribution is making a real difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Russ Johnston has joined the board of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, where we know he will add great value. Mel Dear stepped down earlier in the year, and we thank him for his years of service. We wish you all well, and hope to see you at the upcoming YMCA Heritage Club Luncheon—one of the highlights of the Endowment Fund events calendar!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to two new YMCA trustees: Angela Spanjers and Michael Lee. Angela is an Associate at Richards Buell Sutton LLP and brings passion and dedication to the board through her involvement in the Canadian Cancer Society, Camp Good Times, and Mission Possible. She is the proud mother of two children ages four and one. Michael Lee is a partner at Lawson Lundell LLP and has a demonstrated commitment to giving back to the community. Michael serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Arts Umbrella, and is a Board Member of the UBC Alumni Association. He served as the past Vice Chair and Board Member of Science World, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and Leadership Vancouver. He also is a past Board Member of Sustainable Cities International and the Justice Education Society of BC. Michael is a proud father of three children.

As I pen my last message as chair of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to say that the torch is being passed to an outstanding candidate: Jeff Devins. Jeff's track record of community service includes 15 years as a Director of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver, Science World BC and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. He has also shared expertise with the Vancouver City Planning Commission, the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Heart Fund. The Endowment Fund of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver is in excellent hands under his leadership and I'm very much looking forward to the next chapter.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Endowment Fund of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver. Thanks to you, we are creating a better future for our children and grandchildren.



Bruce McQuaid, Chair
Endowment Fund of the YMCA
of Greater Vancouver



Family Philanthropy: The Advantages of Multi-Generational Giving

Involving children and grandchildren in philanthropy is an important part of preparing upcoming generations for the opportunity and responsibility that comes with success in life and wealth. Inter-generational discussions about charitable giving plans and priorities can help ensure not only the transfer of wealth, but the continuity of values. With an estimated \$1 trillion worth of assets set to be transferred over the next generation—the single largest inter-generational transfer of wealth in history—these conversations become very important.

Incoming chair Jeff Devins, who has been involved in philanthropic endeavours for most of his working life, recognizes the importance of these discussions, and of actively engaging and mentoring the family in philanthropy. “I was very fortunate to have, early in my life, a mentor in business who believed very strongly that giving back was a critical success factor in life,” Jeff says. “Through his own actions, he showed me what it meant to be a responsible contributor—seeking little in the way of recognition or acclamation.” His mentor not only encouraged Jeff to give of his time, but to give financially at the level of his ability.

This was a life lesson that Jeff has taken to heart, and that he and his wife Vera have tried to share with their family, which includes three grown children and four grandchildren. “My wife and I have tried to share with our children the joys of giving to others so, as part of that, we have left a gift for the Endowment Fund.” Jeff and Vera have made arrangement so that the whole family can be involved in philanthropy by setting up a family trust at the Vancouver Foundation. The trust is administered by the children, with the income going to things that are important to Jeff and Vera, such as the Y. It can also go towards causes his children become passionate about as well.

This is a strategy recommended by many financial advisors. By creating opportunities for meaningful hands-on learning, families with formal charitable giving vehicles—such as a foundation or trust—have a number of options, such as mini foundations or small donor-advised funds that can help train the next generation in the governance and grant-making skills they will need to serve as leaders of these giving vehicles



Jeff Devins, wife Vera and family

and their communities. “By donating this money we hope to not only benefit the many programs offered by the Y and other charities these funds will support, but also to benefit our children, by teaching them the gift of giving,” Jeff states.

Setting up a trust or family fund can also be a wonderful way to share family history. When younger generations are invited to be actively involved in the family’s philanthropic goals, it provides an opportunity to share the stories of why these causes are important to the family. The stories of the family’s struggles and triumphs become tangible and real. This can create meaningful dialogue across generations and help guide the continuation of family philanthropy, while giving the younger generation a sense of belonging.

“When life has been kind to us, I believe it is important to return back to the community some of the benefits we have received,” says Jeff. He is hopeful his children, through his trust of planned giving, will also learn the benefits of participating in this themselves.

To learn more about how you and your family can set up a similar fund, or to learn about other planned giving options, it is always recommended that you speak to your financial advisor. The Endowment Fund would be happy to advise on areas where the need is greatest, and how you and your family can have a lasting impact on the community.

Endowment Mission

Since 1952, the Endowment Fund of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver has been there to ensure a legacy of good health for the YMCA and the people we serve for generations to come. It attracts charitable gifts to support the YMCA in building strong kids, strong families and strong communities—today and tomorrow.

Save the Date

For more information on these events please call us at **604-681-9622** or send us an email at giving@gv.ymca.ca

Spring Newsworthy 2015 Event Calendar:

- > May 28 – YMCA Strong Kids Walk
- > June 6 – YMCA Healthy Heart Walk
- > June 7 – YMCA Strong Kids Megathon
- > June 12 – YMCA Youth Peace Network Welcome Event
- > June 24 – YMCA Heritage Club Luncheon

Ellen Bell YMCA Memorial Scholarship

Ellen Bell, a talented and creative individual who worked in the field of marketing and advertising, was a committed YMCA volunteer. She will forever be remembered for her boundless energy, intelligence, kindness and willingness to commit herself to the betterment of the community.

After Ellen's tragic passing, friends and family created a scholarship in her honour, which is granted to recipients who share Ellen's incredible qualities.

We are pleased to announce this year's recipient, Sonia Ghag. Sonia realised her passion for marketing during her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria. "I organized numerous successful fundraisers and events. Amidst the event planning and promotional marketing, I recognized how much I loved doing it! The fast-paced environment, opportunity to channel my creativity, relationship-building and working with my enthusiastic teammates was the best part." Instead of enrolling in law school as she had originally planned, Sonia took the Marketing Management course at BCIT and hasn't looked back. Not only is Sonia an exceptional student, she also takes time to give back to her local community, volunteering for the Chilliwack Fair, Dress for Success and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

With a passion for learning, event planning and marketing, her enthusiastic approach to giving back to the community and her optimism and drive, Sonia embodies the qualities of Ellen Bell and is a deserving recipient of the award.

Congratulations Sonia!



Sonia Ghag and Endowment Trustee Shirley Broadfoot

Announcing the 33rd Annual Heritage Club Luncheon



Please join us Wednesday, June 24th for the 33rd Annual YMCA Heritage Club Luncheon at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. This year, we're proud to have as our guest speaker the Mayor of Coquitlam, Richard Stewart. It will also be a chance to reconnect with old YMCA friends and fellow YMCA Heritage Club members. You'll be receiving an invitation in the mail soon, so please save the date in your calendar.

This year we would like to invite you to bring a friend along who may be interested in learning more about the YMCA, and why it is important to you. As someone who is leaving a legacy to the YMCA, your story and commitment can help us find and engage new members, ensuring our good work can continue for generations to come.

Date: June 24th, 2015

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver

Please RSVP to Baily Molotsky at **604-622-4958** or via email at giving@vanymca.org

The stretch of Point Grey Road between Macdonald Street and Alma Street was converted to "local traffic only" so the easiest way to access the club is to come down 4th or Broadway, turn right on Alma Street and left on Point Grey Road. If you would like a ride to the event, please let us know and we'll do our best to arrange transportation.

Power of Giving Breakfast Educates and Informs



(L to R) Bernardo, Greschner, Brand & Butz

Each year the Endowment Fund of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver hosts a breakfast event called the “Power of Giving,” which is designed to acquaint financial advisors and wills and estate professionals with the work of the YMCA. Many charities have recognized the significant impact legacy giving can have on the long-term sustainability of their organizations, so it is extremely important to ensure that the YMCA is proactive in

spreading the word about the impactful work we do in the community. Last year’s event attracted more than 100 guests, and featured a panel discussion entitled “Looking Forward: Developing a Community Response to Vulnerability.” Deputy Representative for Children and Youth John Greschner spoke about vulnerable children in care, and how the system does not provide for their needs once they have reached the age of majority. “Imagine,” he said, “kicking your own child out at 19 and never having contact with them again.” His impactful presentation was followed by social entrepreneur and restaurateur, Mark Brand, who surprised everyone with a YMCA story of his own. Once a youth facing an assault charge and on the brink of going sideways, Mark landed at the YMCA where he discovered his passion for food and cooking. “If it weren’t for the YMCA” he mused, “I don’t know where I would be now.” Stephen Butz illustrated that vulnerability affects us all, and that it is through establishing multiple community connections that we are best able to address these issues. “No one organization can do this alone,” he said. The event was led by Co-Chairs Russ Johnston and David Schwartz, and moderated by CKNW news reporter Marcella Bernardo. We’re looking forward to expanding on this event in the future to ensure that more professionals serving in an advisory capacity are familiar with the YMCA’s mission.



Trustees and Honourary Trustees assembled for the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Endowment Fund of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver on May 20, 2015

In Memoriam We’re sad to announce the passing of some long-time supporters and YMCA Heritage Club members: Jessie Hunt, Roger Allford, Michael Poppel, and Elva Reid will be warmly remembered by all their YMCA friends and associates.

YMCA Endowment Trustees

Shirley Broadfoot

Stephen Butz
(Secretary)

Jeff Devins
(Incoming Chair)

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Michael Lee

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Bruce McQuaid
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Ted Robinson

David Schwartz

Angela Spanjers

Need help?

**Call your
YMCA
Philanthropy
Team**

Darlene Hepburn

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