



YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN



JUNE 2026

As we head into June, the energy around the YMCA Centre for Life continues to grow. This past month has been filled with exciting progress and inspiring moments of community connection. From new milestones in the build to the incredible generosity of donors, volunteers, and partners, we are reminded that the Centre for Life is more than a building—it's a shared vision for a healthier, more connected future for our region.

Local Tim Hortons Owners Brew Up Community Impact Through YMCA Partnership

In Belleville and Stirling, Tim Hortons is more than just a place for coffee—it's a cornerstone of community connection. This year, three local owners—Amit and Rachana Seth, Niranjan “Para” Panchalingam, and Jamie Smid—have come together with a shared goal: to support the YMCA Centre for Life and strengthen our community. Thanks to their collective leadership and the generosity of the community, an exciting legacy will take shape within the new facility: the Children's Treehouse will be

proudly named the “Tim Hortons Children's Treehouse.” This vibrant, welcoming space will serve as a place where children can learn, play, and grow—reflecting the very spirit of community care these owners champion.

For Amit and Rachana Seth, community has always been at the heart of their work. Celebrating 20 years as Tim Hortons owners, the couple reflects on what first drew them to the brand—its deep connection to Canadian communities and its potential to

make a meaningful local impact.

“Tim Hortons has always been more than just a coffee shop,” they share. “It's a place where communities come together. That sense of connection is what inspired us from the beginning.”

As new Tim Hortons owners in Quinte area, the Seths have built strong relationships with guests, team members, and neighbours across Belleville and Stirling. From morning routines to milestone celebrations, they've had the privilege of being part of everyday moments that matter.

Their commitment to community is evident in their decision to support the YMCA Centre for Life through this year's Smile Cookie campaign.

“The YMCA stood out because of the incredible work they do,” they explain. “They create safe spaces for children, support youth development, promote health and wellness, and provide valuable programs for families and seniors.”

For the Seths, giving back starts with listening. Whether supporting schools, sports teams, hospitals, or local charities, they focus on initiatives that directly impact families in meaningful ways. They also emphasize that true community support is

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a collective effort—one that includes their team members and guests.

“Every Smile Cookie purchased represents people coming together to support their neighbours,” they say. “That’s something truly special.”

Joining them in this shared commitment is Niranjan Panchalingam—known to many as Para—Belleville’s newest Tim Hortons owner. While new to local ownership, Para brings years of experience with the brand and a strong passion for community-building. After relocating with his family from Pickering this past year, Para quickly felt at home in Belleville.

“We were drawn to the warmth and connection of the community,” he says. “It didn’t take long for us to fall in love with everything the region has to offer.” Eager to give back, Para and his team embraced the opportunity to support the YMCA Centre for Life through the Smile Cookie campaign.

“For us, it’s important to be part of the community—not just as a business, but as

neighbours,” Para shares. “Supporting the YMCA is a meaningful way to give back to the place we now call home.”

His enthusiasm and dedication are already making a positive impact, reinforcing Belleville’s strong spirit of connection and generosity.

Longtime owner Jamie Smid echoes this sentiment. With more than two decades of experience in the Belleville community, Jamie has built more than a successful business—he has created welcoming spaces where people gather, connect, and build relationships.

“Strong communities are built through collaboration and generosity,” Jamie says. “Local businesses have a responsibility to support the places we serve.” Jamie has consistently stepped up to support local charities, events, and initiatives over the years. When the opportunity arose to contribute to the YMCA Centre for Life building campaign, he didn’t hesitate.

“The YMCA is such an important part of our community,” he explains. “It brings people together and provides opportunities for

individuals and families to grow, thrive, and stay active.”

Together, these three owners share a common belief: that small acts of kindness can create lasting change. Through initiatives like the Smile Cookie campaign, they see firsthand how a community can come together to support important causes. Their collective goal is simple but powerful—to help ensure more individuals and families have access to YMCA programs and services while fostering a stronger, more connected community.

As the campaign continues, one thing is clear: every purchase, every contribution, and every act of support brings Belleville and Stirling one step closer to a healthier, more vibrant future.

And in the words of the owners themselves, that’s what community is all about.

Sun, Smiles & Summer Adventures: YMCA Camp is Back!

There’s nothing quite like summer at the YMCA. It’s where friendships are made, confidence grows, and every day is filled with adventure. As we gear up for another exciting camp season, we’re looking back at the incredible impact of YMCA Summer Camp and looking ahead to even more unforgettable moments.

In 2025, our camps welcomed an amazing 3,874 campers, who together experienced a total of 17,820 camp days. That’s thousands of days spent exploring the outdoors, trying new activities, building skills, and most importantly, feeling a true sense of belonging.

At YMCA Summer Camp, every child is given the opportunity to shine. Whether it’s trying a new sport, creating art, or simply laughing with new friends, each day is designed to inspire confidence, independence, and

connection. Our camps go beyond just fun—they help children develop lifelong skills:

- Confidence and resilience through new challenges
- Friendship and teamwork in a welcoming environment
- Healthy living habits through active play
- A sense of belonging where everyone is included

Behind every great camp experience is a passionate team of staff and volunteers who bring energy, care, and enthusiasm to each day. Their dedication helps create a safe and supportive space where campers can be themselves and thrive.

As we look ahead to this summer, excitement is already building. From action-packed activities to meaningful moments that leave a lasting impression, YMCA Summer Camp

continues to be a place where kids can unplug, explore, and just be kids.

