



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GIVES A “GO” VOTE TO THE FUNDY YMCA

ANNAPOLIS CO., DECEMBER 20, 2011 – An early Christmas present came to residents of Annapolis and Digby Counties when Annapolis County Municipal Council voted in favour of the Fundy YMCA establishing its roots in the County of Annapolis.

To date, the Fundy YMCA Capital Campaign Cabinet has raised \$470,984; 94% of its goal of \$500,000. The remainder of the campaign will be done throughout the regions of Annapolis and Digby counties during the community division of the Capital Campaign.

According to Annapolis County Warden Reg Ritchie, although the entire amount has not been raised Council feels confident that the success of the campaign to date is a true reflection that the goal of \$500,000 will come to fruition.

“What an exciting and wonderful day for everyone in Annapolis and Digby Counties,” said Warden Ritchie. “After two years of hard work and unbelievable effort, we are moving forward with a Fundy YMCA.”

George Rodger, YMCA Canada and Fundy YMCA Campaign Director, said it was the community that made this happen. “Two years ago when Brenda (Annapolis County CAO) invited the YMCA down to see the wellness facility in Cornwallis Park I told myself there was no way we would commit to this project. But, I saw the facility, I heard from Council and learned how much they wanted this to work, and I met the people...I knew this was where a YMCA should be. Now, here we are making it happen. What an accomplishment!”

He emphasizes that this would never have been possible without the dedication of the Prime Staff (Brenda Orchard, Annapolis County CAO; Margaret Kay-Arora, YMCA Canada; Warden Ritchie; Nadine Barteaux, Annapolis County Communications Coor.; George Rodger, YMCA Canada); the Strategic Advisory Team (Greg Kerr, MP Southwest Nova; Stephen McNeil, MLA Annapolis; Harold “Junior” Theriault, MLA Annapolis/Digby, Warden Ritchie); and the Fundy YMCA Cabinet (Chair Dr. Ken Buchholz; Members – Linda Bailey, Jean-Louis Batiot, Louise Cottreau, Kevin Ellis, Harold Fancy, Cathy Graves, Dave Hankinson, Dick Levy, Jane Nicholson, Marc Phillips, Norman Lockyer, Christine Potter; George Rodger, and Nadine Barteaux).

Warden Ritchie also pointed out that the contributions from all government levels - ACOA, NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection, Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, and the Municipality of the District of Digby - were instrumental in securing this project.

The Capital Campaign will now move into the community division in order to raise the remaining funds needed to reach the goal of \$500,000. This will involve community meetings throughout Annapolis and Digby regions, the recruitment of individuals who wish to help with this portion of the campaign, and an enormous drive to reach that final goal. “Although this part of the campaign tends to be the most work, it is also tremendously rewarding,” said George. “This is where residents come out in droves to participate in a project that will make their communities stronger. It will give them a sense of ownership of the Fundy YMCA, and it will truly make it theirs. At the end of the day, any YMCA anywhere belongs to the community and it’s the people who make it work.”

The next steps to this project involve confirming the contract between the County of Annapolis and YMCA, the development of building plans, and the construction stage. “We are hoping to have the YMCA operating in the spring of 2012, with the Grand Opening celebration sometime in June,” said Warden Ritchie. “It feels great to be able to say that.”

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