

Dear Mayor, Wardens, Municipal & Town Councilors, CAOs, Yarmouth MLA and MP,

My family is in full support of the re-opening of the former YMCA facility in Yarmouth as soon as possible.

We have been long-time users and supporters of the Y facility and its essential services in this community, and feel strongly about the significant position this facility has in the historical, cultural, economic and social well-being of our region.

We had a family membership at the Y, with our children enrolled in swim lessons, and our oldest daughter swimming competitively as a member of the Yarmouth Y Whitecaps. Our children have learned to swim at the YMCA and made lasting friendship and connections with community as well as develop a sense of community belonging.

We are fortunate that we have the ability to travel to Universite Ste. Anne twice weekly to continue to participate in the swim team. However, we understand many local families simply cannot do so. This situation has created a hardship for many people, including at-risk youth, seniors and families, who regularly used the pool and programs at the Yarmouth YMCA.

In my work, I have had the opportunity to speak with many potential new doctors, and other health professionals thinking about relocating to Yarmouth. A facility like the Y is always a key point of interest for potential new recruits and their families. The loss of this facility makes it increasingly challenging to recruit and retain not only doctors and health providers, but also other skilled professionals, entrepreneurs and families to a community without a health and wellness centre offering a full range of services open to all.

We look forward to an expanded Mariner's Centre, with competition-size aquatic facilities and capacity for other recreational programs and services. However, Yarmouth town and county is a diverse, dynamic community, and it is not acceptable that we are left without a pool for an indefinite and, as yet, undetermined length of time.

Please work immediately with your Council counterparts, and actively engage all other local municipal units, as well as the provincial and federal authorities, to expedite the re-opening of the former YMCA facility as soon as possible. Also, please provide regular public updates on the work of the Bridge committee and efforts to re-open the former YMCA.

Respectfully,

Melanie Mooney

Former Member of the Board of Directors of the Yarmouth YMCA

Community member – Municipality and Town of Yarmouth