



YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce

While we currently remain in Phase 2 of the Province's regional re-opening framework, staff at the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce have been busy working on programs to support our community.

We will continue to work towards re-opening our services and our facilities based on the following core guiding principles:

1. A commitment to the health and safety of our staff, participants, volunteers, and the community
2. Prioritizing programs that meet our community's greatest needs
3. Being financially responsible to sustain the long-term viability of the Y as a charity
4. Supporting our employees by calling back staff from temporary lay-off as soon as possible

In alignment with these core guiding principles, we have the following updates:

As you may have heard, we are super excited that we are able to support our community by re-opening our 5 Early Learning Child Care centres and Summer Day Camp program! We are committed to supporting families in our community by continuing to provide healthy, safe, and affordable childcare despite COVID-19.



Child Care

If you are currently looking for Child Care, please contact the Early Learning Centre located in your community. Staff will be happy to discuss your needs and the availability at that location. A list of our Early Learning Centres and contact information can be found here: [Early Learning & Care](#)



Before and After School

Currently all registrations received and any further registrations are on hold until it has been determined by Ministry of Education and Bluewater District School Board as to how the school year will look beginning in September.

Summer Day Camp

Here at the Health, Fitness & Aquatics facility, we have had a successful first week of Summer Day Camp. Patty and her camp counsellors have been doing an amazing job of ensuring the health and safety of staff, campers and families via daily health screenings and temperature checks. Further to this, they have done a wonderful job of developing new and fun activities that support the “new normal”.

We are so pleased to welcome back our experienced camp counsellors: Hugh, Kassey, Makenzie, GG, Hannah, Claire, Jaclyn and Delaney.

It feels great to finally have life back in the building and to hear the giggles and fun being had by our campers despite restrictions due to COVID!



We still have spaces available! If you know of any families looking for care, parents/guardians in need of some much deserved “me-time” or children needing some out-of-home interaction and fun, we have lots of spaces available for children aged 5-12 years.

Information on our Summer Day Camp can be found here: [Summer Day Camp](#)

To help ensure the safety of our campers and staff, we have implemented a rigorous screening protocol along with increased cleaning routines.

Any individuals attending our facilities are subject to a health screening questionnaire as well as a temperature check. If an individual does not pass the screening questionnaire or is determined to have a temperature, they are not permitted in the facility. Facemasks are being used when physical distancing is not possible and when in common spaces (i.e. hallways).

In keeping with Public Health recommendations, camp groups are limited to cohorts of 10 (2 counsellors and 8 campers), this decreases the risk of exposure with a consistent group staying together. In addition, each group has their own space, washroom and equipment. Equipment, toys, rooms, etc. are sanitized regularly throughout the day.



NEW! YCAMP

For those families looking for some fun activities to do at home over the summer, YCAMP is available online as part of our [YMCA At Home](#) suite. YCAMP is a free, virtual camp with fun and educational camp activities that can be done at home. Click [HERE](#) for YCAMP.

Give A Little, Help A Lot

Once again, Zehrs Markets has selected the YMCA to be the recipient of the Give A Little, Help A Lot campaign.

Shoppers at our local Zehrs store here in Owen Sound will be asked if they wish to add a donation for the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce on their purchase.

The campaign runs from July 10 - July 26, 2020. Donations help children attend camp, access swimming lessons and other programs that support growth of the spirit, mind, and body. We are hoping for a successful campaign again this year!

Health, Fitness & Aquatics

Re-Opening Plans

We are continuing to work on a phased re-opening plan for the Health, Fitness & Aquatics facility based on information and directives from our government and Public Health as well as member feedback. As I'm sure you can appreciate, our plans are subject to change as new information on best practices and directives from public health are received.

What you can expect in our Phased Re-Opening...

In our survey, a number of members stated they hope to see the YMCA restrict access to members only when we re-open in order to reduce exposure. We completely agree! When we are permitted by the government to re-open the indoor recreation facility, we will initially be opening to YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce members only and will NOT be permitting day pass purchases at that time.

We are continuing to working closely with the Grey Bruce Public Health team, which has been fantastic with their support, to ensure we are on-track with our re-opening plans and have appropriate measures in place to protect our staff, participants and members from potential exposure to COVID. As always, the health and safety of our staff, members and community is our top priority!

GOOD NEWS!!!

Nic Hayne, Manager; Facilities, has been busy maintaining our pool and related systems to ensure our readiness for inspection by the Public Health unit.

Public Health was in to inspect our pool on Monday, July 6, 2020 and we passed (of course!).

Although the pool is permitted to open, the rest of our fitness facility is still under government order to remain closed therefore we will be progressing safely and cautiously.



Commencing July 13, 2020, we are providing our aquatic staff with an opportunity to get back in the pool to practice their lifeguarding skills. OSAC members will also be practicing in the pool on specific days and limited times over the next 3 weeks. We will be following strict physical distancing criteria and at this time will only permit one swimmer per lane and locker rooms remain closed.

OSAC members and staff will be our pilot groups to test our screening and cleaning protocols (which are rigorous) as well as our “traffic flow” through the pool deck. The feedback received from staff and OSAC members on the protocols will inform our decisions as we move forward.

We know there are many members that are anxious to get back to AquaFit, lane swims and a dip in our warm leisure pool. We are anxious to get you all back too!

Despite wanting our members back as soon as possible, our priority is the health and safety of our staff, members, and the community. We are being very patient, methodical, and strategic about our re-opening activities, including staff recalls, to ensure a safe re-opening as well as the successful recovery and long-term sustainability of our YMCA.

Brandon Downing, Supervisor; Fitness & Wellness, has continued to support the Cardiac Rehabilitation program in partnership with Grey Bruce Health Services despite not being able to have participants attend the facility. We are very proud of our staff and their work with Grey Bruce Health Services.

In addition to Trevor’s fitness and Kathleen’s yoga programs, we are looking at new ways to deliver fitness classes, despite our facility being closed, to support the health and well-being of our community. We have some exciting things in the works and will be communicating further once plans are finalized.

YFitness is still available online should any members wish to access free fitness instruction. Click [HERE](#) to access YFitness.

We thought you might be interested in learning about the other work YMCA staff has been doing in our community.

Community Initiatives & Employment Services



Staff in all programs continue to work remotely and are finding creative and innovative strategies and solutions to connect with clients and meet the needs of the community.

Housing Services

In the wake of COVID-19, our homeless community has struggled with practicing social distancing while having to travel to food services to eat.

A number of community partners, of which the YMCA is a part, received funding to create a food/meal delivery system to individuals who are homeless.

78 meals were delivered in April
834 meals were delivered in May
938 meals were delivered in June

One warm Friday morning in June, Janice, a YMCA Housing Stability Worker, in partnership with a Bylaw Enforcement and Police Services did some outreach (practicing physical distancing protocols) to check on the wellbeing of homeless people starting to set up in tents around the city of Owen Sound. Each site was provided with information on services available in the community as well as bag of hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment items.

Community Justice

Our Justice Program is offering a new workshop called Quaran-Teens (a social distancing workshop for youth). Justice staff saw a need for youth to understand the current situation and consequences of not following social distancing rules.

This workshop features a message from local Community Service Officer Jason Cranny from the Owen Sound Police Service. Because it is delivered online, the workshop has been marketed not just locally but throughout the Western region. Registrations have been coming in from all over.

Thank you to Jessie Currie, Workshop Coordinator who consistently updates the content with any new information and directives as they are released. Click [HERE](#) to register a youth for an upcoming workshop.

QUARAN-TEENS

SOCIAL DISTANCING & YOUTH

What does 6 feet look like?
Why do I have to wear a mask?
Why can't we hang out at parties?

GET ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER
QUESTIONS YOUTH ARE ASKING



Settlement & Language Services

Our Settlement and Language services are well underway. This week we began offering on-line Conversation Circles. Citizenship classes and English as a Second Language will start online next week.

Employment Services

Check out our Facebook Live session on the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce: Community & Employment Services [Facebook page](#) every Monday morning at 10:00 am when Employment Advisor Sheri provides great information on a different employment related topic each week.

Building healthy communities