



Owen Sound
Grey Bruce

Shine On

Annual Impact Report

2025 **Shining Brighter,**
2026 **Together**

Message From Our CEO & Board Chair



2025-2026 was a year of growth, resilience, and impact for the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce.

Across our Association, demand for YMCA programs and services remained strong. Membership at our Health, Fitness and Aquatics Centre surpassed 5,100 active members, while Child Care and School Age programs continued to support hundreds of children and families throughout Grey and Bruce Counties. Participation in aquatics, camps, recreation, wellness, and community programs reflected the important role the YMCA continues to play in fostering healthy, connected communities.

Our community services continued to make a meaningful difference. Employment Services supported more than 1,100 individuals, Settlement and Language Services exceeded annual targets, and Youth, Community Justice, and Poverty Alleviation programs helped people build confidence, skills, and stability. Demand for Homelessness Response services continued to grow, highlighting both the challenges facing our communities and the importance of compassionate, collaborative support.

This year also marked important progress against our strategic priorities.

We invested in technology, facilities, leadership development, and operational excellence while strengthening relationships with municipalities, government partners, community organizations, and YMCA colleagues across Ontario and Canada. These efforts are creating a stronger foundation for future growth and impact.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the opportunities before us. In 2026, YMCAs across Canada celebrate 175 years of strengthening communities. We are proud to be part of that legacy and remain committed to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute, and thrive.

To our staff, volunteers, donors, funders, members, participants, and community partners, thank you. Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission make this work possible. Together, we are building healthier, more connected, and more resilient communities for all.



S. Cowley

Sarah Cowley,
Chief Executive Officer



Bob Kanduth

Bob Kanduth
Board Chair



Volunteer Board of Directors

Bob Kanduth, *Chair*

Government & Public Relations - Retired

Sheila Jarvis, *Vice Chair*

Private Banking - Retired

Evelyn Dean, *Past Chair*

Human Resources Consultant

Sushank Saha, *Treasurer*

Director, CNO Strategic Initiatives (Bruce Power)

Durid Awaad, *Director*

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Roger Bloom, *Director*

Project Manager (GP Strategies Corporation)

Ann-Marie Deas, *Director*

Social Worker

Chris Doyle, *Director*

Philanthropy Officer (Brightshores Owen Sound Foundation)

Sarah Flowers, *Director*

Vice Principal (BWDSB)

Ahsan Mirza, *Director*

Lawyer (Law Office of Ahsan Mirza)

Charlotte Mojoko, *Director*

Social Worker (Bruce Grey Child and Family Services)

Teresa Opatovsky, *Director*

Registered Nurse, Health Care Coordinator (Ontario Health at Home)

Kathryn Ross, *Director*

CPA, CFO (YMCA Canada) - Retired

Kelsey Ubdegrove, *Director*

Lawyer (Baulke Stahr McNabb LLP)

Monica Warnell, *Director*

Manager, Human Resources (Bruce Power LP)

Todd Webster, *Director*

Urologist (Brightshores Health System)

Senior Leadership

Sarah Cowley, *Chief Executive Officer*

Holly Bell-Sparling, *Chief Administrative Officer*

Cyndy Jefferson, *Director of Child Care*

Brandon Downing, *Manager of Health, Fitness and Aquatics*

Matt Shute, *Director of Community Initiatives, Employment Services & Immigrant Services*

Nic Hayne, *Director of Facilities*

Scotia Hutton/Vic Petersons, *Director of Rotary Camp Presqu'ile*

Adam Chalmers, *Director of Financial Services*

Deborah Nott, *Manager of Human Resources*

Alison Moran, *Manager of Information & Technology*

April McMillan, *Manager of Fund Development*

Heather Rourke, *Manager of Marketing & Communications*

Centres of Community

Association Services (Head Office)
E-290 9th Street East, Owen Sound
519-376-0484/519-371-9222

Health, Fitness & Aquatics
700 10th Street East, Owen Sound
519 376-0484

Community Initiatives, Employment Services & Settlement Services
E-290 9th Street East, Owen Sound
519-371-9222

7-425 10th Street, Hanover
519-371-9222

604 Goderich Street, Port Elgin
519-371-9222

Child Care Centres
600 16th Avenue, Hanover
519 -364-4938

715B Russell Street, Kincardine
519-396-9622

1550 8th Street East, Owen Sound
519-371-9622

374 Bruce Street, Port Elgin
519-832-6225

18 Tain Street, Ripley
519 395-5570

Many services and programs available by appointment across Grey and Bruce Counties

Strong Communities

As a registered charity, the YMCA reinvests all donations and additional revenue into the community.

\$196,544.66

in financial assistance was provided to help Grey Bruce residents access YMCA programs and services.

\$66,632.14 came from our generous donors, and \$129,912.52 was provided by the YMCA.



1235

Individuals

1 in 4

YMCA Members

Because Everyone Deserves an Opportunity to Shine

Financial assistance helps people of all ages build confidence, improve health, form meaningful connections, and experience a sense of belonging. Today, 1 in 4 local members access the YMCA thanks to financial assistance. As demand continues to grow, more donor support is needed to help ensure everyone has the opportunity to belong, participate, and thrive at the YMCA.

Creating Opportunities Through Giving



Learning Life Saving Skills

Swim lessons help children, youth, and adults build confidence and stay safe around water.



Supporting Healthier Lives

Physical activity and wellness programs help people stay active and improve overall well-being.



Building Meaningful Connections

YMCA programs bring people together, reducing isolation and strengthening community.



Helping Youth Thrive

Young people gain confidence, develop leadership skills, and find a place where they belong.

Health, Fitness & Aquatics

Building Stronger Communities

The YMCA is a place where community members of all ages can build healthy habits that support their physical, mental, and social well-being. This year, **12,363** individuals visited the YMCA to participate in health, fitness, and aquatics programs, attend special events, access community partner initiatives, and connect with others in a welcoming environment.

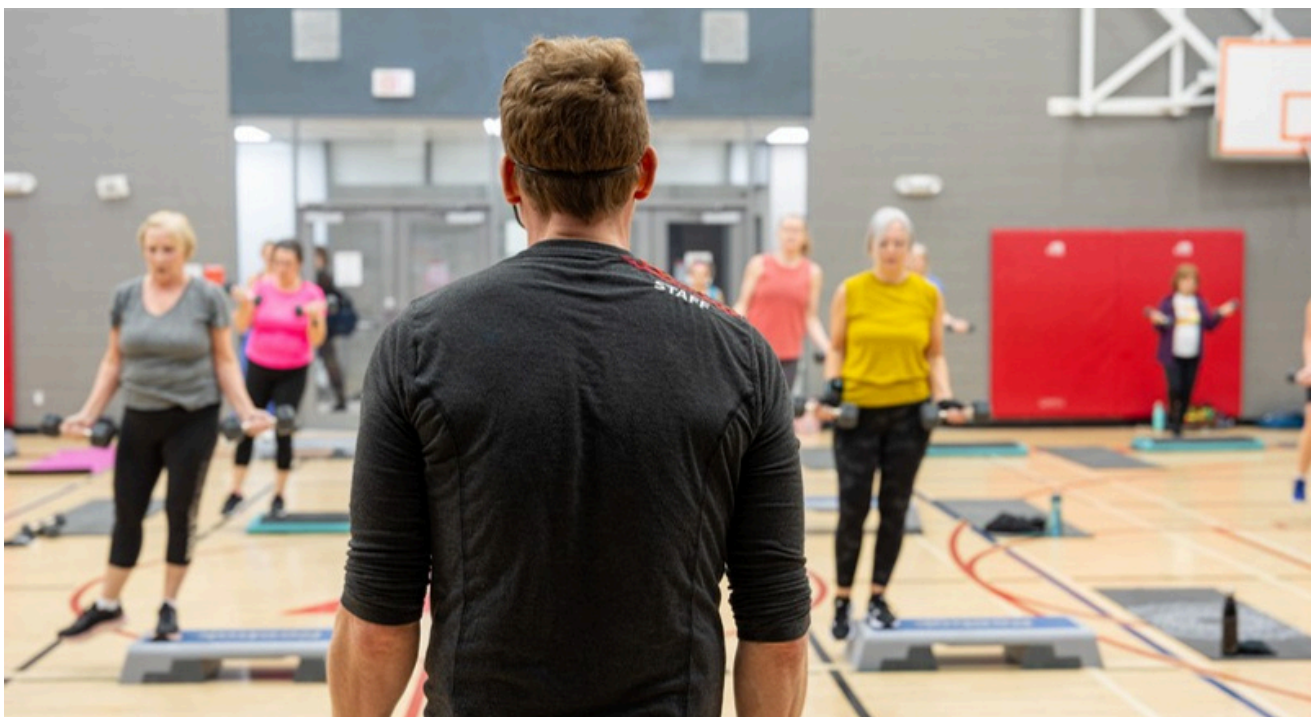
Water safety remains a vital part of our impact. During the year, **4,212** swim lesson participants developed confidence in the water while learning skills that support healthy living.

For many members, the YMCA is also an important source of connection. Relationships formed through fitness classes, walking tracks, aquatic programs, and shared experiences help combat loneliness and create a sense of belonging.

By supporting health today, we help build stronger communities for tomorrow.

5129

YMCA
Members





Making Waves in Water Safety

Water safety is a life skill. Through YMCA Swim to Survive and Swim to Survive Plus programs, more than **700** students gained the confidence and essential skills needed to stay safe in and around water. By teaching lifesaving skills at an early age, these programs help children build confidence, develop healthy relationships with physical activity, and stay safer throughout their lives.

459

Grade 3
Students

323

Grade 7
Students



Healthy Aging through Connection

Thanks to grant support from Community Foundation Grey Bruce, the YMCA's Seniors Social Program brought **112** older adults together to learn, connect, and thrive.

Through wellness education and social activities, participants strengthened their knowledge of healthy aging while building meaningful relationships that support independence and well-being.

Stories that Shine

Charlie's Y Story: From First Shift to Lasting Impact



Over the past year, YMCA lifeguard and swim instructor Charlie has helped nearly 200 swimmers build confidence, develop life-saving skills, and achieve goals they once thought were out of reach.

One swimmer who stood out was a 56-year-old woman recovering from a concussion. Initially afraid to put her head under water, she progressed to confidently swimming multiple lengths using front crawl, back crawl, and breaststroke. Watching her transformation reinforced the power of patience, encouragement, and believing in someone's potential.

Through teaching swim lessons and responding to real-life emergencies, Charlie has learned that leadership isn't about being in charge. It's about staying calm, supporting others, and being someone people can rely on when they need it most.

Today, Charlie continues to help swimmers of all ages build skills, confidence, and a lifelong connection to water safety.

"A good instructor isn't just teaching people how to swim. They're helping people believe in themselves."

Read the full story at ymcaowensound.on.ca/stories-that-shine/

Child Care

Nurturing Healthy Child Development

YMCA Child Care creates opportunities for children to learn, grow, and develop the confidence, skills, and relationships that help them thrive.

Across our **20** licensed child care centres, school age programs, and summer programs children are supported by caring educators in safe, inclusive environments where they can explore, play, and form meaningful relationships.

For families, YMCA Child Care provides peace of mind. Parents and caregivers can pursue work, education, and other responsibilities knowing their children are supported in high-quality programs that prioritize healthy development and well-being.

Every day, YMCA Child Care helps build the foundation for stronger futures, stronger families, and stronger communities.

1359

children supported
across all YMCA
Licensed Child
Care programs

707

families supported
across all YMCA
Licensed Child
Care programs



Camps

Camp Presqu'ile: Adventure, Independence, and Lifelong Memories

For many campers, Camp Presqu'ile is more than a summer experience. It is an opportunity to build independence, challenge themselves, and experience the confidence that comes from trying something new.

Through our partnership with the Rotary Club of Owen Sound, young people connect with nature, learn to work together, and develop resilience through experiences that encourage personal growth. The friendships formed around campfires, on the waterfront, and throughout camp activities often become some of the most meaningful connections of their lives.

Camp Presqu'ile helps young people discover that they are capable of more than they imagined.



Day Camp: Learning, Playing, and Growing Together

YMCA day camps provide children with opportunities to learn, play, and build connections in welcoming and inclusive environments throughout the year.

During summer break and on PA Days, campers stay active, explore new interests, strengthen social skills, and develop confidence through shared experiences. These programs help children build friendships, gain independence, and experience a sense of belonging while providing families with trusted, high-quality care when school is out.

For many children, camp is where they try something new, make a new friend, discover a new passion, or gain confidence in themselves.

Every camp experience helps children build the skills, relationships, and self-confidence they need to thrive.



The Lasting Impact of Camp



Campers develop independence, resilience, and belief in their abilities.



Friendships and shared experiences foster a strong sense of belonging.



Outdoor play and recreation support physical and mental well-being.



Camp experiences nurture social skills, leadership, and personal growth.

265

campers experienced a summer of joy, creativity, and connection at Camp Presqu'île, in partnership with Owen Sound Rotary Club.

946

day camp spots were filled throughout the year, giving children and youth opportunities to explore, play, and connect.

Immigrant Services

Welcoming Newcomers, Strengthening Communities

YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce Immigrant Services helps newcomers build connections, improve language skills, and successfully settle into life in Canada.

During 2025–2026, staff provided support to more than **1,400** newcomers, while delivering settlement services, language instruction, and community programs across Grey and Bruce Counties.

Through personalized support, English language classes, and community workshops, newcomers gained the tools, confidence, and connections needed to thrive in their new communities.

2500

hours of language
instruction
delivered

704

participants in
community
workshops/events



Learning, Connecting, and Belonging

Diwali Celebration

Nearly 300 people gathered to celebrate Diwali through culture, food, and community. The event provided an opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate one of the world's most widely observed cultural traditions.

YMCA workshops help newcomers build confidence and learn about life in Canada. Topics include Canadian culture, laws, banking, healthcare, education, employment, and local services. Participants build confidence, connections, and a sense of belonging.

Celebrating Diversity. Building Belonging.

As Grey Bruce continues to grow and welcome people from around the world, the YMCA is helping create opportunities for residents and newcomers to connect, learn from one another, and build a stronger sense of belonging.

Through multicultural celebrations, cultural events, and community partnerships, we bring people together to share traditions, experiences, and perspectives that enrich our region. These events help foster understanding, strengthen connections, and create welcoming communities where everyone feels valued.

Multicultural Celebration

Our annual Multicultural Celebration continues to grow, bringing communities together through music, food, art, performances, and cultural experiences. More than **800 people** attended the celebration in Saugeen Shores in June 2025.

When people come together to celebrate their cultures and experiences, communities become stronger, more welcoming, and more connected.

View more event photos and videos at ymcaowensound.on.ca/multicultural-celebration



Housing & Homelessness Response

Helping people move from housing crisis to stability, independence, and hope.

YMCA Housing Services helps individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity access the supports they need to find and maintain stable housing. Assistance includes rental supports, housing referrals, help obtaining identification, employment connections, harm reduction services, and access to food, clothing, and other essential resources.

This year, **\$86,570** was provided for rental assistance and short-term housing supports, while **\$18,650** helped individuals and families transition into new homes.

"Housing is more than a roof over someone's head. It's the foundation for stability, independence, and hope."

Supporting Housing Stability in Bruce County

The need for housing and homelessness supports in Bruce County continues to rise. Just a few years ago, emergency shelter usage averaged 254 nights per month. During 2025-2026, the YMCA provided **10,489 nights of shelter, averaging 874 nights per month**, reflecting the growing housing challenges facing our communities.

The YMCA works alongside community partners to help individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity access emergency shelter, maintain housing, and move toward greater stability.

As demand continues to grow, the YMCA remains committed to providing the support, resources, and pathways people need to find safety, stability, and hope.

10489 nights of emergency shelter

Community Justice

Building Accountability, Creating Second Chances

YMCA Justice Programs provide alternatives to the traditional court process that help individuals take responsibility for their actions, repair harm, and make positive choices for the future.

This year, **80 youth** successfully completed Extrajudicial Measures and Extrajudicial Sanctions programs, while the Direct Accountability Program received **218 referrals**. Through community service, counselling, education, restitution, and other restorative approaches, participants are supported in understanding the impact of their actions and taking meaningful steps toward positive change.

By focusing on accountability, growth, and community connection, these programs help reduce future involvement with the justice system while creating safer, stronger communities for everyone.

218 Direct
Accountability
referrals

\$19213 Returned to
victims through
restitution

Youth in Transition

Supporting Youth Through Change

The Youth in Transition Worker (YITW) program helps young people build the skills, confidence, and supports they need to navigate challenges and move toward independence. This year, the YMCA supported **77 youth**, with 81 personal goals achieved and 46 youth developing skills to help maintain stable housing.

Working alongside schools and community partners, the program helps youth overcome barriers and create positive pathways for the future.



Employment Services

Connecting People to Opportunity

Meaningful employment creates stability, independence, and new opportunities for individuals and families. Through personalized employment services, training opportunities, and strong community partnerships, the YMCA helps job seekers build skills, overcome barriers, and connect with meaningful work.

This year, **118 Ontario Works participants secured employment**, creating greater income stability and improved quality of life. An additional **65 clients completed training or education programs** to enhance their skills and career prospects. The YMCA also provided specialized

support to **73 youth** with high support needs and **134 individuals living with disabilities**, ensuring more people could successfully participate in the workforce.

Working closely with community partners, including Ontario Works, the YMCA continues to connect job seekers with the resources, training, and opportunities they need to thrive.

118 participants receiving Ontario Works gained employment



Stories that Shine

Brie's Y Story: Finding Belonging and Building a Vision for Community

When Brie joined the In Motion & Momentum+ (IM&M+) program on April 20, 2026, she was navigating a significant transition. After being laid off and relocating from Kitchener to Markdale, the 30-year-old was looking for employment while also seeking a sense of belonging in her new community.

Referred to IM&M+ by her YMCA Employment Engagement Specialist, Brie quickly became a positive and inspiring presence in the group. While finding employment was initially her main goal, the program helped her discover a larger vision for her future and her community.

Having experienced the challenges of being new to the area, Brie developed an idea for a community-based Facebook group that encourages neighbours to exchange goods and services. She proudly showcased the initiative at the group's Community Opportunities Fair, sharing her belief that stronger communities begin with connection. As Brie says:

"No one wants to help a stranger, so let's all stop being strangers."

Throughout the program, Brie became a leader and cheerleader for her peers, encouraging others to believe in themselves while continuing to challenge herself to grow and explore a new career path.

Today, Brie has greater confidence, stronger community connections, and a clearer career direction. She leaves the program with a growing community initiative and a renewed belief in her ability to make a difference.



Like Brie, many participants find greater confidence, connection, and direction through In Motion & Momentum+. If you're ready to take your next step, we're here to help.

Thank you!

YMCA Strong Communities Fund Donor Recognition

\$66,632.14 generously donated between
April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026



100 Good Men
Northern Grey County
Kevin Allin
Cheri Auckland
Authorized Inspection
Services Inc.
Erin Ayotte
Mike & Sheila Barta
Donna Beatty
Ingrid Beaver
Jane Becking
Leah Blunden
Bruce Power Quality
Assurance Team
Barry Byrne
Alex Carroll
Brianna Cavan
Kara Caven
Judy Chalmers
Cobble Beach
Chris Cover
Sarah Cowley
Evelyn Dean
Brian & Lorrie Dean
Ann Marie Deas
Claire Dodds
Brandon Downing
Chris Doyle
Christel Ernst
Eva Leflar Foundation
Esther Farrar
Teresa Flanigan
Sarah & Jonny Flowers
Lind Family Fund
Jon Gammon

Alan W. Genik
Nadine Gibbons
John Gibson
Bobby Gillespie
Gayle & John Graham
Grey Bruce
Orthodontics
Brody Haight
William Haldane
Barry Hargrave
Lauren Harrison
Nicholas Hayne
Elizabeth Head
Hear Right Canada
Owen Sound
David House
Howlett Family Fund
Gerd Hulshof
Christina Illman
Jessica Inglis
Dipal Jani
Sheila Jarvis
Cyndy Jefferson
Marilyne Jones
Bob Kanduth
Trevor Klerks
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Kerry Lee
Chris Little
Loblaws Inc
Kristen Lorentz
Eleanor Lozon
Macvicar & McComb,
Sutton-Sound Realty
Inc., Brokerage

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April McMillan
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Andrea Nelson
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Teresa Opatovsky
Lauren Palko
Tyler Pike
Amanda Pinch
David Postings
Gwynne Potter
Patty Publuske
Bushra Rahman
Retreat into Wellness
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Joseph Robichaud
Kathryn Ross
Ian and Lynda
Rutherford
Sushank Saha
Jacquie Schwan
Shallow Lake
Community Church
Shankar Professional
Corporation
Vanessa Silver
Dianne Speed

St. Marys High School
Donna Steinacher
Takoda Steinman
Deborah Storr
Dustin Sturgeon
Gail Taylor
Thulasee Tharan
Nadesapillai
The Agency
Chris Tillcock
Gae Trinkwon
Kelsey Ubdegrove
Trevor Uitvlugt
Hollie Van Der Ende
Scott Vining
Kym Wagner
Melissa Walker
Kerri Walpole
Joy Ward
Monica Warnell
Woodley Care Services

Gifts made in memory of:

Brian Clements
Carol McKee
Jim Burlington
Julie Publuske
Stella Jones



Shine On

The YMCA Strong Communities Fund helps people in Grey Bruce access health, fitness and aquatics programs, supports and safe spaces to thrive, regardless of financial barriers. Through their generosity, the above individuals, businesses and organizations help ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to shine.

This list includes donors who donated \$20 or more to our YMCA Strong Communities Fund between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. If there is an error, please contact us.

YMCA Program Funders, Sponsors, and Partners

Together with our funders, sponsors, and community partners, the YMCA provides programs and services that ignite potential and strengthen community well-being.

Federal, Provincial, and Community Funders and Service Delivery Partners

- Bluewater District School Board
- Brightshores Health System
- Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
- Bruce Grey Huron Perth System Service Manager
- Canadian Career Development Foundation
- City of Owen Sound
- County of Bruce
- County of Grey
- Future Skills Centre
- Government of Canada
- Government of Ontario
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
- Municipality of Meaford
- Owen Sound Aquatic Club
- Owen Sound Special Olympics Swim Team (Owen Sound Otters)
- Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario
- Rotary Club of Owen Sound
- The Royal Lifesaving Society Canada

Foundation & Grant Program Support

- Bruce Power
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- Coaches Association of Ontario
- Community Foundation Grey Bruce
- Meridian Credit Union
- Ontario Power Generation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- ParticipACTION
- Ripley Reunion 2025
- South East Grey Community Health Centre
- Southampton Rotary Club
- The Peter Cundill Foundation

Become a Donor



Your gift makes a difference. Donations receive a tax receipt and can be made online, in person, by mail, or added to your membership. Every contribution helps children, youth, and families in Grey and Bruce Counties shine. For more ways to support our cause, visit: ymcaowensound.on.ca/donate

Statement of Financial Position

YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current		
Cash and bank	3,031,601	3,503,356
Accounts receivable (Note 2)	1,466,174	854,302
Prepaid expenses	159,702	149,986
	4,657,477	4,507,644
Capital assets (Note 3)	1,421,561	1,556,324
Investments (Note 4)	1,825,802	1,780,129
	7,904,840	7,844,097
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	1,807,200	1,448,089
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	1,024,642	728,443
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 9)	-	62,482
	2,831,842	2,239,014
Long-term debt (Note 9)	-	474,581
	2,831,842	2,713,595
Net assets, end of year	5,072,998	5,130,502
	7,904,840	7,844,097

Statement of Operations

YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Government grants	11,393,666	10,040,457
Program fees and parent child care fees	3,446,783	3,016,285
Membership dues	2,867,182	2,831,733
Administration and other revenue	317,726	260,799
Investment income	185,282	225,147
Rent	140,534	178,507
Contributions, bequests and fundraising	111,342	188,408
Total revenue	18,462,515	16,741,336
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	13,323,204	11,794,427
Supplies and program costs	2,638,998	2,011,024
Occupancy	1,383,476	1,499,566
Equipment, office equipment rentals and software	513,533	403,058
Office and other expenses	401,365	448,282
Amortization of capital assets and deferred contributions	229,197	220,912
Membership and association fees	214,803	235,481
Staff and volunteer expenses	136,776	150,291
Professional fees	128,740	110,220
Total expenses	18,970,092	16,873,261
Excess of expenses over revenue before other items	(507,577)	(131,925)
Other items		
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(51,282)	58,773
Gain on sale of capital assets	501,355	-
Net gain on other items	450,073	58,773
Excess of expenses over revenue	(57,504)	(73,152)

The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations of the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce have been extracted from the entire financial statement package of the association. The complete financial statement is available for review at YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce head office during regular business hours.



Shine On

Our Mission

The YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce is a charity dedicated to building a caring, healthy community by creating opportunities for all people to achieve personal growth in spirit, mind and body.

Our Vision

Our YMCA is a community leader focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Owen Sound and Grey and Bruce Counties.

Our Values

The work we do is grounded by our core values:

- Belonging
- Caring
- Honest
- Respect
- Responsibility

Give Today and Ignite Possibility



Charitable Registration
#11907 4995 RR0001