

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2010

The Family Y Steps Up to the Challenge – It's Time!

(Owen Sound, Ontario) City Council recently asked the Family Y Board of Directors for an additional contribution to the regional recreation centre project. The Family Y Board believes the new centre is critically important to the region so has given very serious consideration to this request. It is extremely difficult to do so but the Family Y is prepared to dig deeper and commit an additional \$350,000 to the project, conditional on the project going forward.

At the same time, the Family Y Board strongly encourages City Council to unanimously approve the regional recreation centre going forward at its special meeting today. The support of all council members is vital if the Family Y and its Fundraising Committee are to be successful in reaching the community fundraising goal of \$5 million dollars.

At the public meeting on the budget on March 1, City Council heard overwhelming support for the new regional recreation centre expressed by many people, including business owners, seniors, and youth. They supported the importance of this project for our region and urged Council to get the shovel in the ground!

The new regional recreation centre will be a community hub for our region, providing fitness, recreation and sport opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and financial situations. The Family Y's financial assistance program will help ensure this. The centre will welcome and be accessible to all members of our community! The centre will spearhead economic growth and encourage tourism. And within 10 years, we may very well be cheering on our own Olympic athletes!

Once built, the Family Y will operate the health, fitness, recreation component of the facility while the City will operate the arena component. The Family Y has undertaken studies to determine the financial feasibility of the health, fitness and recreation component of the project and has committed to operating it with no ongoing yearly operational subsidy from the City or surrounding municipalities. Therefore the future ongoing operations will not affect the taxes in our region. This is how the Family Y currently operates and has done so for 133 years in providing service to our region.

As a partner in the new regional recreation centre, the Family Y has guaranteed \$3.4 million through the fundraising campaign and has plans in place to raise \$5 million. This is an ambitious goal but from the response received from the community, it can be reached! Over and above this, the Family Y previously committed \$1 million to the project, which, in addition to this final \$350,000 commitment, will be funded by the successful operations of the facility over the next 20 years. The City has committed \$8.6 million to be funded through debentures over the next 17 years. Both partners have stretched themselves financially to make this centre a reality!

“The Family Y Board of Directors has considered the City’s request seriously and is very pleased to be able to provide an additional \$350,000 to this critically important regional project. This is our TIME!!! to make use of a great opportunity for individuals, businesses and government to work together to create an exciting new focal point for recreation and healthy living. The new multi-purpose regional recreation centre is about more than swimming pools, gyms and ice pads. It’s about taking care of ourselves, our children, our parents and our community! This centre will enrich the quality of our lives and those of the generations to follow and help us reach our economic growth objectives.” said Evelyn Dean, President of the Family Y Board of Directors.

The Family Y will be holding a press conference on Wednesday, March 3 at 11:00am at their health, fitness and recreation facility at 640 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound.

The Family Y 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. Serving our community since 1877, the Family Y enriches the lives of people of all ages and is open to all members of our community. The Y builds strong kids, strong families and strong communities by providing opportunities for personal development in the following program areas: Health, Fitness and Recreation, Child Care, and Community & Employment Services, throughout Grey and Bruce Counties.

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