

YMCA CENTRE FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN

SUMMER 2026



There is something special about seeing a community's vision become reality. This summer, the new Centre for Life continues to make impressive strides, with construction advancing steadily and key milestones being reached across the site. Each beam raised, wall completed, and space defined brings us closer to a vibrant destination designed to support education, innovation, wellness, and connection. In this edition, we're pleased to share the latest updates and celebrate the collective effort that is bringing the Centre for Life to life.

Aquatic Centre Reaches Major Milestones

Construction continues to make steady progress on the Aquatic Centre at the YMCA Centre for Life, with several exciting milestones completed in recent weeks.

As shown in Photo 1, both the Warm Water Therapeutic Pool in the foreground and the four-lane, 25-metre pool behind have successfully passed fill testing, an important step in verifying the integrity and performance of the pool structures. Following the successful tests, both tanks have now been fully drained in preparation for the next phase of construction. Once the building is closed in, crews will begin installing the ceramic tile finishes that will bring the aquatic spaces one step closer to completion.

"Passing fill testing is a significant milestone

for any aquatic facility," said Project Lead Ron Riddell. "It confirms that the pool structures are performing as designed and allows us to move forward with confidence into the finishing stages. Every milestone we reach brings the YMCA Centre for Life closer to opening its doors to the community."

Meanwhile, progress is equally visible on the exterior of the building. Photos 2 and 3 showcase the northeast corner of the Aquatic Centre, where local masonry contractor Hewitt and Sons has completed the block walls and insulated building wrap. Crews have now begun installing the natural stone exterior, adding both durability and visual character to the facility.

Once the stonework is complete, construction will advance to the roof deck and glazing

systems. These features will play a key role in creating a bright and welcoming aquatic environment by allowing natural light to enter from multiple sides of the building.

Natural lighting offers a number of important benefits for aquatic facilities. In addition to enhancing the visual appeal of the space, daylight helps create a more open and inviting atmosphere for swimmers and visitors. Access to natural light has been shown to improve mood and overall well-being, while reducing the need for artificial lighting during daytime hours. The extensive glazing planned for the Aquatic Centre will provide users with a strong connection to the outdoors, creating a vibrant and comfortable environment for recreation, therapy, learn-to-swim programs, and community activities.



Construction Progress Highlights: Accessibility and Activity Spaces Taking Shape

Exciting progress continues as key features of the facility move closer to completion, bringing the vision of a vibrant, inclusive community recreation space to life.

Elevator Shaft Complete and Ready for Equipment Installation

A major construction milestone has been reached with the completion of the building's elevator shaft. The structure is now fully built and prepared for the installation of elevator equipment in the coming phase of construction.



Once operational, the elevator will provide convenient access between floors, enhancing accessibility for all visitors and ensuring the facility is welcoming and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities. With the shaft now in place, another important piece of the building's infrastructure is ready to move from construction to installation.

Gymnasium Reveals Its Impressive Scale

Inside the facility, the future gymnasium is beginning to showcase the impressive size and flexibility that will make it a hub for recreation, sports, and community programming.

The spacious gymnasium has been designed to accommodate either one full-size basketball court or two smaller basketball courts simultaneously. The versatile layout will also allow for two volleyball courts and up to three pickleball or badminton courts, providing ample opportunities for organized leagues, tournaments, and recreational play.

Beyond court sports, the multi-purpose space will support a wide variety of activities, including floor hockey, gymnastics, indoor



soccer, group fitness classes, children's camps, martial arts programs, and much more. The adaptable design ensures the gymnasium can meet the diverse needs of community members while maximizing year-round programming opportunities.

As construction continues, these latest developments offer an exciting glimpse into how the facility will serve as a dynamic destination for sport, recreation, wellness, and community connection for years to come.

Confidence, Connections & Camp Memories Shine Bright This Summer

With just a few weeks left to the summer camp season, we're taking a moment to celebrate the incredible experiences, growth, and connections that made this summer so memorable.

From exciting outdoor adventures and creative activities to new friendships and unforgettable moments, campers embraced every day with enthusiasm, curiosity, and plenty of smiles. Whether they were exploring new interests, learning new skills, or simply enjoying time with friends, each camp experience helped create lasting memories that will be treasured long after summer ends.

We're especially proud of the confidence, teamwork, and joy we've seen develop

throughout the season. Camp provides a unique opportunity for young people to step outside their comfort zones, challenge themselves, and discover what they're capable of achieving. Watching those personal successes unfold has been one of the highlights of the summer.

As we wrap up another fantastic season, we're also excited to recognize a new group of young leaders who successfully completed our Leaders in Training (LIT) program. Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and leadership development opportunities, these participants have gained valuable skills that will support them in future volunteer, employment, and community leadership roles. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the years ahead.

As summer camp season winds down, we celebrate the memories made, the friendships formed, and the leaders developed. Thank you to everyone who helped make this an unforgettable summer in the Belleville region. We can't wait to welcome campers back next year for another season of adventure and discovery.

