

**YMCA-YWCA VANCOUVER ISLAND
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held online by Zoom call
Thursday June 26, 2025
Minutes**

Voting Members Present:

Jeff Osgarby, Amir Tavakoli, Harold Cull, Melanie Hudson, Scott McKay, Christine Gleed, Barri Marlatt, Deanne Strongitharm, Fione Wilson, Evan Fagan, Ian Hodge, Natasha Benn, Maria Lyne, Steve Gough, Denise Yoreff, Derek Gent, Susan Hope Walsh (Alrich), Rikki Nevins, Litzia Eccleston, Anne van Beers, Jennifer Lindberg

Guests Present:

Richard Bennett, Shannon Von Kaldenberg, Cory Vanderhorst, Raven Lacerte, Andrew Tomilson, Howard Goshulak, Karen DeMeo, Nancy Pearson, Dorothy Skinner, Deanne Schultz, John Simpson, Christy Tones, Garrett Merner, Lana Millott, JoAnne Chapple

1. Welcome and Call to Order (12:05)

Scott McKay (Chair) welcomed those in attendance, and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He introduced himself, and the staff team providing the technical support:

- Christy Tones – Technology Support
- Fione Wilson – Coordinating Meeting Registration
- Steve Gough - Secretary

Derek Gent (CEO) provided instructions concerning how to vote or ask questions using the Teams software features.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

Scott McKay acknowledged with respect the Traditional Territories we operate on, and the Nations we partner with and learn from. The YMCA/YWCA Vancouver Island facilities and programs operate on the Coast Salish Territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, T'Sou-ke, Sci'aneuw, and WSÁNEĆ Nations.

3. Business Meeting

Scott McKay confirmed that a quorum (20+) was present. The voting member criteria and voting process was explained, and the agenda was reviewed. He confirmed that notice for this meeting had been posted on the YMCA-YWCA website, and were sent to voting members, together with the information materials.

3.1 Approval of Minutes - Previous Annual General Meeting

MOTION (Barri Marlatt / Melanie Hudson):

That the minutes of the AGM held June 20, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3.2 Chair, Board of Directors Report

Scott McKay reported on the work of the Board and the organization in 2024, and began by noting that he was truly proud of the Y's achievements, and sincerely humbled by the incredible dedication and commitment to change by all Y staff members and volunteers who make such an incredible difference to the health and wellbeing of our community. He added that this is particularly important today, as we are in a time of division and uncertainty at home and around the globe.

Scott reminded participants that our Vancouver Island Y represents both the YWCA and the YMCA, and we are now one of only two Y's that operate in both Federations. As one of 29 YWCA's across Canada, we are making a difference right here in our community across many program areas. He highlighted related results from the past year, including safely housing 17 young mothers and 19 children who were at risk of homelessness through Y Young Moms. There were nearly 1600 one-on-one counselling sessions, and over 900 phone counselling sessions provided. A further 61 young families in the community received support and education, including 148 group sessions at this program. There were 57 families were provided with \$10 a day daycare at our Downtown and Westhills Centres.

As examples from traditionally YMCA program areas, we had nearly 59,000 monthly visits to our Y Health and Fitness facilities at Westhills and Downtown. This included 12,500 visits by children while their parent had the opportunity to work out and build their physical and mental health. There were 63 families who were supported each and every month with financially assisted memberships. At Camp Thunderbird, there were 956 Children and youth attended over-night camps while 2,500 campers attended day programs at this incredibly beautiful location – Connecting to nature, building confidence, teamwork and inclusion.

Scott noted that there are a long list of priorities and actions we're working on in 2025 with the most significant being the relocation of the Downtown Y Health and Fitness Centre to the Bay Centre, with our child care moving to a new site near Crosstown, as well as a massive expansion of Y Child Care programs in the Westshore, meeting an ever-growing need for affordable care.

He added that the current work and future projects and programming were only achievable through our committed staff and volunteers. He thanked them and added that it is only through their dedication and compassion that we can deliver these programs with meaning in our community.

Scott confirmed that our work is driven by our Vision and Mission of Healthy People Building Strong Communities, and that this distills into 3 key goals in our plan.

These goals include being an Employer and Service Provider of Choice; Expanded Programs and Facilities; becoming a Financially Thriving Charity. He explained that these priorities drive every decision made, and with the support of staff, volunteers and the Y community, the Y will continue to create local solutions that can lead to National Impact.

If you are not a staff member, volunteer or board member, consider being one and join us in delivering our purpose and if you are not a financial donor to the Y, if you can, please consider making a financial contribution. Each and every dollar goes to work in our shared community.

3.3 Financial Report

Scott McKay introduced Harold Cull, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Harold presented and reviewed the audited Financial Statements, highlighting several key points and figures also included in the Annual Report. He noted that the complete report and statements are available on the Y's website. Harold also recognized Audit Committee members and staff support, and reinforced that his committee is particularly focused on Goal 3 of becoming a financially thriving charity.

MOTION (Barri Marlatt / Amir Tavakoli):

That the audited financial statements for the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2024, be accepted as presented

CARRIED.

3.4 Appointment of Auditors

Harold Cull introduced the motion to appoint the auditors.

MOTION (Jeff Osgarby / Christine Gleed):

That the appointment of MNP LLP as Auditors for the YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED.

3.5 Retiring Board Member:

Scott McKay thanked the retiring board members: Barri Marlatt, Melanie Hudson, Deane Strongitharm and Audrey McFarlane.

He noted that Barri had served on the board for 7 years, including this past year as the past Chair, and credited her with leading the Board and CEO through challenging times... an incredible board chair and true friend to the Y.

Scott added that Melanie has served as the Vice Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Nominating committee for the past three years.

Scott shared that Deane was a particular friend of the Downtown Y and has been a strong member of the Board serving on several committees.

Scott noted that Audrey brought her many years of experience with financial planning, adding valuable expertise on the Finance and Audit committee.

3.6 Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors

Melanie Hudson, Chair of the Nominations Committee, outlined the process for recruiting new potential Directors, and explained that the Y has once again been very successful in attracting excellent candidates to be nominated to the Board. She then presented the slate of candidates proposed for election by the Nominating Committee:

- First two-year term: Raven Lacerte, Shannon von Kaldenberg and Andrew Tomilson
- Second two-year term: Jeff Osgarby
- Third two-year term: Amir Tavakoli
- Continuing terms: Scott McKay, Harold Cull, Christine Gleed and Tobin Hwang

MOTION (Christine Gleed / Natasha Benn):

Motion: That these individuals be elected to the Board of Directors of the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island.

CARRIED.

3.7 CEO Report and Award Presentations

Derek Gent presented the CEO Report, starting by thanking the participants and communicating what a privilege he feels to serve the organization.

He started by noting that we are in exciting times with adrenaline coursing more about upcoming opportunities rather than crisis these days. This is much better.

Derek confirmed that the closure of our longtime Downtown facility is more imminent now based on the recent securing of new leases at the Bay Centre and at a new Crosstown Childcare site with Cool Aid as the landlord. He added that we don't have firm timing yet, as we've just taken possession at the new sites, but this means we will eventually be closing a space (spaces, really) that have been a part of people's lives for over 60 years. The closure of the swimming pool is especially hard on folks, at a time when pools are disappearing in our region, so we're going to continue working on this, including some different options with the City or other partners.

He stated that the eventual closure will represent a big change and some feelings of uncertainty for many, but also profound relief. We're relieved that we will continue to have space to come together for all those relationships that exist at the Y, or that will start at the Y, and we will be stronger and healthier. The people really make up our organization and have been coming together for 150 years.

He added that YMCA Canada did some research last year that showed 60% of Canadians do not feel connected to their community. 85% reported that their well-being was improved when they accessed third spaces (not home or work) with others. We are that third space, and we have created these spaces in many locations over a very long time.

Derek said that the Bay Centre is a tremendous spot for a Centre of Community. We are going to animate this mall in ways it hasn't seen before, and we are going to be an integral part of defining Downtown Victoria for years to come. The vision for how we're going to make this our Y is already starting to come together. It won't be the same, but the people will, and it will be amazing. You can look forward to more information as we flesh this out and as plans start to take shape.

He added that we're also continuing our conversations about other new places and spaces. In addition to the new childcare site in at Crosstown we're expanding into new Child Care sites in the Westshore – operating directly in schools across School District D62.

Derek referred to the 6 Strategic Priorities in our plans, as presented in the Annual Report.

These include investing more in our people, focusing on our vision for a new Downtown Y, seeking new opportunities for collaboration with others and for delivering programs to serve growing community needs, and to address our financial sustainability by enhancing our capacity for fund development and communications.

He added that our municipal relationships, especially in Langford and Victoria are particularly important, and we're pleased with our growing connection to the School Districts.

Derek shared the story of a recent estate gift from Dr. Joyce Clearihue, a former Board member and longtime supporter of our Y. He said that he vividly remembers her telling him that we will never leave the YWCA Federation, and sharing stories of the YMCA and YWCA coming together in the 60's and 70's. She also loved Camp – a passionate outdoors enthusiast, and was a regular at the Downtown Y well into her 80's. Her estate gift has helped refill the tanks / recharge the batteries for our organization financially so that we can look forward at opportunities and rebuild the capital base that was held in the building we eventually sold. Our Board has restricted the use of these funds.

Derek noted that the organization is also in the process of planning some significant improvements up at Camp Thunderbird after this season, led by a tremendously generous donation from the Jawl Foundation (who are also supporting us with their technical expertise from Jawl Properties – both Downtown and at Camp) and we will be sharing more information about these projects soon.

He added that we know that won't become sustainable by cutting more costs – and we need to have more resources to generate more impact, and there is so much more that we can do. Stay tuned for more information and for opportunities to come together later this year to celebrate and to engage in the work of our Y.

He closed with thanks to all of those who help support our Y, and shared excitement and love to those who have brought us where we are and to those we are going to move forward with.

Derek then presented several Awards:

The Peter McGill Award recognizing youth leadership, for staff to further their education went to Sarah Hain and Sharon Hannan

Sarah is a relatively new staff member, immigrating here from Germany and working in our Child and Youth programming. This support will help her upgrade her qualifications in Canada and move into a permanent role in our Childcare programming.

Sharon has worked for us for 8 years as an Early Childhood Educator and was recently promoted to a new role where she'll be a supervisor at one of our new Childcare sites at Hans Helgeson School in the Westshore this fall.

The Shirley Main Scholarship Award, named for an early Matriarch from our YWCA, who was a key leader during the merger and was a pioneer in her own right in fitness. Shirley integrated music into fitness (initially a piano) and a strong feminist advocate, who passed just a few years back.

This award is for outstanding contributions from our volunteer fitness instructors, all from the Downtown Y –

Barry Davis brings strength and soul to our Senior Strength classes, with what has been described as a killer playlist combined with a kindness and sense of belonging in every class. He buses downtown all the way from Sidney to give back as a volunteer downtown.

Anna Stein has led cyclefit classes for decades, including back-to-back sessions on Saturday mornings and is a regular substitute whenever she's asked.

Loren Crawford is a yoga instructor who leads two classes a week and hosts specialty workshops as well. They weave philosophy and breathing into the movement (and the stillness) and have also been introducing meditation into the fitness schedule. Truly mind body and spirit – just like the Y triangles.

He offered congratulations to all recipients!

Derek then presented a recognition of new lifetime memberships for those members reaching 90 years of age!

He noted that there are 5 this year, including Joan Hougan, John B Curtis, Paul Richards, Alan Marcus and Joseph Campbell.

3.8 New Business

Scott McKay asked if there was any new business or further questions

A question was asked about providing member feedback for the new Downtown Y.

Derek responded that there will be opportunities for members to provide suggestions and ideas.

3.9 Adjournment

MOTION (Jeff Osgarby / Natasha Benn):

That the AGM for the year ending December 31, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED.

Scott – thanks to all who attended. Will miss departing board members (by name).
Welcome to the new Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.