



2022 Annual President's Report

It has been a busy and rewarding year with many activities. Here are the highlights:

Tielines: 6 bi-monthly editions were published. A sincere thank you to Diana Deakin-Thomas, newsletter editor, Nancy Dube who supports Diana and the YMCA of Northern Alberta for their outstanding support in the graphic design of each edition. The Alumni membership has noted it's appreciation for the newsletter's quality and content. It is the key source for Alumni to be kept informed.

Four Virtual Gatherings: The Alumni Program Committee organized 4 virtual gatherings covering the following themes; Opportunities and challenges faced by Y leaders through the pandemic; Truth and Reconciliation in Canada and how we can get involved; Mental Health and Resilience during the Covid 19 Pandemic (hosted and organized by the YGTA Alumni Hub); and the new Vision 2030 developed by the World Alliance of YMCAs. Our special thanks to the Alumni Program Committee (Janet Giles, Laura Palmer Korn, John Haddock, Gary Gray, Franco Savoia and Trudy Brydges).

Secours Speciaux: John Haddock led our campaign to raise funds to support YMCA retirees in YMCAs that don't have the capacity to provide retirement plans and support. 61 Alumni donated \$13,440. The Canadian Y Alumni added an additional \$2000 for a total donation of \$15,440. We extend our thanks to John Haddock for championing our campaign and the Alumni donors for their generous response.

Canadian YMCA Alumni webpages: Thanks to YMCA Canada! As YMCA Canada refreshed its website this year they provided space for the Alumni webpages to be included. Past issues of Tielines, our by-laws and other materials are now easily accessible to all members of the Canadian YMCA Alumni at <https://www.ymca.ca/canadian-ymca-alumni-association>.

YMCA Sponsored YMCA Alumni Hubs: The Moncton and the YGTA are two active YMCA sponsored Alumni Hubs. These Alumni Hubs nominated Trudy Brydges and Rich Bailey respectively as their representatives on the Alumni Executive. We thank them for their contribution. We look forward to the formation of more YMCA sponsored Alumni Hubs in the future.

Canadian YMCA History Project: The Canadian YMCA Alumni has identified a need to record the dramatic changes in the Canadian YMCA over the past 7 decades. There is a great

deal of formal documentation in storage. However there is a great deal of information that resides with Y volunteers and staff who have worked in the YMCA. A committee has been struck to coordinate and champion this initiative. The first phase is to “visit” with retired volunteers and staff to capture and record their experiences. These virtual visits will begin in early 2023.

New Executive: The current Executive completes its two-year term in December 2022. We extend out thanks to Rich Bailey, Martha Lee Blickstead, Trudy Brydges, Janet Giles, Gary Gray, John Haddock, Jackie Jenkins, Sol Kasimer and Franco Savoia for their leadership in advancing the work of the Canadian YMCA Alumni. The nominating committee presented its report to the Executive and year end gathering.

The officers for the 2023-2024 Alumni Executive are as follows: Janet Giles, President; John Haddock, Executive Vice President; Martha Lee Blickstead, Secretary; Sol Kasimer, Treasurer; Gary Gray, Communications; Jackie Jenkins, Membership; John Haddock, Secours Speciaux; TBC, Program Committee Chair; Franco Sovoia, Past President. The two current YMCA sponsored Alumni Hubs designate their representative to sit on the Executive. Trudy Brydges will represent the Moncton Hub.

Further, the Executive has appointed Gayle Graham, Marilyn Kapitany, John Lilley and Mimi Price as members at large. We welcome our new members to the Executive who will ensure leadership continuity in the Canadian YMCA Alumni.

Alumni Awards: Jim Bonk and the Alumni Awards Committee sought and received nominations of Alumni who continue to contribute to the YMCA and their local community. Three such Alumni were recognized this year: Marilyn Kapitany, John Lilley and Don McCreesh. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and sincere thanks to these award recipients for their dedication the YMCA and their communities. Bravo!