

Press Release  
**Carleton Place & District Youth Centre**  
September 1, 2020

Like many other organizations, the Carleton Place & District Youth Centre, located at the rear of the Carambeck Community Centre has faced many challenges in the past year.

The Centre's voluntary Board of Directors had an extremely busy year including the development of a new strategic plan, the change of a long-standing staff member at the Executive Director level and the challenging management of affairs through the Covid-19 Pandemic that we are all presently navigating. I am extremely proud of our volunteers and staff for all the hard work and time they have dedicated to the youth of this growing community.

Established more than 20 years ago as a community partnership, the Carleton Place & District Youth Centre, (often referred to as CORE), has a long history of engaging local youth with various programs and activities. The Youth Centre was initially established as a preventative measure to combat crime and substance use among young people in Carleton Place, but in 2016 our focus shifted. Programs and services that were better aligned with the demands and challenges of our local youth were soon developed. Currently, the Youth Centre offers programming tailored for the majority of our local youth ages 8-12 and 13-18.

As a registered not-for-profit organization, the Youth Centre heavily relies on government grants, volunteers, charitable funders and annual fundraising activities such as the Jackson Homes Golf Tournament to continue offering much needed programs and activities. We value and commend the many local individuals, businesses and organizations that play a pivotal role in the success of our past and who will partner with us for the success of the future and, ultimately, the success of the Youth.

The Youth Centre, including its Board, staff and volunteer base, is committed to its revised mission *"To inspire, engage and celebrate youth through social, educational and recreational activities and community participation, encouraging a youth base invested in their local community."*

As stated in our Strategic Plan, (which can be found on our website at [www.cpyouthcentre.org](http://www.cpyouthcentre.org)) *"We visualize a town in which all youth participate in shaping a vibrant community. We will accomplish our mission through collaboration with the community and youth, developing partnerships to facilitate fun and diverse programs and opportunities that increase youth involvement, community attachment, healthy outlooks, and provide optimistic outcomes."*

The approval of the new 2020 Strategic Plan excited the Board as to the new possibilities that it presented. The Board took a hard look at the organization by employing modern business assessment tools in order to identify opportunities for development.

The excitement quickly came to a screeching halt in March as we closed our doors and cancelled our popular March Break camp. Following a stressful and uncertain quarantine period, the Youth Centre regrouped within

the new reality by focussing on COVID-19 information and regulations to deliver safety for all. The Youth Centre was able to re-open its doors in July with an augmented version of the much sought after summer camp. Nice weather, enthusiastic and dedicated summer staff and dynamic youth set the stage for week after week of safe, fun activities. We hope that everyone who attended summer camp and/or the leadership program will be able to share a positive story with their peers.

With summer almost behind us, the Board has now set their sights on the new challenges and the hard work ahead. A commitment to continued improvement and a dedication to our local youth will put us on the path for inspiring ideas, new volunteers, sustainable funding sources and important community partnerships. If you are interested in becoming involved or donating to this important cause, we encourage you to reach out to the Centre or any Board members that are listed on the website. The Board and Staff are ready and willing to safely open all lines of communication.

While we are confident of our ability to continue offering high quality, safe programs and services to our local youth, although the exact nature and details of those programs are still being developed and refined. Like many others, we are closely monitoring the current public health guidelines and the return of our youth to school settings carefully. We encourage you to follow and share us on facebook @Coreyouthservices or check our website for further details, information and updates.

Dena Comley  
Carleton Place & District Youth Centre Chair

Contact: 613-250-0484 / [denacomley@gmail.com](mailto:denacomley@gmail.com)

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