

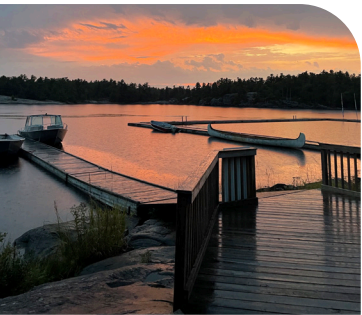


The Gateway to Amazing Camp Experiences

Dear CQE Community,

We are reaching out to you, our valued CQE community, with an exciting opportunity to support YMCA of Southwestern Ontario's cherished Camp Queen Elizabeth (CQE). As you know, CQE's waterfront is the heart of our campers' experiences. It's where campers build lifelong memories, from their first canoe paddle to their final sunset swim. Today, we invite you to join us in a critical project to enhance and preserve this cherished space for future generations. As you'll read, we have a very urgent and current need as well as longer term goals to support the longevity of CQE.

The Initial Challenge: Our Dock System Nearing the End of Its Life



Our beloved docks have served us well for many years, enduring the vibrant energy of hundreds of campers and the natural forces of Georgian Bay. However, the time has come for these docks to be retired. The years have taken their toll, with the metal connectors challenged under stress and the impact of the Bay's strong winds. While the docks have remained safe, they are at the end of their useful life. If not replaced, they could become a safety risk and may no longer function as needed.

The Solution: A New, Sustainable, and Durable Dock System for Spring 2025

With your support, we aim to install a new dock system that reflects our commitment to safety, sustainability, and an enjoyable experience. **The new dock system will cost \$250,000**, and the new design will incorporate:

- **Durable Construction:** Utilizing environmentally friendly materials.
- **Enhanced Safety:** A robust anchoring system to withstand the waves and winds of Georgian Bay, providing a secure platform for our campers.
- **Functional Design:** Enhance safety and functionality by providing clearly defined areas for various activities, allowing campers, families, and visitors to enjoy different experiences simultaneously.
- **Adaptation to Environmental Changes:** Repositioning the docks to take advantage of deeper, safer swimming areas in response to changing water levels.



Ongoing Need: Join Us in Transforming Our Camp With Your Support!

We are embarking on a **\$1 million fundraising campaign over 3 years** to bring this vision to life. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of our campers, ensuring they have a safe and welcoming overnight camp experience to enjoy for years to come.

In addition to the dock system, which will be replaced this spring, we are investing in the following critical needs over the next 3 years:

- New roofs for camper cabins and the dining hall **\$210,000**
- A Generator to provide power for sanitation & safety in prolonged outages . . . **\$185,000**
- Two new camp vehicles to safely transport precious cargo **\$130,000**
- Refurbished cabins (including updated plumbing) for our camp staff **\$100,000**
- New watercraft equipment and updates to existing equipment **\$75,000**
- Much-needed equipment and maintenance. **\$50,000**

We invite you to be a part of this transformative project. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. To honour your generosity, we will recognize donors on a permanent eco-friendly sign and blend in the natural environment by the waterfront, celebrating your role in preserving the CQE legacy.

Invitations will be provided to donors to celebrate the campaign’s success once our fundraising goals are met. This will provide an opportunity for donors to see and experience their impact firsthand, and to celebrate this great achievement together.



Together, we can make it happen! By donating, you are not simply contributing to a structure; you are investing in the future of CQE, fostering a safe, fun, and engaging space where new generations can create memories and friendships.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of the CQE family. Together, we can ensure that the spirit and joy of CQE thrive for many years to come.

For more information please contact:

Mary Nikolakakos
Senior Development Officer, Major Gift and Planned Giving – CQE Campaign
YMCA of Southwestern Ontario
226.577.2569
mary.nikolakakos@swo.ymca.ca