

YMCA
of Cape Breton
A charity since 1886

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For: Immediate Release

Port Hawkesbury, NS - A much needed After School Program will soon be offered to families in the Port Hawkesbury area. For the first time, the YMCA of Cape Breton will offer support to area families with students in grades primary to six.

“We are very pleased to bring this to the community,” says CEO Andre Gallant. “Our staff and Advisory Committee saw a need and brought the idea forward. We worked on the business model, looked at insurance related issues and determined that we had the ability to make it happen.” The program will help to fill a gap for families that require childcare between the hours of 2:30pm to 5:30pm.

“This time of day is critical for families and poses a real challenge for those with young children who don’t get home until later in the day,” says Lisa Dobson, Chair - YMCA Advisory Committee. “The service will mean that parents and guardians can continue to work during business hours, which is vital to the financial well being of families and the community,” says Dobson.

The program provides peace of mind for parents and guardians in knowing that children are in a safe and happy environment. The program is based on the children’s interests, encompassing activities such as crafts, sports, cooperative games, special events, and outdoor activities under the supervision of trained YMCA staff.

Running September through June, the program will operate from a classroom at the Tamarac Education Centre each day that school is in session. “This program would not be possible without the assistance of the staff at Tamarac Education Centre,” says Dobson. “They are providing incredible support for the program and have championed this for the community.”

The program fee is \$40.00 per week, per child. In person registration will take place on a first come, first served basis at the YMCA located at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on Sunday, August 24th from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Phone-in registration by credit card will begin at 2:00pm should openings be available. Families are encouraged to pick up a registration form at the YMCA before the registration date or by downloading a form at www.cbymca.com.

A limited number of openings are available for those who face financial barriers through the YMCA All Access program. Anyone interested in applying for the All Access program should contact the YMCA at (902)625-4600 as soon as possible or visit www.cbymca.com for more information. All Access interviews will be conducted on August 21st and August 24th.

The YMCA of Cape Breton has been serving the community for more than 120 years. The oldest, most diverse charity on Cape Breton Island, the YMCA works in seven key functional areas: employment, education and training, childcare, entrepreneurship, day/overnight camp, wellness and preventative health and international development.

The organization has facilities in Glace Bay, Port Hawkesbury, Sydney and Ironville and employs 203 people. The YMCA serves more than 21,000 people each year and provides programs and services to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay through the All Access program. For more information contact:

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