

# YKACL NEWSLETTER

MAY 1 2017

Yellowknife Association for  
COMMUNITY LIVING

Since 1962



## Gumboot Rally raises \$25,391

by YKACL staff

**WE DID IT!** The community helped raise \$25,391 for YKACL by participating in the 25th annual Gumboot Rally on Saturday.

Twenty teams competed absurdly for Gumboot glory that morning, with several teams and individuals bringing home special prizes donated by Canadian North, Quality Furniture, Yellowknife Education District No. 1, Yellowknife Catholic Schools, the NWT Teachers Association and other businesses, organizations and residents.

### Highest Fundraising Team:

Beyond a Reasonable Trout

**Best Costumes:** Pop-Up Pirates

**Best Costumes:** The Great Gumboobs

**Best Costumes:** Les Dominoes  
(JH Sissons School)

**Top Fundraiser:** Sylvia Haener  
of Beyond a Reasonable Trout  
(\$2,120)

**Top Number of Donors:** Teresa  
Watson of Tai Chi Tigers  
(70 donors)

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the teams, organizers, volunteers, donors and sponsors who helped with this achievement! The gift of your time and funds will help YKACL deliver meaningful services to people of all ages living in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah.



**SUE GLOWACH**, above, hurls a gumboot as a member of *Beyond a Reasonable Trout*, which raised more than \$6,000.



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**CHRIS STRUS** of the YKACL Young Adults visited Pilot's Monument this past Friday.

## Spring stroll

Members of the YKACL Young Adults Group are eager to schedule outdoor activities now that spring weather has arrived.

This past Friday night, the group met to share conversation over coffee and hot chocolate at Javaroma. After that they walked together to Old Town to see the sights and scale Pilot's Monument.

If you know a young adult who may wish to join the group, call Michael at 920-2644.

## YKACL Summer Youth Program

Registration for the 2017 YKACL Summer Youth Program has begun!

This free annual program is open to teens and young adults aged 13 to 25 living in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah.

The program starts on July 4 and runs from 1:30pm to 4:30pm weekdays until Aug. 25.

Weekly activities are based on the needs, skills and interests of participants.

Last year's group enjoyed a dance workshop, days at the beach, sports, crafts, gardening, field trips and volunteer experiences.

Early registration deadline is June 23.

# Garden project blossoms



by YKACL staff

**SPRING IS IN THE AIR** at YKACL. We invite the public to participate in a street-side beautification project while learning hands-on artistic skills this month using local materials.

YKACL Business Services participants are working alongside project co-ordinators Rosanna Strong and Jenny Tucker to finish the willow arches and create a living willow fence next to the Abe Miller Building parking lot. Residents of Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah are encouraged to join in.



**ROSALIE STRONG**

If you can tie string together, you are qualified!

There is a role for everyone no matter what their skill level or gardening background. Many hands make for light work from weaving the willow to preparing the fence structures.

We are using a combination of basketry techniques like random weave that uses tension between twigs pressed against one another for its structural strength on the arches and a twill weave



**YKACL CLIENT** Annie Strus helped weave willow in front of the Abe Miller Building in summer 2016.

for the fences. As time allows, willow sun bursts and obelisks will be used to decorate the garden areas.

Anyone who wishes to assist with any stage of this beautification process is welcome to join us.

- May 2-3: 1 pm - 3:30 pm - cutting willow
- May 9-12 1 pm - 4 pm - cutting willow and weaving
- May 16-20 10 am - 5 pm - weaving and preparing fence structure
- May 24-27 10 am- 5pm - weaving
- May 30 - June 4 10 am-5 pm -weaving

**Contact Rosanna if you have any questions or want to confirm times: (867) 446-2799**

## YKACL STAFF PROFILE

by YKACL staff

**DONNA** Meserah-Zdyb manages our Skills Training and Community Inclusion Program.

"This is a program where we work closely as a team," said Donna. "We provide business services such as recycling pick-up, courier delivery, document shredding and poster distribution, but we also work on each client's personal goals – whether it is an employment goal or a personal goal relating to education or social engagement in the community."

Donna joined YKACL in

2012, first working part time as a peer support worker with the Family and Children's Services Program. She moved over to a full time position as a Skills Training and Community Inclusion facilitator and soon took over as program manager.

### Side-by-side with clients

"Knowing all the jobs and working with all the clients side by side has given me the opportunity to have a better understanding of what each job entails for both client and staff," she said. "The clients at YKACL are very hard working, friendly and



**DONNA MESERAH-ZDYB**

just all around great people to work with!"

Donna grew up in Baker Lake and lived in Rankin Inlet in Nunavut before moving to Yellowknife 20 years ago.

She is mom to Solaya, 11, Talya, 9, and Koen, 8.