



## **YMCA of Greater Toronto breaks ground on future site of new Toronto Kingston Rd. YMCA Centre**

*Eric Tripp and Maria Smith announce major gift to new Centre of Community*

**TORONTO - October 20, 2015** – The YMCA of Greater Toronto celebrated another milestone today by breaking ground on its third new Centre of Community, the Toronto Kingston Rd. YMCA Centre. The charity also announced a \$500,000 gift from Eric Tripp and Maria Smith in support of the new Kingston Rd. Y.

Located on the same site as the former East City YMCA, the Kingston Rd. Y is part of the charity's ambitious [Strong Start, Great Future](#) Campaign to build 10 new Centres of Community across the GTA.

“Eric and Maria’s gift comes at a crucial time and moves us all forward in realizing our shared commitment to a healthier GTA,” said Diane Sinhuber, Chair of the Board, YMCA of Greater Toronto. “An expanded, state-of-the-art YMCA will provide more opportunities, resources and services for residents to live healthier lives as well as build and strengthen their community.”

The gift will go toward the future Kingston Rd. Y, the family’s local Centre, where the charity is filling a crucial role by creating safe, healthy and inclusive environments where people will participate in a variety of programs and services to help them reach their full potential.

“The values of the YMCA are consistent with our own values in supporting the community,” said Tripp and Smith of why they chose to make the generous gift. “We are proud of our community and confident the new Kingston Road YMCA will make it even better.”

The YMCA of Greater Toronto has a long history in the east end of the city, constantly adapting to the needs of the changing community for more than 100 years.

After close evaluation, which started in 2007 with the Program Research and Development team, it was determined the Kingston Road community could be better served with a wider variety of programs, services and an expanded new facility.

The existing facility will be demolished in late October and a new facility measuring approx. 60,000 sq. ft. will be built in its place. The state-of-the-art building will anchor a

new condo building by developer Mitchell & Associates at 907 Kingston Road, located near Kingston Road and Victoria Park Avenue.

In support of the charity's transformational plans to build healthier communities across the Greater Toronto Area, the gift will bring more vital YMCA programs and services to the communities around the Kingston Rd. Y. The new Centre will be a catalyst for broader improvements to community health, and is part of the YMCA's vision to be home to the healthiest children, teens and young adults.

In order to make a real difference in the health of communities across the GTA, the YMCA of Greater Toronto launched its *Strong Start, Great Future* Campaign, with a goal to raise \$100 million in philanthropic donations, in order to build 10 new Centres of Community.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto believes if you give kids a **Strong Start**, they have a chance at a **Great Future** – and communities across the GTA will benefit.

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**For more information contact:**

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**About the YMCA of Greater Toronto**

For well over a century we've provided leadership and worked with partners solving complex social problems to create real, measurable outcomes that have strengthened the social health and fabric of communities. As a charity, the YMCA offers a variety of programs responding to the needs of the community, including education and training, employment and immigrant services, family and youth services, health and fitness programs, childcare and camps. Serving the population of the GTA, Durham, Peel, York, Halton Region and Dufferin County, last year the YMCA connected with more than 489,000 people across 334 locations.

**About Maria Smith and Eric Tripp**

Maria is a communications consultant and founded Multitask Corporate Communications. She is a graduate of Queen's University (B.Sc. (Hons)) and Ryerson University (Journalism (JRAD)). Eric is the retired President of BMO Capital Markets and Past-Chair of the Toronto East General Hospital. He began his career at Burns Fry Ltd. (a predecessor firm of BMO Capital Markets) in 1983. He is a graduate of Queen's University (BA (Hons), Economics), and the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario (MBA). Eric and Maria have lived in the Toronto Beaches area with their family for more than 30 years.