

# CANADA and CARIBBEAN Y Service Clubs



April 2021 #8

## From the Desk of YMI Area President Canada/Caribbean April 11, 2021

Dear Club Members April is upon us. The exceptional challenges of the year have been a real test in these trying times of Covid but also a testament to the health of our movement. We have clearly demonstrated our ability to adapt, to change, and be a resilient Area. The changes of online meetings, more communication has been more engaging, Training is being planned for the new year online at all levels and there is more updated material available. We need to continue with membership planning and recruitment at all levels and execute as soon as covid restrictions are lifted. Retention of members is important, be in contact and support new members.

International has activated the fundraising for the Paul William Alexander Legacy, hoping to purchase space for our IHQ and in fulfilment of the other projects envisioned under the PWA Legacy initiative we need your support to fulfill our Legacy.

To raise resources for our centennial, a fundraising campaign was launched in which Honorary Membership is conferred to club members and friends of YMI in exchange for a one-time contribution of USD 2,500. All information can be seen on YMI website.

Y's Men International is on the move to celebrate 100 years of our existence in 2022! This is a most exciting time to be a club member of our service organization. Be part of it! Be proud of it!

Enjoy the Area bulletin for April thanks to Bill Irwin Editor and clubs who have sent in stories.



## WEEK4WASTE

In April, many Y's Men will pick up garbage together with friends, scouts, YMCA, and their organizations from the community. The project goal is to gather 150 tons of litter from our Y's Men's Clubs altogether. Do you think we will reach this goal? Mother Earth

will be pleased with your help. Please read more about the Week4Waste project by Chair Ulrik Lauridsen in this issue of IP NEWS. **Set dates are April 18-25, 2021. Send pictures and write ups to Area to complete report for Area Canada Caribbean.**

## **World Malaria Day 25 April**



**World Malaria Day 2021** will unify and build on the '[Zero Malaria Starts with Me](#)' movement and the '[Draw the Line Against Malaria](#)' youth focused campaign. This year's theme, "**Zero Malaria – Draw the Line Against Malaria** ", will explore and connect malaria elimination and malaria in high-burden settings.

The objectives for this year's World Malaria Day are:

- Highlight the successes of countries in the malaria fight.
- Inspire a new group of countries that have the potential to eliminate the disease by 2025.
- Demonstrate that zero malaria is within reach for all countries.

**History:** In Area Canada and Caribbean, we need Clubs to forward to Debbie Redmond as soon as possible your history, she is requesting more history, and is working on developing a timeline for Canada/Caribbean which shows key events over the years. You can send write ups, photos, key events, power point, etc. for we will be an important part of project to the world in 2022 as being important part of starting the international start of Y's Men. Please support.

PAUL WILLIAM ALEXANDER LEGACY PROJECT

**Thank you for your leadership and support.**

**Murray Dunbar**  
**YMI AP CAC / ICM**



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

The 2022 International Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA from August 11-14, 2022. Plans are being put in place for our Centenary Celebration.

**Keep informed GO TOysmen.org - publications – YMI World, Youth World, or IP News**

**Reminder:** Please send your Clubs interesting news to Bill Irwin for Area Bulletin or a story from your club to Koshy Mathew for YMI News

## “Getting To Know Your Fellow Y’s Men”

**Seham Rabaa**



“My name is Seham Rabaa and I was born in Ottawa, Canada to Lebanese migrants. My parents immigrated here as a young married couple more than 45 years ago. I am number three of six children and one of four girls. My parents came to Canada with hopes of starting a new life and raising a family where their children would have opportunities that they never thought possible. My parents came here with hopes of living the Canadian dream, one of peace, security, and prosperity, something many Canadians and new Canadians hope to find.

My parents had little to no education, could barely speak English and did not know how to read or write. They struggled to make ends meet and found themselves living and raising the family in low-income housing. Growing up we never saw ourselves as poor. My mother made us feel rich with love and community. She put her children before herself and did what she could to give

us every opportunity to excel academically and personally. She taught us to be resourceful and most of all grateful. My community was vibrant and I grew up with children that hailed from different parts of the world. A true blessing if you ask me! It was not until high school where my teachers and society told me I was poor. Boy was that a wakeup call!

I was always active in the community where I volunteered with different not-for-profits and afterschool programs that were offered in the area. In 2000, I won the Philanthropist of the Year Award for Outstanding Youth Community Service. I became a little celebrity in my high school and in the local news. I was interviewed by a local talk show on Rogers cable network and was featured in a local newspaper. Shortly after my 15 seconds of limelight, my high school chemistry teacher found out about my volunteerism and community/youth advocacy work and asked me if I would be interested in helping out his volunteer group and attending some of his club’s volunteer initiatives. My chemistry teacher was Dave Hall. He took me under his wing and introduced me to the other club members. Dave was great at giving me feedback and coaching especially on my presentations or any issues I brought to his attention. Really, that was the beginning of my time with YMI and my first introduction to Y’sdom.



Eventually the Ottawa club began to work directly in my community and I found myself not only volunteering in my community but involved in more regional and national projects. I did not become an official member with the Movement until later on during my University years but shortly after becoming an official member, I became AYR and found myself representing the club at an international level where took part in a few IYCs both as a delegate and eventually as an organizer. Fun fact, it was during my tenure as AYR, where I gave a presentation to Area Council (I believe) that was held in Ottawa at time and introduced the group to video calls and the use of GoTo Meeting as a cost savings measures to “meet” without the expenses and hassle of travel.

During my university years, I studied biochemistry and psychology. Seven years or so later I completed my Honor’s degree in Science, my Social Science general degree, and my Master’s degree in Science (biochemistry). I’m so thankful for all of my achievements and I have my support system and upbringing that helped shape me as a person. I will say that I do not miss leaving the research lab at midnight because of time-course experiment or having to squish up rodents hearts and muscle tissue as a part of some study looking at muscle development and regeneration. While I’ve left my academic hat behind me, I found myself working in sales and eventually transitioned to healthcare, specifically patient safety policy and quality improvement.

On the side, I moonlight as a background actor where I’ve made appearances in many locally filmed movies, mostly for the Hallmark channel and Lifetime network. . I was recently asked to resurrect my role as a police

officer in a Lifetime thriller, where in the past I’ve had to chase down criminals, arrest them, and escort them to the police car. I love the arts and have found it to be very therapeutic, especially during stressful times. Moreover, acting is a lot of fun! I’ve landed a few big budget movies and over the next two years I’m hoping to land a speaking role. Will keep you posted on that.

Volunteering in a movement that is based upon practices that are more traditional and approaches to engagement was challenging as it did not mesh well with my school and work agenda, and at times my personal beliefs, however, I did make the most of it!

Currently I hold the position of International Council Member (Young) where my tenure started on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 during the COVID19 pandemic, and is set to end June 30, 2022. Thus far, all of my engagements with council members have occurred virtually and via email. I cannot help but to pat myself on the back and smile thinking that I helped prepare the Movement by onboarding them to virtual calls many years ago, before it became the “new thing because of COVID”.As an ICM member that is not an Area president or an IEO, I have the role of ICM coordinator where I advocate for several YMI streams and ISDs where my job is to make sure that their concerns and motions are discussed during council meetings. At the end of the day, my goals are to advocate on behalf of those that need it and to bring forward an alternate perspective in hopes helping to push the Movement forward, and address young people’s needs.”

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## Today's Groaner

### Seaside Hotel

A vacationer e-mailed a seaside hotel to ask its location.

"It's only a stone's throw away from the beach," he was told.

"But how will I recognize it?" asked the man.

Back came the reply: "It's the one with all the broken windows."

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## Who Likes Stats?

### YMI CAC Clubs

#### Maritimes Region

Gloucester Bay 14, Sydney-Riverview 21, Charlottetown 16, Cumberland 28 Adult & 2 Youth = 30, Pictou County 7, Summerside 12, Fredericton Capitals 10, Epsilon 42, Marysville 15, Nashwaaksis 87, Saint John 22, Woodstock 10

**Total 284 Adults & 2 Youth**

#### Central and Western Region

Midland - 13 members  
Toronto - 6 Adult & 1 Youth Member  
Ottawa - 18 Adult & 5 Youth Members  
Owen Sound - 3 Adult Members

Winnipeg - 10

**Total 50 Adults & 6 Youth**

#### Caribbean Region

Member at Large 1 (what club?)

Kingston - 5

Mandeville - 9 Adults & 7 youth

May Pen - 8 Adults & 4 Youth.

Port-au-Prince 11 adults

Sav-la-Mar 12 Adults & 3 Youth

Barbados 7 Adults

Aruba 6 Adults

**Total 59 Adults & 14 Youth**

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## Area Club News *Maritimes Region*

### Charlottetown – Blair Cutcliffe

In a previous issue I reported that this Club has five Brother Clubs. The Yekaterinburg Y's Men's Club is the most active one re communicating with the Charlottetown Club. This communication has been going on since at least since 2005. The Russian Club submitted a story on our relationship and recently the magazine of the Ural-Siberian Region of Russia for 2020 was published. Very interesting and it would have been even more interesting if I had a command of the Russian language! The Russian Club did however forward a translation for me to better enjoy the article.

The below photo is a recent one taken of a cheque presentation made by President Blair Cutcliffe to Coach Tom Ponting and two members (Alex Forbes and Neilina Ning) of the Charlottetown Bluephins.



**Pictou County Y Service Club**

Sandy Reynolds



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**Cumberland County Y Service Club**

Nancy Trenholm

“The Cumberland Y Service Club is organizing the Spring Tune-Up Virtual 5K Run/Walk on May 7th, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9th. This event is in support of the Y and our other community projects.

We have 15-16 members who are going to register - can your club beat that? We are going to walk as a group on May 8th and have some fun with it. We are challenging all the other clubs in the Region to get their members to register and support the Cumberland Y.”

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**The Pictou County Y Service Club** presented \$500.00 Dollars to the MEGATHON Event held at the YMCA.

The presentation was made by Murray Dunbar, Area President Canada Caribbean who is also the Secretary of the Club to Amber Austin, Fitness Instructor/ Trainer of the YMCA of Pictou County. The YMCA MEGATHON is a fun, energetic and community-spirited event that raises funds to support the YMCA financial assistance program.



**The Pictou County Y Service Club** donated \$1000 to the new Child Care Centre of the YMCA of Pictou County. The donation was used to purchase much needed storage cabinets throughout the building. Pictured above are Samantha MacDonald, Child Care Director and Sandy Reynolds, President of the Club.

Another good piece of information is that the Club will again have its community garden adjacent to the Y Centre. Shown below is Y's Grant Sullivan picking some tomatoes from a few years ago.



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**Sydney Riverview Y Service Club**

Ken Jones

There had been talk that there would not be a Club Rep on the Y Board. This has not happened thank goodness as there should be good communication between the Board of the Y and the Y Service Club. I know when the Charlottetown Y's Men were located out of the local Y the first VP of the Club always sat on the Y Board.

I read in a recent bulletin where this Club will have its Annual Golf Tournament on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Dundee Resort. It will be good to get back out on the greens!



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**Summerside Y Service Club**

Thayne Jenkins

The Club will be making a contribution to the International Endowment Fund - Golden Book, in honour of long time Y's Menette and Y Service Club member Marilyn Linkletter, wife of Past International President Charles Linkletter.

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**Central and Western Region**

**Ottawa Y Service Club**

Joan Wilson

“At our March dinner meeting we had a good turnout with 14 attendees, including members from our Brother Club in May Pen, Jamaica, Murray and Carol Dunbar from NS and our club members. We were happy to welcome back Brenda Sowden and belated birthday greetings to Andy Hamilton.

Samantha Campbell-Minott of the May Pen Club gave a wonderful slide presentation of the work done by the May Pen Club this past year. Their involvement within their communities is extensive and they are looking forward to a new project, the building of Camp Hamilton. There was a short Q&A relating to costs and fund raising.”

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## Midland Y Service Club

Kevin Leonard

### MUSIC FESTIVAL

**\*\*COVID 19 UPDATE\*\***

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, the Midland Y's Men's Music Festival will *not take place in 2021*.

The committee continues the work toward a new and improved festival and are eager to launch in 2022.

Thank you for your interest. We hope you will check us out in 2022!

*(This Festival had been on the go since its inception in 1945)*

The Club had two virtual meetings on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> with speakers at both meetings.

The following photo is of Ys Men Tim Dunlop and Bob Bray presenting a \$500 cheque to Nathan Sykes of the Guest

House in Midland in support of the Out of the Cold program. They challenge all other local organizations to match the contribution.



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## Anniversaries

There are three clubs in the Maritimes Region celebrating Charter Nights this month. One is the Cumberland County Y Service Club. It was chartered as the Amherst Y's Men's Club back on April 25, 1962 with 29 members.

Austin Blandford was the first President of the club. The Club's first sponsored event was the great American singer Emanuel Mansfield with all proceeds going to the YMCA. Austin Blandford recruited 15 interested individuals to become members! Next month I will tell you more about the Charter President!

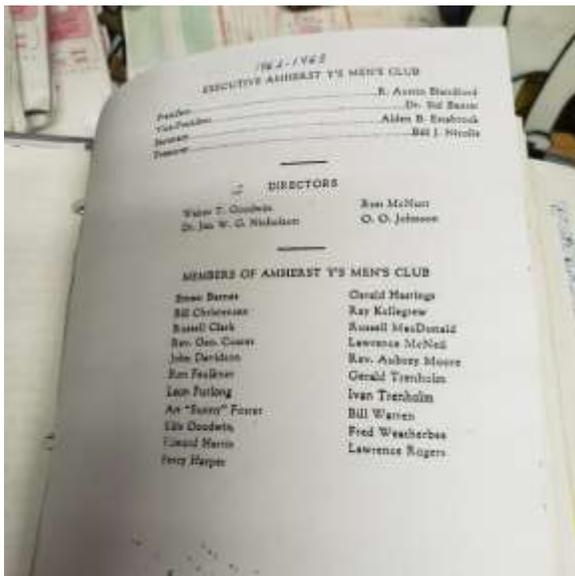
One of the Charter Members was Russ MacDonald who would go on to serve as RD for the Maritimes Region. He was also the uncle of present RD, Glenn MacDonald.

The following are photos of the Executive and the Directors taken at the Chartering of this Club.



The following article was written for the sixtieth anniversary of the Summerside Y's Men's Club and the Seventy-Fifth anniversary of the founding of Y's Men International in Toledo, Ohio, by Paul William Alexander. It was read at the celebration by Past International President Charles Linkletter.

“The Summerside Y's Men's Club was formed in 1937, sixty years ago. The leadership for this renewed beginning for same was W.A. Currie who was helped by the members of the Charlottetown Club. The Charlottetown Y's Men came up by bus one evening in February over an icy road that required pushing the bus over the hills! Our prospective members met with them for dinner in the old Queen Hotel, just below the “Journal Pioneer” on the water.



The meeting passed a motion appointing a committee of Bill Currie, Dr. Hillard Clark, and Richard (Dick) Hinton with authority to apply for a charter. The committee became our first officers: Bill Currie being President, Dr. Clark and Dick Hinton being Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively.

The other Clubs celebrating this month are the Woodstock Y Service Club which was chartered on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945 and the Summerside Y Service Club on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1937.

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## HISTORY OF THE SUMMERSIDE Y'S MEN'S CLUB

BY RICHARD S. HINTON

Our first meeting was held upstairs in the old curling club on St. Stephen Street with several officers of the YMCA present as our guests. Fifteen prospective members had signed the application for the charter. The charter, when signed, carried the names of twenty-five men in addition to those previously mentioned. A few whose names would be recognized by those gathered here would be: Harry Holman, Lindsay Willet, R.L. Mollison, Lowell Hancock, Walter Darby, George Clarke,

Carl Crockett, Dr. W.B. Howatt, Eric Woodside, Lorne MacFarlane, Cleve Whalen, and John S. Wright. Later, Lloyd Gorrill, a charter member of the original club, joined us and looked after our bookkeeping faithfully and well.

Not having a building that we could use for meetings, we held our meetings in restaurants and church halls where the ladies served excellent meals. Club activities followed the program of the YMCA along with our own projects, such as sponsoring the Boy Scout movement, coaching Little League baseball, and a summer camp at Fernwood.

After the outbreak of World War II, there was no place where we could get a meal. That was solved by the members cooking their own meals on a kerosene stove in the Boardroom of Y'S Man Lowell Hancock, the operator of a fox-feed manufacturing business next to the Bank of Commerce. The Boardroom had cartons of fox feed piled around the walls up to the ceiling. When the room became heated up, moths would come out from the boxes of fox cereal and fly around the room.

The Hancock building was destroyed by fire along with our charter that hung on the wall. There were only eleven members during the war, eight having enlisted into military service. We helped the head office of the YMCA operate a "Red Triangle Club" for entertaining Air Force personnel from the air base in St. Eleanors.

Early on, our club obtained a lease in June 1953, authorizing the building of a

bathing house on the railway wharf, with our members acting as supervisors of a swimming and water safety program. It operated there for several years until ice damaged the pilings under the building.

Later, it was moved to Linkletter Shore where, for a number of years, summer swimming and water safety programs for boys and girls were carried on. One year, a total of 437 children were transported there on our Y's Men's bus, at our expense.

Bill Currie was the main force that kept us going during the lean years of membership; then, following the war, a number of "livewires" joined the club from 1946 and onward.

In 1953, we made \$3,200.00 on our radio auction. We had 43 members along with a strong group of Y's Menettes, and it was decided to accept the offer of an abandoned radar building. The building was from the RCAF station at Mount Pleasant; and a committee, under the chairmanship of Jock Hopkirk, had the building moved to a lot we had purchased on Green Street. Its name became "the Y Centre". It forms the front of today's YMCA building. The cost of moving and renovations was \$7,000.00, of which the non-active YMCA contributed the proceeds of the funds received from the sale of the bonds.

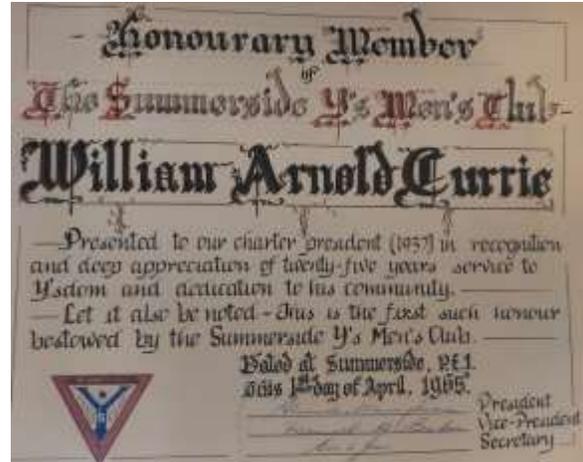
The Mount Pleasant building was not large enough for our programs so the first extension was added. The Y's Menettes supervised and provided the funds for a kitchen and furnished the

lounge, the drapes, tables, and chairs for the hall. Later, they enlarged the kitchen at a cost of about \$800.00. Without their help, this would not have come about; and we salute them for their moral and financial support and their enthusiasm. They have been feeding us every Thursday night meeting ever since!

At the same time, the basement of the extension was improved for the benefit of our Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs, and Brownies. Most of the leadership of our programs, including Hi-Y, Co-Ed, Phiat, and Phalanx, films at the Prince County Hospital, the nativity scene, PCH capital drive, swimming and camping, Little League baseball, etc., came from within our own ranks.

This ends the first installment, covering some of the “ups and downs” of the Summerside Y’s Men’s Club for the first 20 years!”

The following is a copy of the Honourary Member Certificate given to W (Bill) A. Currie, the Club's Charter President, on April 1, 1967. It is noted on the certificate that this was the first time the Club bestowed an Honourary Member Status. You will notice that the Club President was Alex Campbell. The next year, he was elected Premier of Prince Edward Island!



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## 5 Reasons To Join A Service Club



Here are 5 good reasons why you should think about joining a local service club:

- 1 Networking.** Although your primary motivation for joining shouldn't be selfish, you can discover a group of people who know and share your values.
- 2 Building a resume.** Potential employers like to see people involved in more than just work. It shows initiative and a willingness to expand your professional relationships and strengthen your leadership skills.
- 3 Making new friends.** There's something about seeing each other

every week over supper, and working alongside each other that builds lasting relationships.

**4 It just feels good.** A service club is involved in many community service projects. Giving back to your community is a very rewarding feeling!

**5 It's fun.** Plain & simple!  
*(I cribbed this from the Sydney Riverview Y Service Club Bulletin)*

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### 1929 Y's Men in Canada

Since the founding of the International Association of Y's Men in 1922 at the first International Convention, there have been Y's Men Clubs in Canada. By 1929, the momentum for more clubs was gaining and several events occurred during that year. First there was a Dramatic Recital by a Captain W.G. Martin as a fundraiser for the Windsor (Ontario) Club in January. Additionally, St. John (NB) held the first of several Comic Operas as a fundraiser. The Winnipeg (Manitoba) club was chartered as well as the Toronto-West End Club. The election of District Officers was held in March. It should be noted that District Governors were the main officers beyond the club (this was before the establishment of Regions). The International Convention was held in Toronto from 19 to 22 August 1929 at the Royal York Hotel. There were listed 97 official delegates (persons who would vote during the Convention) and a total of 365 people in attendance. There was one club from Monterey, Mexico that traveled to attend the meeting (5 people). During the

meeting, it was announced that there were new clubs in other Countries too to include in China, Japan, Australia, and Europe. This Convention was special since it was the very first time that the Convention was held outside of the United States. During the Convention, the nomination process and election was held for the International Executive Officers and the very first Canadian was elected to the position of International President, Newton W. Thompson. On the final day of the Convention, the induction of officers was conducted. This is a proud moment indeed in the history of Y'sdom. The photo of this convention was found in an Antique Shop by a cousin of PIP Joan Wilson. It is now in the Archives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



*(Thanks to PAP Debbie Redmond (USA)*

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### ASF News

The Alexander Scholarship Fund, otherwise known as ASF, was named after the founder of the Y's Men Movement, Judge Paul William Alexander. The programme was called the Paul William Alexander Scholarship

Fund (PWASF) until 1982 when the name was changed to Alexander Scholarship Fund. ASF started in 1954, at the Y's Men's International Convention in Lansing, Michigan. Money had been collected to have a famous painter do a portrait of Judge Paul. He felt it was a waste, but agreed to sit for a renowned photographer at a lesser cost. Left-over monies amounting to about US\$ 900 started this programme of Y's Men International.

The purpose of the ASF is to encourage and promote the recruitment of young people for the YMCA profession and to assist YMCA staff in securing post-secondary training/education related to their YMCA profession. The ASF will also consider applications from those who volunteer with the YMCA and/or Y's Men/Y Service Clubs. Applications will be accepted from staff of selected YMCAs located in Canada and the Caribbean and from Club volunteers who are intent on an education that will prepare them for leadership and/or a profession within the Y Service Club/YMCA family.

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### A New Club?



“We are looking at starting up a new club in the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph area in Ontario as we have a very keen individual who is willing to organize a new club. He was the former General Secretary of the Lahore YMCA in Pakistan and has moved to the Cambridge area. We have had two ZOOM meetings so far to get details organized and hopefully I'll be able to report the start up of the new club soon!”  
*(Thanks to RD Rob Heming)*



**A person's most beautiful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others.**

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### To Get You In The Mood!

The following photo is of Waikiki Beach. Perhaps you will pack you swim suit and suntan lotion when you attend the **International Convention** next year and enjoy the beauty of this part of the world. Remember the dates....August 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



Y's

## Menettes Corner

I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Easter weekend with your families and friends (as much as Covid allowed). We had a houseful for the weekend with lots of mayhem and way too much chocolate!

As our Y's Menettes year is coming to an end I want to remind all clubs that even though clubs didn't meet much in the past year it is still important to submit an annual report. Please follow the report form as much as possible. I

will be completing a Regional Directors Report once I receive club reports.

The only club that is meeting regularly is the Pictou County Club. We feel very fortunate that we are still able to meet. Under the direction of Nancy Langille, we have been very busy putting together our 2020-2021 scrapbook. Nancy is our club photographer and never misses a chance to take a picture!

A big shout out to Jean (Layton) DeMont. Jean has been a valued member of the Pictou County Club for several years. Due to health issues, she had to take a step back and on March 23, 2021, the club honored her by presenting her with a Life Member Certificate. We thank her for her service and wish her all the best.



Stay safe everyone, get your vaccines and hopefully we will be able to meet again in the near future.

*Rosemary*

Respectfully, Rosemary Gillis-Bowers,  
RD/AD

## Editor's Comments

Well, another month is history. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all those who contributed to this issue. There was plenty to report on this month! I realize there was much history in this issue, but I trust you enjoyed reading these articles. Talk with you next month.

Y'sly

*Bill*

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