



Winter 2011

BULLETIN

international
International Programs  YMCA Canada East

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE YMCA OF HAITI VISITS MONCTON AND FREDERICTON

At the initiative of the Moncton YMCA, Gwénaél Apollon (General Secretary of the YMCA of Haiti) visited New Brunswick during Peace Week. He met with students at the Université de Moncton and at Renaissance College in Fredericton. He also spoke at the Peace Medallion presentations in those two cities.



After his presentations, he was often asked whether he and the people of Haiti were as cynical as the media in the West have encouraged the public to be about the situation in that country. In reply, he said that the people of Haiti could not afford to be cynical. When one is busy trying to feed oneself and one's family, making sure one has appropriate sanitary facilities, making sure one has a place to sleep at night, all one has is hope – because those needs keep one motivated. Cynicism is a luxury that only those who have already met their basic needs can afford to take time for. Hope is, M. Apollon said, what drives the people of Haiti.

M. Apollon expressed admiration for the concept behind the Peace Medallion, which recognizes that it is because ordinary people do ordinary good things that conditions in the world improve. And it is those remarkable efforts that the medallion celebrates and those people which the YMCA seeks to encourage. It is people such as these in Haiti as well as Canada who create hope for the cynical and indifferent and the hopeful alike. And so M. Apollon was presented with a Peace Medallion to take back to Haiti with the hopes that he will be able to institute the award annually in his country.

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Atlantic Peacemakers



Cumberland County:
Kevin Mapplebeck receives the
2010 Peace Medallions for his work with youth and
the restorative justice program



Johnny Evans was the
2010 Peace Medallion recipient in Fredericton



Halifax CEO Bette Watson-Borg (left) and Board
Chair, Mary Ellen Gurnham (right) with Peace
Medallion recipients Betty Peterson and Dolly
Williams.



Major Garfield Green accepted the Peace Medal-
lion at the Humber Valley YMCA on behalf of the
2nd Battalion of the Royal Newfoundland Regi-
ment. He is shown with the winner of the YMCA's
Peace Week Speak Off, Jenna Yetman of Immacu-
late Heart of Mary School.

Atlantic Peacemakers



Moncton:
Gwénaél Apollon of the YMCA of Haiti in front beside Emily Miller. Standing in back: Maurice Henri, Robert Thibault, and Breanna Saulnier.



Jason Brown, President & CEO, YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon; Peace Maker, Holly White; and Sharon Sparkes, Board Chair.



The Saint John YMCA-YWCA's first Youth Recipient, Heather Atchison, and Peace Medallion recipient, Juanita Black.



Gloria Goodwin, past president of the Yarmouth YMCA's board of directors, presents the 2010 Peace Medallion to Shirley Hubbard..

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



Interns Meredith Ferris (left) and Shelley Jones (right) with Fredericton YMCA's International Committee chairperson, Silke Brabander.



The YMCA of Prince Edward Island awarded the 2010 Peace Medallion to "Developing World Partnerships" an international aid agency and registered Canadian charity based in Summerside.

YMCA Peace Week overlaps the White Ribbon Campaign—a 16 day focus period which runs from November 25th, the UN Day for the Eradication of Violence Against women, through December 6, which is the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, and Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Ending Violence Against Women. During this period, men and women are encouraged to wear a white ribbon to represent their commitment to putting an end to sexual violence.

Through the efforts of two Social Work interns from Saint Thomas University, Meredith Ferris and Shelley Jones, the YMCA of Fredericton's international committee brought the white ribbon campaign to that city and hopes to continue it as part of their annual Peace Week activities.



The agency's board members pictured include: Barry Copeland, Jane Copeland, Dale Linkletter, Merton Smith, John Moore, Gerald Bryanton, Deborah Bryanton, and Albert Stairs. Presenting the award are Sandy Arsenault (CEO) and Ross Bowie of the Y's board of directors.