

Mabel DeWare Scholarship Fund



Left to Right: CEO Zane Korytko & Mabel Deware

While Mabel may be best known for her involvement in curling and politics, she has left an indelible mark on the community through her work at the YMCA of Greater Moncton.

For more than seven decades, Mabel has been involved in helping the local Y nurture the potential of individuals, promote healthy living and foster social responsibility.

“I first walked into the YMCA when it was on Main Street in Moncton, at the corner of Main and Alma, when I was about 14 years old,” says Mabel. “That was 1940 and the Y was *the* place to go.”

In addition to taking part in clubs like Hi-Y, Teen-ettes and Hi-ettes, there were many other activities for youth to enjoy at the YMCA since the building contained a bowling alley, a gym and a pool. Mabel especially liked playing basketball and attending the Y dances.

At one of those dances, Mabel met Ralph, the man who would eventually become her husband.

Prior to their marriage in 1945, Mabel learned that the Y was looking for staff to work as instructors for various programs. She offered to help with basketball.

“Nobody else had applied so said asked if I could handle the whole program, gym, swimming, tiny tots, intermediates, basketball,” she said. “I said I’d try. They hired me and I went to work after we were married and I worked all that year. I spent all my life at the Y that year!”

In addition to her work at the Y, Mabel was also on the local Y’s Ladies’ Auxiliary and its Board of Directors. As well, she was Past President of the YWCA, the Beaver Curling Club and the Canadian Ladies’ Curling Association. She also served on the boards of the Moncton Gyrettes, the Friends of the Moncton Hospital and the Moncton school board. And Mabel was also part of the United Way’s Speakers’ Bureau for 20 years. Most recently, she served as honorary chair of celebrations marking the YMCA of Greater Moncton’s 150th anniversary in 2020.

Despite her active involvement in the Y and other community activities, Mabel (and her husband) raised a family of four children – daughter, Joanne, and sons Kim, Peter and Michael. All of the couple’s brood took part in various Y programs, including one called Leader Corps and Hi-Y.

“The children learned to be leaders,” she said. “The (Leader Corps) taught all the (Y) programs. They helped with the gym. They helped with the swim. They helped in the locker rooms. They even operated the front desk. It just seemed to be their life.”

Mabel believed that service to others was not only part of the YMCA’s mission, but also a part of her and her family’s lives. Each year the scholarship bearing her name will help to provide an opportunity for an aspiring YMCA leader to further their education.

Donations can be made to the Mabel Deware Scholarship Fund, through the Greater Moncton YMCA Foundation by visiting [ymcamoncton.ca/Donate/YMCA Foundation](http://ymcamoncton.ca/Donate/YMCA_Foundation).