



For Immediate Release
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Teen wins photo contest of Peterborough's historic YMCA ***Competition judges award first prize to future architecture student***

An 18-year-old student has taken first prize in a contest to photograph of Peterborough's historic downtown YMCA building.

The competition to take pictures of the building before it is converted into lofts and retail space was sponsored by project developer Atria Development. Fourteen photographers, who were given access to the YMCA building in August, submitted 10 photos each to the competition. Patrick Stephen, the youngest in the group, was the clear winner, according to the panel of judges, who rated the submissions without knowing who the photographers were.

Says contest judge Robert Boudreau, director of Peterborough's Spark Photography Festival, "Patrick's unique use of light and shadow to convey emotion separated these images from all other contestants."

His restrained use of digital editing also pleased Boudreau.

Stephen, who grew up and lives in the small town of Millbrook, south of Peterborough, is interested in historic buildings and appreciates how Atria will combine old and new in its plans to convert the YMCA building into lofts and retail space.

"This building has a lot of character especially in the attic area where I ended up spending most of my time," says Stephen. "With the turret, it's just a beautiful view of the old wood, of the architecture."

"It was wonderful to see what the photographers were attracted to in the building," says Hans Jain, Atria's president. "It reinforces our commitment to retain and enhance some elements of the building's interior."

Atria plans to exhibit the photos at the Peterborough YMCA building on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Following this show, the photos will be on display in Offices That Work! On George St., next door to the Y.

Atria would like to thank contest co-sponsors, the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area and Offices That Work.

Photo Competition Winners and Prizes:

Six photographers will take home prizes:

First: Patrick Stephen, student, who has pursued his interest in photography for only 2½ years. His company is [Stephen Digital](#). Click [here](#) for his personal photo website

Second: Todd Durhan, Kitchener resident, owner of [TJ Durnan Photography](#), which does wedding photography. He is the grandson-in-law of the man who painted cartoons in the YMCA.

Third: Robin Pereira, Oshawa resident, amateur photographer, specializing in [architecture](#).

Honorable Mentions:

Craig Bogden, resident of Baltimore, near Cobourg, owner of [Craig Bogden Photography](#).

Adam Guppy, Peterborough resident, full-time paramedic and aspiring professional [photographer](#).

James Hackland, professional [photographer](#) in Toronto, graduate of Sheridan College. Prizes combine cash and gift certificates from the Peterborough BIA with total values of \$1,000 (first); \$500 (second); \$250 (third) and \$150 each for three honorable mentions.

For contest details, please click [here](#).

About the Peterborough Family YMCA:

Built in the 1890s, Peterborough's YMCA is an impressive designated heritage structure, serving as a visual anchor in the downtown streetscape. The red brick three-and-a-half storey building, at George and Murray Sts., has the arched details of Victorian Romanesque Revival, which also characterize the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park.

The Y went through a number of expansions over the years, each phase designed by notable Canadian architects. These additions, built using different techniques, pose a challenge for the conversion process.

"Each structural system – wood, concrete or steel – requires a different treatment to bring the building up to current standards," Jain says. "It will be a challenge making all of the different sections feel like one building."

Fortunately, Atria has experience converting all of these building types to new uses.

YMCA Conversion:

The transformation of the Peterborough Family YMCA into some 120 apartments and ground-level retail starts later this year. The project, estimated at \$25 million, will take about two years to complete.

Architectural details and features, such as the historic entrance, the 1896 brick façade, fireplaces and original swimming pool will be restored and preserved.

The project, to be called Y Lofts At Confederation Square, will have condominium status, but the apartments will initially be rented.

About Atria Development:

The company is a leader in the challenging field of conversion projects. The 40-year-old family business has helped transform the neighbourhood around Dundas St. E. and Carlaw Ave., creating unique live-work spaces and preserving some of Toronto's long-neglected but architecturally interesting factory buildings.

Among its completed projects are the 104-unit i-Zone liveworklofts and the 153-unit Garment Factory Lofts, both in Toronto's Leslieville. Atria has also converted a former office building in downtown Oshawa into the Parkwood Residences, a 120-suite condominium. The company is currently working on additional i-Zone liveworklofts; a 239-unit rental apartment and retail complex in downtown Oshawa; and three luxury eco-homes in North York. Other developments are on the drawing board.

For more information:

- Click [here](#) to visit the company's website.
- Click [here](#) to see more winning photos.
- For interviews and more information: Ellen Moorhouse, 416-574-4483; or email: e_moorhouse@sympatico.ca