SAULT STE. MARIE YMCA TIMELINE

1900 – December 17th
The first organized meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church with Rev. W.A. Duncan chairing the meeting

1901 – January 1st The YMCA starts with Boarding Rooms
On New Year's Day, the first public meeting was held, at this meeting the first fund raising began, generating $85 to equip the boarding rooms.

1901 - April
By this time the first rooms were rented out in a building on the south side of Queen Street near Spring Street.

1908 – October 8
The first membership campaign was launched attracting 84 members.

1911 – April 26
The Association purchased two pieces of property on March Street, where the Soo Centre is located today.

1912 – February 12
A campaign was launched to raise $50 000 for the construction of the new building on March Street. The goal was reached a record four days later. Construction began in May.

1913 - October 15
The newly built YMCA was opened.

1914 – November 12
On this day a resolution was passed to allow women to use the facilities for the first time. At this time women were given very limited use of the facilities, yet within a year, the ladies were allowed to use the facilities for the entire day.

1920 – January 31
Due to financial difficulties the March Street building was leased to Algoma Steel Corporation, who promptly changed the name to the Steel Plant Club. This lasted for three years at which time A.S.C. did not renew their lease.

1923 – May
As financial difficulties persisted, the Association offered the building for sale to the city for the cost of the mortgage indebtedness. City Council denied the offer because they were not in a good position to make the acquisition.

1924 – October 20
Day Camping began at Camp Pauwating, a piece of property purchased at Island Lake. Overnight stays quickly followed.

1940's
Just after World War II, YMCA affiliated clubs began to emerge. Also at this time Teen Dances commenced as well as numerous fashion shows, teas and other social activities.

1963 – June 11
The McNabb property was acquired from the city for $35 000, with the construction of the present site beginning one year later.

1965
The McNabb Street location opened September 18, 1965

1969 – June 20
The Rotary YMCA Tennis and Aquatic Club better known as RYTAC was opened through joint efforts of the Sault Ste. Marie YMCA and Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie.

1973 – August
Additions were made to the McNabb Street building to provide for squash courts, locker rooms and various other uses.

1981 – August 18
More renovations were made these to the tune of $170 00 for the indoor track, fitness centre, racquet courts and other improvements.

1980's
The eighties saw new programs within the YMCA to meet the community changing needs. These included swimming for the disabled, Daycare and Alcoholics Anonymous. Also during this time, under the guidance of Gord Saunders, the Job Generation and Youth Employment Service Programs were established to help change Sault Ste. Marie's unemployment problems.

1991 – April
Official opening of the Y's newest addition – William M Hogg Family Centre. Construction costs were 1/2 Million dollars for the new home for Gymnastics and Pre-school Programs.

2003 – June
The YMCA morphs once again to meet the changing needs of its Members & the Community. Relocating the gymnastics and preschool area downstairs and moving the fitness centre upstairs. The YMCA also created a dedicated aerobics studio, freeing up much needed gym space for additional programs and open gym times.

2007/08
Child care services and recreation programs are expanded into local elementary school locations. A partnership is formed between the YMCA and Sault College; Day Camp programs are expanded to include the facilities at Sault College. A significant amount of exercise equipment is purchased.

2010
Extensive 3-million dollar renovations begin June 2010; upgrade the current facility utilizing the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) funding program.