



## BACKGROUND

### Bill Marsh

Bill Marsh is a visionary of the Y, having both volunteered with programs and contributed to the development of the organization.

Mr. Marsh first came to the Y family in 1960, when he taught swimming and lifesaving at the old “Plant Bath” pool at what was then the West Ottawa YMCA.

By day, Mr. Marsh was an engineer and physicist at the former Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, where he led the metal lab and was a national expert on metal stress and fatigue.

In addition to his busy, full-time job, Bill came to the Y every night of the week and on weekends as volunteer Director of Aquatics at the Carlingwood Y. During that time he led the first National Lifeguard Certification course ever taught in Ottawa. Once the aquatics program was fully staffed, Bill moved on to the Y’s Metro Central branch, where he coordinated all lifesaving courses and developed an operating guide for all lifesaving courses offered by the YMCA across Canada.

Bill Marsh was a key member of our Y’s “Sustaining Membership Campaign” during the 1970s, responsible for keeping donor records using a Radio Shack Level I/Model I computer at the time to track the fundraising results. Some of Bill’s evenings at home were spent writing programs so that the computer could perform database searches.

Bill Marsh has been a dear, lifelong friend of our Y. His commitment and contribution have been nothing short of inspiring. Bill has always embodied the Y values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and inclusiveness.

Despite his amazing volunteer efforts over so many years, Bill has never attended a Y recognition event until today.