



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**From:** Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services  
**Date:** 2020-06-25  
**Report:** 2020-05  
**Subject:** West Elgin Pool Update

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### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services for information purposes; and

That West Elgin Council hereby agrees to reduce pool fees at \$2.00 per person for Open Swim and \$5.00 per family due to shortened swim times; and

That West Elgin Council hereby authorizes staff to open the West Elgin Pool based on the procedures outlined in this report, and after all Southwest Public Health inspection conditions have been met.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a status update on the West Elgin Pool.

### **Background:**

As part of the Provincial Government's re-opening plan, splash pads and pools can now be open to the public. Staff have been working diligently to prepare both the facility, and an operation plan, that will allow our pool to open safely for both guards and the public.

Pool – As you are aware, the new sand filters were installed at the pool in May. The contractor (Hollandia Pools) then returned in early June to provide spring start up and commission the new filters. The system is functioning well and there will be a huge improvement in both filtration and energy consumption over the previous configuration. Recreation staff have been working at the pool doing spring maintenance, cleaning and balancing the water. Short of the mandatory inspection by SWPH, the facility is ready to be open for swimmers.

Staff – We have been communicating with lifeguard applicants throughout the spring, but until recently, we have not been able to provide and guarantees of summer employment. After the Ford government announced stage 2 guidelines, all applicants were contacted again to find out who was still available should the decision be made to open. Two had found other work and one was not able to complete the required courses due to COVID-19 (to be discussed later). A job advertisement was put out and we have received 3 qualified candidates to date. This will give us 6 fulltime guards which should have no issues handling the draft schedule we are preparing.

Programming – After reviewing all pertinent information from key stakeholders such as Red Cross and SWPH, we feel a gradual approach to re-opening is paramount. Programs such as Aqua-fit, Lane Swims and Family/Adult/Open Swims will be rolled out to start. Social distancing can be more easily regulated through marked positioning and reduced numbers. Swimming lessons will not be offered at this time due to the possible need for physical contact between teacher and student(s). Red Cross is currently exploring options for altering curriculum which could make lessons possible, however no further direction has been provided. With things changing on a daily basis, this will need to be dealt with at a later time, and will depend largely on staff comfort levels and sufficient scheduling time available.

COVID-19 – As with all municipal facilities, we have worked hard to consider all scenarios and put a plan in place to mitigate any possible safety risk to our staff or the public. A broad overview of items in this plan include;

- Guards will work in dedicated teams throughout the season and be provided all necessary PPE for cleaning and cash handling purposes.
- Bather load will be reduced to a maximum of 25 persons to allow for social distancing
- Times for Family/Adult/Open swims will be limited to 1 hour increments to provide opportunity for as many people to enjoy as possible.
- Family change room/washroom will not be open to allow for dedicated use by staff only
- Minimum ½-hour intervals between programs to allow swimmers to vacate change rooms and cleaning of all high touch surfaces to be performed.
- Swimmers waiting to enter for the next program will be required to line up outside at 2m intervals which will be marked.
- Once the door is opened, swimmers will enter the reception area one at a time and use hand sanitizer (provided) while verbally completing a COVID-19 screening form. This information will be recorded by a staff member located in the office (behind a glass window). Once the screening has been completed and payment received, the bather may enter the facility, quickly change and continue on deck. **All swimmers are encouraged to arrive with suit on to eliminate the need for time spent in the change room area.**
- A more thorough disinfecting of change rooms/washrooms will take place twice daily, as per SWPH guidelines.
- Any child who is not accompanied by an adult may be asked to complete a swim test by the guard on duty, therefore limiting the possibility of contact due to rescue efforts.

Training will be held with all pool staff pertaining to this action plan and proper cleaning requirements. Through daily communication with staff, this plan may be altered or expanded to meet the needs of our lifeguards and address any concerns from the public.

Certification – The final piece necessary before opening is ensuring our guards have the proper certifications in place to fulfill their roles at the pool. Due to COVID-19, re-certifications that were scheduled for early spring were not able to be completed. We are currently working closely with SWPH inspectors to determine if extensions could be granted for those guards who find themselves in this situation. I have also spoken to Red Cross about the possibility of having an examiner provide the re-certs in our pool. I hope to have more information available as a verbal update to this report on Council day.

Schedule – I cannot provide a firm opening date at this time due to our certification/inspection process. A draft program schedule will be forwarded to you in the coming days, but this may need

to be altered depending on the above-mentioned certification issues. If possible, we plan on being open 8am – 9pm, Monday through Sunday, to provide as much access to the pool as possible.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	West Elgin Pool Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 23, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott