

Aquatic Sport Council – Ontario Communication Bulletin - January 2010

The Aquatic Sport Council is pleased to announce the official launch of its website, built to provide a single source of information for sporting groups, pool administrators and governments about the facility needs for aquatic sport training and competition.

www.aquaticsport.ca

Key products are now available on the website. Under the heading of **Facility Information** stakeholders will find facility standards, to be used to classify existing pools and as source of information about pool and related facility designs, the accommodation of sport with other aquatic activities and the opportunities for partnerships. The standards are described for two groups of pools; those that can be used for provincial and national level training and competition and those that support local and regional developmental programs.

Also under **Facility Information** we have provided general descriptions of facility needs for sport and provided designs for five different configurations. Other tools and templates will be coming soon. The Aquatic Sport Council engaged an expert panel of programmers, architects and engineers to inform these products.

A second deliverable that we would like to draw your attention to is the pool finder tool under **Aquatic Sport**. As a first step to mapping the needs for new facilities in Ontario, this guide is designed to list and map all of the pools used for aquatic sport training and competition in the province.

Coming Soon to www.aquaticsport.ca

In the near future the Aquatic Sport Council will post templates and examples for determining the operation costs and revenue estimates of programming in various pool scenarios. Once again, we will look forward to ongoing feedback and suggestions for improvement.

In November 2009 the Aquatic Sport Council undertook a review and validation of its work plan and funding needs for the 2010\2011 years. A summary of the work completed to date, the plans for the winter of 2010 and the remaining tasks to be built into a funding request for 2010/2011 is attached. Most important to that work is a clear vision of what the focus of the Aquatic Sport Council will be, moving beyond 2011.



A Vision for Aquatic Sport

In order to ensure that the Aquatic Sport Council is designed to meet the needs of its community, the Council invited key stakeholders to participate in the development of a vision and mission for aquatic sports in Ontario. The Aquatic Sport Council would like to thank the contributors for bringing their candid and informed voice to this process.

The Aquatic Sport Council has adopted the following statements to guide the work of the Aquatic Sport Council moving forward.

VISION

Making Ontario a global leader in aquatic sport.

MISSION

By 2015 Ontario will be a recognized leader in aquatic sport because of:

- Sustained collaboration among stakeholders and communities
- Creation of a compelling picture of the multiple benefits of Aquatic sports
- Development and dissemination of resources, research and expertise related to aquatic facilities

And as a result,

- Communities value and support Aquatic sports;
- Ontarians of all ages, abilities, and aspirations participate in Aquatic sports through the continuum of sport for life;
- There is an optimal mix of facilities accessible for training and competition.



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Optimization of Facility Development and Use

1. Develop and make available tools which support an evidence-based, integrated decision-making process for the building and ongoing operation of stand-alone aquatic facilities and aquatic venues in multi-sport facilities.
2. Establish a clearinghouse of engineering and design standards, best of class pool designs, and provincial facilities inventory that becomes the go-to resource in Ontario.
3. Inform decisions that affect the number, location, design and use of sport-friendly pool facilities.

Community Valuing of Aquatic Sports

1. Enable aquatic stakeholders to have an objective expert voice.
2. Profile data and research that explains the life, social, and health benefits of participation in aquatics and the unique advantages of aquatic sports.
3. Enhance the visibility of the social impact and life benefits of aquatic sports as a lifestyle.



Background

The goal of the Council is to become the single source of information for sporting groups, pool administrators and governments about the facility needs for aquatic sport training and competition; uses of existing pools, the standards for new pools, and the need for pools now and in the future. It is our intent that stakeholders will have a place to go for information about pool and related facility designs, the accommodation of sport with other aquatic activities and the opportunities for partnerships.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded a grant to the Aquatic Federation of Canada (AFC) in December 2007, for the purpose of building knowledge and capacity among Ontario's aquatic sport organizations and users, in the expansion and improvement of aquatic sport facilities. The resulting project is best known as the Aquatic Sport Infrastructure Project (Project).

The Project was launched by a Steering Group, formed by the AFC. This group meets monthly to provide leadership and guidance in the completion of the work. The Steering Group has hired a Project Manager, Heather Johnston. Heather supports the work of the Steering Group, is also actively gathering resource material and links that can be available to users.

Early in its work, the Steering Group laid the foundation for stakeholder engagement and sustainability, through the formation of the Aquatic Sport Council (Council). The Council's membership includes representatives from the four provincial aquatic sport organizations, Lifesaving Sport and Parks, and Recreation Ontario. This group works hand in hand with the Steering Group to provide the overall governance and leadership to the Project.

The work of the Aquatic Sport Council has been supported by the following stakeholder groups:

Vision Workshop Group:

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