

Aquatics Working Group Update

NEW POOL PERMIT POLICY \$50/HOUR

May 28, 2009

AWG has advanced a new clear, uniform policy on TDSB community pool permits: **\$50/hour, for any pool, by any type of group in the community**. The TDSB Board adopted this policy at its May 27th meeting effective for July 1st, 2009 and pending summer permits to be issued shortly thereafter.

Pool permits = Community Use and Community Use = Pool Viability

Community use is critical to the viability of the 19 probationary pools. Everyone in the Toronto aquatic community needs to submit their pool permit applications for the summer of 2009 and into 2010. On each permit application, applicant groups need to indicate if they want to use the pool for a longer term. All applicants need to go as far as they can as to the hours of use. Making permit applications is risk free. PLEASE send applications to the TDSB permit department ASAP (and send a copy of your application, including the hours you are requesting, to AWG – see contact info below). AWG is meeting with the TDSB permit department to resolve any issues and potential conflicts.

While caretaking costs remain a cost issue for weekend and early hour permit holders, PLEASE start to permit these hours, AWG is working with TDSB to find a way to lower these costs.

Please network in the GTA aquatics community (out of town swim clubs that want to run swim meets, master programs, parent councils) and let them know it is time to put in permit applications if they want the pools to remain open.

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Background – Who is the Aquatics Working Group?

In the spring of 2008 Toronto Sports Council hosted an Aquatic Summit to assist David Crombie in his work to develop a long-term sustainable funding solution to keep 39 Toronto community pools located in Toronto District School Board properties, open. The Aquatics Working Group (AWG), which is made up of members of the Toronto community and aquatics stakeholders, is working together for long-term sustainable funding for these community assets.

In the fall of 2008, volunteer pool captains and expert consultants (Altus Group and Superior Pools) collected data on each pool using a pool template, AWG assessed this data on each pool for viability to develop pool specific and system wide strategies.

At its April 24, 2009 meeting, having received a generous commitment from the Ontario Government for capital funding to renovate the pools, the TDSB approved AWG's report. While the ongoing operation of 13 pools is secure, AWG continues to work to the create strategies to keep another 19 open past June 2009.