



# STAFF REPORT

<b>REPORT #:</b>	PRC2013-07
<b>DATE:</b>	February 11 2013
<b>SUBMITTED TO:</b>	Mayor & Council
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Marta Proctor, Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Centennial Pool - Update

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## 1. RECOMMENDATION:

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*THAT* Council receive the information on the enhancements to the existing Centennial Pool as requested by the Collingwood Clippers Swim Club as well as receive the proposed pool operating model.

*AND FURTHER* That Council direct staff to proceed with the recommended enhancements to provide for a premier competitive pool.

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## 2. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND:

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### **Competitive Pool Enhancements:**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Collingwood Clipper Swim Club made a deputation to Council presenting an overview of their club, current activities and to express their interest in providing expanded competitive programs in the new year round Centennial Pool. The Clipper presentation also informed Council of a donation that is being offered to the Club from a source who wishes to remain anonymous. The commitment of this donation is contingent upon the Town implementing enhanced upgrades to the existing 25 metre pool. Once these enhancements are made to the facility, and all of the accessories are put into place, the Centennial Pool will be the premier competitive pool in the region.

Upon extensive consultation with Clipper representatives, BLT retained a professional pool consultant to do an analysis of the existing pool, make recommendations and prepared detailed tender documents. The consultants recommended the following upgrades:

- Pool tank adjustments to ensure the pool meets Swim Canada and FINA regulations
- Automatic timing system including the supply and installation of;
  - New large scoreboard on north wall

- New touch pads synchronized with the timing system
- New timing system and console
- New pace clock
- New plug in deck plates, cords, wiring, installation, etc.
- New storage system
- Install a continuous step up bulk head with starter blocks and touch pads for each lane
- Install a wide perimeter stainless steel gutter system to absorb waves, which will require changes to water levels and the skimmer system
- Adjustments to the depth of the swallow-end to maintain current depth for the safety of young swimmers
- A new seamless rubberized floor membrane will be installed over the entire pool deck (except below the bleachers) and drain into the new gutter system
- All built-in elements are required by code to be grounded and tied in to the main grounding system
- New GFI wiring to all new outlets has been provided

Public tenders were received and evaluated by BLT. Following their review BLT recommended the lowest bid of \$583,000 be accepted.

Subject to Council's approval of additional expenses for the proposed upgrades, the anonymous donor would graciously provide the Town, on behalf of the Clippers, with a \$150,000 donation to be received in two payments over a three year period. The Town will receive an initial payment of \$100,000 in 2013 and the remaining \$50,000 in 2015. The Clippers have also committed to donate \$28,000 in 2013. The donations would be applied toward the necessary equipment for competitive swim programming such as a new timing system, starting blocks, lane ropes, and various pieces of equipment which have been included in the tender amount. With the combined contributions from the Donor and the Clippers, the total cost of the upgrades to the Town of Collingwood would be \$405,000.

BLT and Town Staff recognize that undertaking this investment during the construction would be the most cost effective and efficient. If these enhancements are considered in the future or in phases, it will require the closure of the facility, increased costs and impact on programming. In addition, the proposed upgrades and enhancements would not only benefit the competitive swim programs but other uses such as water polo, synchronized swimming, aqua-fit and all recreational programs in general.

#### **Pool Operating Model:**

Various operating models can be considered for the future of Centennial Pool. Initial discussions have been held between the YMCA and Town of Collingwood to explore the following options:

- a) YMCA operating the full facility, or
- b) The Town contract the YMCA to operate all Learn to Swim lessons and Lifesaving Society certification programs.

Through the discussions, swim lesson projections were developed and shared. Based on the available information, the YMCA drafted a proposal to operate all swim lesson programs. The YMCA also responded to the request for operation of the full facility and indicated that, at this time, it is difficult to

project a firm operating budget, as all the facility components have not yet been finalized. However, the YMCA did suggest that they would anticipate the cost to fall in the range of \$250,000 - \$350,000.

After reviewing the proposed options, it was mutually recognized that current discussions with respect to the operation of the pool facility may be premature at this time. Staff from both organizations agreed that the Town is likely in a better position to operate the facility during the first year during which time costs and efficiencies can be better evaluated.

PRC has prepared a responsible business plan for the operation of the pool which includes relocating existing staff resources to create internal efficiencies in operating the new facility that will be reviewed during the budget deliberations.

Additionally, YMCA and Town staff will remain committed to work cooperatively to ensure that;

- The broadest range of opportunities are available to the community in the most cost effective manner
- Programs are scheduled in a complimentary manner in an attempt to avoid duplication and perceived competition;
- Where possible explore joint training initiatives to expand access to qualified staff; and
- Continue to explore future operational models once a better understanding of the impact and opportunities of both facilities are better established.

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### **3. DISCUSSION:**

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The benefits of building sport friendly pools are well documented. In most municipalities approximately half of all public registrations are for aquatic programs. Aquatics provide a wide range of opportunities from recreational learn to swim programs all the way to specialized and competitive swim teams. By building a sport friendly pool and hosting competitive programs, it greatly increases the opportunities for swimmer development and building social capital. Competitive swimming creates connections through trusting networks, and common values enforce positive standards for youth and provide them access to mentors, role models, educational sponsors and job contacts.

As provided in the Collingwood Clippers presentation on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

- The Centennial Pool is the ONLY Ontario sanctioned 25 meter six-lane Pool for Competition Meets in the entire SGB region. Swimmers have achieved both Provincial and National times in this pool. The Town has ensured that our new Indoor Centennial Pool can host meets by accommodating for necessary bleacher seating for 250 and appropriate pool decking as per Swim Ontario standards.
- The Wasaga Beach Rec Plex Pool was built with only 4 lanes and the lanes are too narrow. In order to host a competition you need 6 lanes. This pool cannot be sanctioned with Swim Ontario for swim meets.
- The Collingwood YMCA Pool is not 25 meters and cannot be sanctioned by Swim Ontario for swim meets

The request for enhancements to the new pool facility for competitive swim programming was discussed at the Park, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Committee provided positive feedback on the recommended enhancements and for exploring potential partnership opportunities.

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#### **4. DEPARTMENT HEAD REVIEW:**

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Reviewed at Department Head meeting on February 5, 2013 and comments have been incorporated therein.

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#### **5. EFFECT ON TOWN FINANCES:**

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The upgrades, if approved by Council, could be funded in the following manner:

- \$150,000 from donations
- \$ 28,000 from the Clippers Swim Team fundraising efforts; and
- \$405,000 from the Town of Collingwood

The Town's portion could be funded through debenture, share sale proceeds, internal borrowing or any combination thereof.

If Council supports these enhancements, it will represent approximately 10% of the construction cost to achieve a quality and desirable competition facility that could increase significant programming opportunities.

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#### **6. DISPOSITION:**

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If approved by Council, staff would work with BLT/Sprung to incorporate the facility enhancements, as requested.

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#### **7. APPENDICES:**

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- None  
 Attached

#### **SIGNATURE**

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Town of Collingwood

#### **Prepared By**

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