

Let's Make Waves Pools Update

February 20, 2009

In April 2008, the TDSB appointed David Crombie to propose a long-term sustainable solution for the continued use of 39 of its pools currently slated for closure in June 2009. Crombie created the *Aquatics Working Group* (AWG), open to any stakeholder strongly motivated by the possibility of creating a well thought out and accessible aquatics program. The AWG have hosted open, regular meetings regularly since September 2008. More information about the AWG can be found at www.torontosportscouncil.com.

Many *Let's Make Waves members* have contributed to the year-long effort, and feel that AWG is working in the best interest of pools and the communities that use them.

For part of its work, the AWG hired Altus Group, an independent consulting firm to conduct individual capital cost assessments for each of the 39 pools. Part of the takeaway from this audit was (1) the majority of pools are not in really poor condition and worthy of being restored, and (2) the actual operating costs are lower than what was originally reported.

The AWG has assigned each of the 39 pools one of three designations: high-risk for closure, medium-risk, and lower-risk. Designations are based on four considerations: expected operating and capital costs for the next five years; community pool use, and equity. Special considerations have also been identified.

The designations and recommendations on their own *do not* guarantee that any of these pools will stay open, nor do they indicate that certain pools will be closed. These designations are only part of the information being considered in looking at the long-term viability of each pool.

Mr. Crombie will submit his AWG final report on March 4, 2009. It will be discussed at the TDSB at their April 22 meeting.

We hope that you will attend two upcoming events that will be critical in showing our support for the pools. Both meetings are open to the public.

- 1) City of Toronto meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee is on April 16th at 9:30am at Toronto City Hall, Committee Room 2. If you would like to address this Committee directly, members of the interested public are welcome to request the opportunity to give a deputation by emailing cdrc@toronto.ca or simply by calling 416-392-8092. Everyone should attend to hear what the City has in place for its future aquatics strategy, keeping in mind it currently own only 30 indoor pools for its 2.7 million residents.
- 2) The discussion of the AWG report to the TDSB on April 22 at 4:30 at 5050 Yonge Street.

Let's Make Waves wants you to know it is time to show a new WAVE of support for the TDSB pools!

Contact us at: info@letsmakewaves.ca