

## **General Pool Overview**

### **How many pools does the TDSB own?**

The TDSB owns 83 swimming pools that are located in schools. The school at Annette PS is owned by the City of Toronto.

Breakdown of 84 Pools in TDSB schools:

34	City Owned or Funded to 2011
2	Special Education to remain open
23	Decommissioned in June 2008
16	To be decommissioned in June 2009
9	Remaining pools that are either already decommissioned, in closed schools, or will be reviewed in future years.

\*The pool at Annette PS is owned by the City of Toronto.

### **How old are the remaining pools and what is their condition?**

Most of the pools were built in the 1960's and 1970's but some of the pools were constructed as far back as 1912. Thirty of the TDSB's school pools currently have a backlog of repairs that need to be completed. Over the next 6 years, an estimated \$56 million will be required for maintenance of all pools. At its March 18, 2007 meeting, The Board determined that repair costs exceeding \$125,000 would be considered prohibitive and could lead to the closure of the pool(s).

### **How much does it cost to operate pools?**

The cost to operate school pools is \$17M annually. This includes the cost of utilities (\$6.5M), caretaking and daily maintenance (\$5.2M) and swimming instructors (107 at a cost of \$5M) to support school aquatics programs. There are also capital costs for pool repairs and major maintenance work. The estimated capital cost to renew all school pools over the next six years could be as high as \$56.5M in total. Since 2003, the TDSB has spent \$8.3M on capital repairs to pools.

### **How much does the Board receive from the City of Toronto for using those pools?**

The City currently pays the Board about \$5M annually to use pools, leaving the school board to fund the balance of the operating costs (\$12M) and costs of capital repairs. (*The City's decision in June 2007 to limit their access from 41 to 35 school pools left the board with a \$600,000 budget impact for 2007-08.*)

### **How long have pools been a budget concern at the TDSB?**

Funding for pools has been a budget pressure since the amalgamation creating the TDSB in 1998. Prior to 1998, pool costs were addressed through the normal budget process and local education tax levy. After 1998, all school boards in Ontario were funded through a Provincial formula and direct access to property taxes by school boards came to an end. The cost of swimming pools was not included under the new education funding model. Consequently, maintaining aquatics programs and school pools has been a budget pressure for the board since 1998.

### **Can't you ask for more money from either the City or the government?**

The TDSB has been actively engaged in funding discussions with both the City of Toronto and the Provincial Government. The Province and the City have indicated that additional funding will not be available. An agreement is being negotiated with the City of Toronto to continue operating the 33 pools offering City run community programs until 2011.

**What was the Board's motion regarding pools?**

In June 2007, the Board approved a motion resolving:

- (h) That the Board meet with Government of Ontario officials and representatives of all provincial political parties to propose a specific education mill rate for Toronto residents and businesses to compensate for these increased expenditures on these valuable community resources;
- (i) That if, by February 1, 2008, the provincial government does not agree to fund Board unfunded pools either through operating or capital grants or through a specific education mill rate, that the process of decommissioning all school-based pools effective June 1, 2008 be implemented;

**What measures has the Board taken to get funding from the Province and the City to keep pools open?**

Staff initiated discussions with Provincial and City staff on the decommissioning of pools motion in the fall of 2007. Copies of the approved board motion were provided to the Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister and Ministry Finance staff, as well as to the City's Budget Chief, the City's Chief Executive Officer and senior City staff in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chair and Vice Chair of the TDSB met with City Budget Chief Shelley Caroll to further discuss the Board's approved motion concerning school pools, including the request for consideration of a local levy to address cost of these valuable community facilities.

The Chair also met with Minister Wynne at the beginning of January to discuss the board's budget pressures, including the board's pools motion.

The outcome of the conversations between the Board's Chair and the Minister and the discussions with City Councillors are well documented in Toronto's local papers. The Province "ruled out letting school boards raise their own taxes to pay for local issues such as pools". Similarly, the City has stated that the "cash-strapped city cannot pay any more than it already does for the use of 35 school pools".

## **Pool Closures**

### **If the Board decides to close pools, when would this likely happen?**

The school pools to be decommissioned would be phased-out over two years, beginning with the schools that don't require a pool to timetable physical education programs. This would be in June 2008. The balance of the pools would be closed for Sept 2009. In some instances, capital improvements will be made to create other spaces for physical education programs.

### **How was it decided which pools should be closed?**

The main criteria used were whether the school could timetable the physical education program without a swimming pool. Secondary considerations were permit revenue and the average number of weekly school swims.

### **What will happen to aquatic staff?**

There is a surplus staffing process within these employees' Collective Agreement. Surplus employees at the designated sites may displace staff at other sites with less seniority, with the outcome that the most junior employees are laid off at the end of this work year and remain on a recall list for 24 calendar months.

### **How much does it cost to close a pool and what is involved in the process?**

The Cost to de-commission a pool depends on the size of the pool and would be in a range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 for the following:

- drain the pool
- drain the filter and piping
- disconnect electrical systems
- remove and dispose of chemicals
- install safety/guard rail

### **What is the overall cost saving for the decommissioning of the 23 swimming pools?**

Annual savings will be \$4.6 million. Savings in 2008-09 will be about \$4.0 million due to one time costs of severance and decommissioning.

### **What are the names of the 23 pools to be closed in June 2008?**

1. Carleton Village Sr PS
2. Earl Grey Sr PS
3. Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS
4. Keele Street Jr PS & City Community Centre
5. Kensington Community School Jr
6. Queen Alexandra Sr PS
7. Winona McMurrich Jr PS
8. Bickford Centre
9. Central Commerce Collegiate
10. Central Technical School (1)
11. Central Technical School (2)
12. Danforth Collegiate & Technical Institute
13. Downsview SS
14. Forest Hill CI
15. George Harvey CI
16. George S Henry Academy
17. Jarvis CI

18. Monarch Park
19. North Toronto CI
20. Riverdale CI
21. Rosedale Heights SS
22. SATEC @ WA Porter CI
23. Western Technical UFA) (2)

**What are the 16 pools listed for closure in June 2009?**

1. Allenby Jr PS
2. AY Jackson SS
3. Deer Park Jr & Sr PS
4. Glenview Sr PS
5. Bloor CI
6. Harbord CI
7. Humberstone CI
8. Lawrence Park CI
9. Malvern CI
10. Northern SS
11. Oakwood CI
12. Parkdale CI
13. RH King Academy
14. Stephen Leacock CI
15. Western Technical-Commercial School
16. Westview Centennial

**What are the 2 pools used for Special Education that will remain open?**

1. Beverley Jr PS
2. Sunny View Jr & Sr PS (1)

**What are the 34 pools that are city owned or funded to 2011?**

1. Annette (City Owned)
2. Bedford Park Jr PS
3. Bowmore Road Jr & Sr PS
4. Brown Jr PS & City Community Centre
5. D A Morrison MS
6. Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS
7. Earl Beatty Jr & Sr PS and Community Centre
8. Frankland Community JS & Community Centre
9. Glen Ames/Williamson Road Jr PS
10. Gordon A Brown MS
11. Hillcrest Jr PS & City Community Centre
12. Parkdale Jr & Sr PS
13. Swansea Jr & Sr PS
14. Albert Campbell CI
15. Bendale BTI
16. Cedarbrae CI
17. CW Jefferys CI
18. Don Mills CI
19. Emery CI
20. Georges Vanier SS
21. L'Amoreaux CI

22. Lester B Pearson CI
23. Nelson A Boylen CI
24. Northview Heights SS
25. Runnymede CI
26. Sir Oliver Mowat CI
27. Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI
28. Vaughan Road Academy
29. Victoria Park SS
30. West Hill CI
31. Weston CI
32. Wexford CI
33. York Memorial CI
34. York Mills CI

**What are the 9 remaining pools? (Either already decommissioned, in closed schools or will be reviewed in future years)**

1. Bathurst Heights SS
2. Brockton (UFA)
3. CALC (City Adult Learning Centre)
4. Carlton Village South
5. Eastern HS of Commerce
6. Midland Avenue CI
7. Newtonbrook SS
8. Sunny View Jr & Sr PS (2)
9. West Toronto CI