

MEMO

To: **Council**
From: **Director of Recreation and Culture**
Date: **December 9th, 2024**
Subject: **Pool Update**

Staff have been working with contractors and addressing deficiencies so we can welcome more swimmers at the Ruben Yli-Juuti Centre. Please see below the present status of the municipal pool, the progress we've made toward reopening, and the challenges we are currently addressing.

Inspection and Initial Findings

On November 14, Algoma Public Health (APH) conducted a scheduled inspection of the pool. Under Ontario Regulations, any Class A pool closed for more than 30 days requires a health inspection before reopening. Following the inspection, APH provided a list of minor deficiencies, including adjustments to pool alkalinity levels and chemical balancing in the hot tub.

While most issues were addressed within a few days, the hot tub presented unforeseen challenges that required further investigation and resolution.

Large Pool and Small Pool Status

- **Large Pool:** After resolving the initial concerns and receiving APH's approval, the large pool has been cleared for use. We have welcomed the ELSS swim team to begin practicing, marking an important step toward full reopening. ELAC is not prepared to return yet and plans to join us in January.
- **Small Pool:** Staff have resolved heating issues with the small pool's temperature and an inspection with APH has been scheduled to approve the opening of the pool this week.

Hot Tub Challenges

The hot tub was not included in the original project scope which has led to multiple issues during the restart process:

- **Jet Replacement:** The jets need to be replaced and staff is currently undertaking this project.
- **Chemical System:** The BECs system, which feeds chemicals into the hot tub, has a sensor or wiring issue. While it is temporarily functioning after manual adjustments, a permanent fix will require an electrician.

Hot Water Issues

During an inspection of all the utilities in preparation of opening the pool to the public, we discovered an installation error by the original contracted plumbers: mixing valves were not installed for several sinks, resulting in scalding hot water in the family change room and female washroom. This must be addressed before we can fully reopen. We have these rooms closed for the time being.

Saunas

As staff continued inspections and maintenance in preparation of reopening, we have come to learn that both Sauna units are not working and are rotting at the bottom. Staff are working with suppliers to order new units for both change rooms.

Next Steps and Soft Opening

- With the large pool and main change rooms operational, we have initiated a soft opening by accommodating the ELSS swim team. This has been beneficial for training Staff to learn how to use the new mechanical and plumbing systems with pool users.
- Once the hot water issue is resolved, we plan to expand programming to include public swims and daytime activities, even if the hot tub remains out of service temporarily.

Training and Preparedness

Given that many of our staff are new to public pool operations and Ontario's strict regulations, we have intensified training efforts. This will ensure our team is prepared to deliver safe and efficient programming as the facility resumes operations.

Timeline

We are actively coordinating with plumbers and contractors to resolve outstanding issues, including hot tub repairs and the hot water system. While the timeline for hot tub repairs is still being established, and the mixing valve delivery time is expected to be two weeks for the parts, we remain optimistic about minimizing delays. We have had plumbers in over the past month trying to address this issue and the parts are on order.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kari Kluge
Director of Recreation and Culture