



News Release
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Annual Maintenance and Facility Improvement Program Begins at Ponoka Aquaplex on August 25

Scheduled Maintenance and Facility Improvements Will Include Draining, Scrubbing and Re-Grouting Pool, Deep Tank, Hot Tub & Wading Pool; Facility Reopens September 30

(August 9, 2019 – Ponoka, Alberta) – The Ponoka Aquaplex will undergo extensive maintenance and facility improvements from August 25 to September 29, 2019. The scheduled work is part of the pool's annual Maintenance and Facility Improvement Program, which will see the main pool, deep tank, hot tub and wading pool drained, scrubbed and re-grouted along with a long list of other upgrades and improvements.

The purpose of the program is to provide facility users and their families with increased service levels and a freshly cleaned and refurbished facility to enjoy when the Aquaplex reopens to the public for the fall season on September 30.

“The scheduled maintenance and facility improvements are part of a pro-active maintenance program that will help to ensure the smooth operation of the facility throughout the year, as well as to provide increased safety, and a greatly enhanced user experience for our swimmers,” says Charlotte Williams, Facility Manager of the Ponoka Aquaplex.

Maintenance, deep cleaning and facility improvements planned at the Ponoka Aquaplex during the scheduled shutdown will include:

- Draining, scrubbing and re-grouting the main pool, deep tank, hot tub and wading pool;
- New upgraded anti-entrapment systems for the main pool, deep tank and hot tub, which will automatically shut down the circulation system if somebody becomes entrapped in one of the drains. The upgrades, which include new drain covers, fulfill new Alberta Health compliance requirements for public pools which must be in place by November 2019;
- New access stairs into the pool for people with mobility challenges, replacing the existing ladder with a sturdier, more user-friendly access aid;
- Re-installation of the popular climbing wall feature which overhangs the deep tank and was removed last year for maintenance and repairs;
- New cedar wall panelling, benches and flooring in the sauna to replace the existing aging interior for a much improved user experience. A new sauna door with a larger window will also be installed;
- Installation of a new automatic pool vacuum that will clean the pool floor and walls each night after the pool closes. The new vacuum offers improved suction for a cleaner pool surface;
- Installation of a new boiler for the hot tub and wading pool to replace the existing boiler which is reaching the end of its lifecycle;
- Replacing aging internal and external doors for improved energy efficiency and climate control in the pool area;
- Installation of a safety railing and gate separating the wet deck from the pool and deep tank. The wet deck is used for birthday parties and as a social area for pool users;



- New ventilation in the chemical storage and mechanical room;
- Upgrading valves and pipes in the main mechanical room;
- Upgrading the filters in the main pool, deep tank and hot tub;
- Deep cleaning of the change rooms and washrooms, including floors, walls and lockers;
- Spot grouting of shower stalls in the change rooms and replacement of tiles as needed; and
- Power washing the pool deck and painting throughout the facility as needed, including painting depth signage on the pool walls.

“September and the last week of August are a slow time with many people away on holidays in August and over the Labour Day weekend. As well, we have no school lessons and typically very few public lessons in September which is why we have scheduled the work at this time,” says Williams. The Aquaplex office will remain open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. while the maintenance, deep cleaning and facility improvements are implemented in order to allow facility users to book fall swimming lessons and enroll in other fall programming.

Aquaplex Season Passes Honoured at Wetaskiwin and Lacombe Pools During Maintenance Period

During the maintenance and facility improvements, Aquaplex season passes will be honoured at the Manluk Centre in Wetaskiwin at 4514-50 Avenue and at the Burman University pool in Lacombe at 6730 University Drive. The Lacombe Kinsmen Aquatic Centre at 5429-53 Street will also honour Ponoka Aquaplex season passes from August 25 to September 2 before they shut down for annual maintenance from September 3 – 29.

Aquaplex users will be required to present a letter to the pools in Wetaskiwin and Lacombe confirming they hold valid season passes in Ponoka. The letters will be available at the Ponoka Aquaplex office throughout August and September.

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