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**From:** Carrie

**Date:** January 28, 2020 at 9:06:14 PM PST

**To:** Mayor <[Mayor@burnaby.ca](mailto:Mayor@burnaby.ca)>

**Subject:** Summer Swimming Schedules Impact Seniors

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Dear Mayor Hurley,

I live in North Burnaby and have been a Burnaby tax payer for 34 years. I have been retired for several years and swim laps regularly at CG Brown pool during the day. There are usually several hours each day where there are 3 or 4 lanes open for lap swimming. In the summer the schedule naturally changes to accommodate the children being out of school. In the past, the schedule would allow for an hour or an hour and a half of 3 or 4 lanes of lap swimming around lunch time every week day. It's not the best but we could work around it. Last year however, in 2019, they changed the summer schedule at CG Brown pool to only 1 hour of lap swimming with only 2 lanes open and half of the pool was used for swim lessons for 10 children. One of the lap lanes is used for water running (walking) so even the very slow swimmers ended up in the only other available lane. That meant that the slow, medium and fast swimmers were all crammed into 1 lane! Now maybe people think that all seniors are slow swimmers so it doesn't matter but that's not correct. We have all speeds - I know some seniors that swim faster than young adults. As a result, it made for a very negative swimming experience so I stopped going for the summer and I know of at least one other regular that did the same.

I asked one of the lifeguards about the lack of swim lanes at CG Brown and he said that management gave the okay for swim lessons to take up 1/2 the pool. He said that they made more money from swimming lessons than from regular swimming so that's why they made the decision.

The only other Burnaby indoor pool that is close enough for me to go to is Eileen Dailly and it's swim schedule doesn't commit to any more than 1 swim lane for lap swimming after 9am any day of the week any time of the year! So, even though it's closer to me I don't even try to go there because I don't want to waste time travelling there to find out 10 people are crammed into 1 lane. It is common knowledge around the regular swimmers that Eileen Dailly is horrible for lap swimming because of the schedule. When

Referred to:

[Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission \(2020.02.11\)](#)

Copied to:

[City Manager](#)

[Dir. Corporate Services](#)

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[Dir. Finance](#)

<p><b>Note:</b> Staff will contact the writer and prepare a report on aquatic space and program review for summer lap swimming at C.G. Brown Memorial Pool.</p>
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I asked Eileen Dailly about the lack of swim lanes for laps during the day I was told that there was more revenue to have more kids (for example a birthday party) than 3 adults....I can honestly say that the times I've ever been to Eileen Dailly pool I've never seen fewer than 10 adults at a time so I'm not sure where that came from.

In the summer there is Kensington outdoor pool but it's not even available to the public until 1pm and from what I can tell there is maybe one swim lane...definitely not great for lap swimming.

The people that are mostly impacted by this lack of available swim lanes during the day are seniors. This is because most seniors avoid the early morning swims either because they aren't up that early (that's why we retire - so we can sleep in! :-)) and/or because there tends to be more aggressive swimmers and also they don't appreciate seniors taking up swim lanes when they think we can swim anytime during the day. Little do they know! The same goes for the evening swims. It's either too late or we avoid it to allow people that work during the day to have more room to swim.

I've been to the New Brighton Pool in Vancouver during the summer and they always have swimming lessons but they take up 1 of the 3 wide swim lanes. They divide that lane into 2 so they have 2 classes with a total of 12 to 16 children. That leaves the other 2 lanes for lap swimming. They've been doing this for years so I don't understand why CG Brown had to take up 1/2 the pool for 10 kids. They could do the same thing - take 1 of the 4 wide lanes and divide it into 2 and leave 3 lanes for lap swimming.

I thought that the purpose of the pools was to provide a service to the community not to make money. If all Burnaby cares about is how much money they can bring in then perhaps we should consider selling the pools off and reducing our taxes accordingly. It might not get me more lap swimming but at least my taxes wouldn't be paying for facilities I can't use.

This summer (and going forward) can the schedule at CG Brown please allow for at least 1 hour during the day (after 9am) of 3 or 4 lanes of lap swimming? Surely Burnaby can afford to lose a bit of swimming lesson revenue to accommodate the seniors.

In addition, I heard comments that CG Brown was going to be torn down soon and I was shocked. I hope that the plan is to keep the CG Brown pool open to the public until after the new pool is built. The new pool could be built on a different site - perhaps across from the Burnaby Lake soccer fields.

I'm sure that you can tell that swimming is very important to me. It's one of the best activities to do that is gentle on the body and is a great stress reducer. The only other pool in the North Burnaby area is Eileen Dailly and as mentioned, the schedule doesn't really accommodate lap swimming during the day. Even if it did, it can't possibly accommodate everyone that swims at CG Brown as well as the higher density from the towers being built at Brentwood.

Bonsor and Edmonds are too far away for me to travel to so I'm very concerned that I might have to go for 3 or 4 years without swimming while CG Brown is torn down and a new pool rebuilt. I know CG Brown is aging but if it's properly maintained there shouldn't be any reason why it can't last until the new pool is built. My house is much older than the CG Brown pool and it could last for decades more.

Thanks for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Carrie Harding