

Commission REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2020 March 03

FROM: DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES

FILE: 54000-30

SUBJECT: SUMMER SWIMMING SCHEDULES

PURPOSE: To provide information regarding summer swimming schedules and programming.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Commission receive this report for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Carrie Harding.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held on 2020 February 11, correspondence was received from Ms. Carrie Harding regarding the change in summer swim schedules and amount of lane space available for lap swimming in the summer months. ([Attachment #1](#)) Ms. Harding expressed concerned with the amount of lane space at C.G. Brown Memorial Pool, Eileen Daily Pool and Kensington Outdoor Pool during the summer months.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

- An Inclusive Community
 - Serve a diverse community –
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life –
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being

3.0 BACKGROUND

The purpose of pool schedules and aquatic programming is to provide a framework to ensure fair and equitable allocation of time for patrons and user groups. Each year and

To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission
From: Director - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: Summer Swimming Schedules

.....Page 2

each season staff assess what is required and make adjustments accordingly. One such adjustment made to adapt to community needs is the modification of the summer pool schedules. This allows staff to offer more opportunities for school age children and youth to participate in lesson programming and recreation swims as they have limited access throughout the year.

In 2018, the summer lunchtime lap swim session at C.G. Brown Memorial Pool was adjusted to start at 12:00 p.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. when public swim starts. (Lap swimming is available in one lane during public swim). This adjustment was in response to a decline in attendance for lap swimming and an increased demand for space for swimming lessons. The space allocated for lunchtime lap swimming is half of CG Brown Memorial Pool. This has not changed. C.G.Brown Memorial Pool is a 6-lane pool, and as of 2018, the lap lanes are spaced at 1.5 lanes wide. This configuration allows swimmers increased space in the narrow lanes to pass other swimmers and was put into place as a result of feedback received from regular pool users.

In addition to the lanes available at C.G. Brown Memorial Pool, Kensington Outdoor Pool offers one lane during their lesson programs from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Eileen Dailly Pool offers two plus lanes in the early morning as well as in the afternoon. The outdoor pool that has the most space for lap swimming is Central Park Pool. This facility offers a 50-meter lap swimming experience from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

C.G. Brown Memorial Pool is at the end of its life cycle and scheduled for replacement. Staff are in the midst of planning for the replacement facility, which will address many of the issues such as pool space and shared programming. Community consultations helped direct the design of the new aquatics center that will offer more lane space in addition to diverse aquatic programming for the community.

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive this report for information and that a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Carrie Harding.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

EB:km

From: Carrie [REDACTED]
Date: January 28, 2020 at 9:06:14 PM PST
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Summer Swimming Schedules Impact Seniors

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 accomodate 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 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 accomodate 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 accomodate lap swimming during the day. Even if it did, it can't possibly accomodate 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

[REDACTED]