

Public engagement underway for City Aquatics Facilities Strategy

March 19, 2020 — The City of St. Catharines is inviting residents to make a splash in the future of aquatics facilities and programming by adding their voice to the development of an Aquatics Facilities Strategy.

“We really pride ourselves on being the City where everybody can play, be it taking swimming lessons, aquatic fitness classes or just hopping in a City pool to cool off on a hot summers day,” said Manager, Programs and Culture Services Lori Mambella, adding, “we’ve already been successful in delivering an array of programs and aquatics opportunities to our residents but, as we look to the future, we want to continue that track record and improve upon it, that’s what developing this strategy is all about. So we can create truly inclusive facilities and programs, we want to hear from residents of all backgrounds.”

The Aquatics Facilities Strategy will provide a snapshot of where aquatics facilities and programming stand; what works and what doesn’t; and provide a roadmap for future improvements and investments into facilities and programming.

Community consultations on the project kicked off this week, with a survey launching via the City’s online engagement tool at www.engageSTC.ca/AquaticsStrategy. Residents can visit the site to learn more about the project and complete a brief survey, with the opportunity to be entered in a draw for one of two \$50 gift certificates for City programs and activities. The survey will be open online until April 20.

Once surveys are completed staff will present a draft of the plan via a public open house, before submitting the document to Council for approval.

The development of the Aquatics Facilities Strategy supports several actions in Council’s strategic plan, including the development of a 10-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan that includes all major investments to address City needs, priorities and growth; and establishing area-specific plans for the redevelopment of key sites in the City to promote strong, compatible, connected neighbourhoods that enhance the quality of life.

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