



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Lifecycle Repairs Moving Forward

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge has taken the first step in a program to upgrade the key mechanical systems of the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre and implement accessibility improvements. The project will be funded using the City's Infrastructure Reserves so that the estimated \$5.5 million budget will not impact tax rates for citizens.

Council voted to retain the services of an architect and mechanical engineer to complete a detailed design and tender document for the project. That design and scope of work will come back before Council early in 2015 prior to the project being awarded.

In 2005 Council established the Infrastructure Reserve Fund recognizing that as the community's infrastructure ages it will be necessary to reinvest in their repair and upgrade. This project demonstrates the importance of that decision and how the reserves are now used to ensure that citizens do not face tax rate increases to fund major projects such as this.

The Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, built in 1980, was the first Leisure Pool concept in Canada offering a warm water leisure pool, with play features including shallow water and moving water for all ages to enjoy, along with the traditional training pool tank all under one roof.

As part of the discussion, Council heard the estimated cost to build a stand-alone eight lane competition pool facility which would cost in excess of \$40 million in today's dollars. The work includes mechanical systems that are out of sight to the public, but critical to its operation. The project will see replacement and upgrades to the pool filter system, pool plumbing system, expansion of the mechanical room, a conversion of the chlorine system to liquid chlorine and ultra-violet system and the incorporation of accessible ramps to ensure that citizens with mobility issues have full access to the facility. The report noted that the investment in the expansion of the hot pool and accessibility upgrades as part of this work will result in substantial savings versus doing this work in the future, and will eliminate any additional disruptions in the use of this popular amenity.

Literally thousands of local citizens have learned how to swim and have trained, competed, exercised, played or relaxed in these pools and the expansion of the facility in 2002 increased the capacity and types of pools to accommodate new programs and uses for all age groups and user types. Council heard that approximately 1,200 people use the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre facility daily to participate in a diverse range of programs. Annual maintenance programs have ensured that the public areas of the facility remain in good repair and this work will ensure that the underlying mechanical systems of the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre continue to serve the public for another 35 years.

If you have further questions about the project please contact Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services at kswift@mapleridge.ca or by calling 604-467-7337.