



AQUATICS FOR EVERYONE

The Town of Aurora has identified a need for new pool space and features.

- Aurora's two current pools do not have sufficient capacity or capabilities to meet current needs. Existing programs already turn away prospective clients. Aurora's population is expected to continue to grow to over 70,000 by 2031.
- Current programming challenges include lack of pool time, pool space, a range of pool temperatures, a diversity of aquatic programs.

Option	Cost to build	Cost Recovery (new pool only)	Overall Cost Recovery (including existing pool)	Incremental Operating Cost	Incremental Operating Revenue
25m Base Option	\$23.78M	56%	48%	\$.954M	\$.326M
25M Stretch Option	\$27.96M	56%	70%	\$1.09M	\$.760M
50 metre Training Option	\$29.68M	63%	87%	\$1.32M	\$1.12M
50 metre Event Option	\$40.36M	64%	86%	\$1.52M	\$1.3M

M = Million

NOTE:

- All options assume a new pool will be twinned with the existing pool at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre (SARC). Locating a new pool on new property would increase the cost by millions for land acquisition, if a suitable property could even be found.
- These options include keeping the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) pool and converting it to warmer water programming; updating the existing, SARC facility by updating mechanicals and renovating existing tanks to drive revenue through warmer water programming; and using the new aquatic tank for sport and rectangular recreation water programming. Upgrades to SARC and AFLC existing tanks are not fully contemplated in the ISG report.
- Costs do not include gymnasium space (which AAA supports including) or construction of additional parking.

The Aurora Aquatics Advocacy Group also recommends option 4, which will convert SARC into a truly regional sport centre, contingent upon the ability to obtain \$25M in ICIP grant funds.

- If funds cannot be obtained, we believe option 3 is the next best choice.
- Options 3 and 4 are the only ones which allow for "rectangular recreation", which is the ability to give a larger more flexible water surface permitting a broader cross section of programming beyond traditional sport training.
- Reengineering the current SARC and AFLC pools to provide varied water temperatures will allow accessible access to all users for a broader number of uses: for example, from Aqua Therapy, Aquafit, learn to swim lessons and Special Needs programs (warmer water users) to higher level lessons, lane swim, sports club programs, sports cross training groups, new programming such as Special Youth Programs, movie nights, paddling, kayaking, and obstacle course (cooler water users).
- With the closing of the Whipper Watson aqua therapy pool associated with Southlake Regional Health Centre, there will be an even greater demand for local warm water programming. Aurora has the opportunity to be a leader in this growing area of need.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

- Aurora engaged Isaac Sports Group, LLC (ISG) to undertake a detailed study to assess the town's aquatic facility and programming needs and the type of facility to best meet them.
- The study included consideration of community and market needs, financial, economic and environmental impacts, and design, technical and operational factors and best practices.
- ISG's June 2020 report outlines four options. It **recommends option 4, a new 50 metre event pool.**

ABOUT AURORA AQUATICS ADVOCACY GROUP (AAA)

- The Aurora Aquatics Advocacy group was formed in summer 2020 to reflect Aurora's interest in a new, enhanced aquatic facility, to provide information about it and to review and provide informed feedback on revenue, costs and benefits from community and aquatics stakeholders.
- We are proud that we have received substantial support from both local and regional stakeholders, including 15 support letters to date from various organizations (e.g. Swim Ontario, Swim Canada, Artistic Swimming, Special Olympics, Swim clubs, Water Polo). These are posted on our website, and outreach to other organizations continues.
- We believe NOW is the time to direct sports and recreation funding in Aurora towards a comprehensive new aquatics centre.

WHAT AAA AIMS TO ACCOMPLISH

1. Convert SARC into a Regional Sport & Wellness Centre
2. Position the target as an enhanced aquatic facility rather than a 50-metre pool, which supports the notion of Rectangular Recreation: Aquatics for Everyone
3. Create an enhanced aquatic facility with multiple warm water tanks to maximize learning progression and multiple uses (Aquatics for Everyone)
4. Support the 2,000+ square feet of multisport space, adding value to all SARC users
5. Support adding a gymnasium, pending creation of a viable/supportive business case
6. Actively explore creating community based partnerships that incorporate integrated wellness services including but not limited to: regional physiotherapy clinic, regional hydrotherapy clinic, gymnasium & fitness recovery clinic and health recovery programs.
7. Leverage the Sports Tourism benefits an event facility would bring, including the estimated 18 events hosted by year three generating 6,200 room nights, \$5.3M in direct economic benefit and \$8.3M in indirect economic benefit as outlined in the ISG study
8. Encourage the Town of Aurora to apply for a \$25M ICIP grant by investing upwards of \$3.0M in architectural drawing to become shovel ready (i.e. have all required drawings, building permits, funding and operational due diligence in place).
9. Encourage the Town of Aurora to consider reengineering SARC to be a net carbon neutral facility by meeting certain LEED standards.