



September 14, 2020

Mayor Tom Mrakas
tom@mrakas.ca
Town of Aurora
100 John West Way,
Box 1000 Aurora ON L4G 6J1

Dear Mayor Mrakas:

RE: Aurora Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study

On behalf of the Aurora Master Ducks I would like to express my enthusiastic support for a new 50 meter Aquatic Event Facility for our Town. Now more than ever before, health & wellness has taken centre stage and no other sport venue can offer the variety of recreational, therapeutic and competitive opportunities that an aquatic facility can deliver. A 10 lane 50 meter tank will provide the capacity and versatility needed for every stage of skill development; from learn to swim to high performance training across all aquatic disciplines. The proposed event facility would be a multi-generational sport and leisure legacy for the Town of Aurora!

I have been involved in aquatics for most of my life. As an athlete in the 70's I drove a stretch of highway from Don Mills to Etobicoke 11 times per week to train in a 50 meter facility which supported my ambitions; 737 km and over 15 hours of driving every week. If we build it, they will come! A facility such as this will draw many teams from near and far all wanting a slice of time to advance their skills and chase their dreams. Weekend time will be in high demand for hosting competitions from regional to national level events.

The Aurora Master Ducks is a program for adult swimming enthusiasts of every age and stage. We focus on continually improving our skills, health & fitness, competition, fun, friendship and giving back. Our current roster age range is 20 to 72! Even amidst a global pandemic, I have a growing waitlist and cannot meet the demands of our community. The club at one time had a roster of over 200 members; however, due to limited aquatic resources our enrollment capacity is currently restricted by 40%.

If the Town moves forward with this dream project, I estimate that the Master Ducks would rent 136 short course lane hours per week (68 lane hours per week long course). The increase in resources would allow the club to deliver specialized programming to our membership such as:

stroke development, fitness, triathlon and competitive. The Master Ducks would love to add Parallel Programming to integrate swimmers with physical challenges. This is a big gap in our current club framework, and our community, and we require dedicated lane space and specialized staffing to support this important population. The Master Ducks would facilitate the training and coordination of officials required to host Master's events, including provincial and national championships. This will bring many visitors to our community which is the very tonic needed by so many local businesses!

As an Aurora resident, coach, swimmer, and sport enthusiast, I am holding my breath that this game changing facility will come to fruition for our Town.

Best Regards,

Kelly Hughes
President & Head Coach
Aurora Master Ducks
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