

April 21, 2021

NEW DRAYTON VALLEY/BRAZEAU AQUATIC FACILITY BREAKS GROUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On April 21, 2021, MLA Mark Smith, Mayor Michael Doerksen, Brazeau County Reeve Bart Guyon and members of both Town and County Council were present for the official groundbreaking of the new Drayton Valley/Brazeau Aquatic Facility. Town of Drayton Valley Acting CAO Annette Driessen, as well as members of the DVB Aquatic Committee were also in attendance.

The groundbreaking of the new facility comes following the successful receipt of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant from the federal government in the amount of \$7,584,956 on August 25, 2020, as well as the commitment of \$5 million from both the Town and County as part of their final 2020 budgets. In addition, with advocacy from the Drayton Valley/Brazeau Community Aquatic Committee, several local sponsorships have also been secured to offset costs. Naming Sponsors include Keyera Corporation, Competition Pool naming sponsors with a \$100,000 sponsorship, Ridgeback Resources, Leisure Pool naming sponsors with a sponsorship of \$300,000, the Rotary Club, Lazy River naming sponsors with a sponsorship amount of \$75,000, All Choice Rentals, Natorium Naming Sponsors with a \$15,000 in-kind contribution, the Drayton Valley Community Foundation, Multi-Purpose Room naming sponsors with a sponsorship of \$75,000, and Pride Ventures & Lisin Holdings Ltd, Universal (Family) Change Room naming sponsors with a sponsorship of \$15,000. The list of Silver Donors includes \$15,145 from the Weyerhaeuser Giving Grant, while the list of Bronze Donors includes, ISL Engineering who donated \$2,500, Hal Anker, and Karen McNichol who donated \$1,000 each, and a number of other sponsors including Dawn Banyard and Cassidy Rumsey. The anticipated cost of the aquatic facility is \$21,241,319.

The new 27,000 sq. ft. Drayton Valley/Brazeau Aquatic Facility will feature an 8 lane, 25-meter lap pool, leisure pool and lazy river, hot tub, steam room, multi-purpose room and support spaces as well as a potential future waterslide. The new pool will also be dimensional and outfitted to suit regional and Canadian competition standards with a large viewing area.

The new Aquatic Facility is a key component in achieving Town Council's goals of economic growth, creating a sense of community, as well as building a sustainable future for Drayton Valley. The Town anticipates an increase in construction jobs through the building phase of the facility, with the use of local contractors where possible, and long-term aquatic positions being added once the pool is operational. With an anticipated increase in annual attendance from 86,000 to 116,600, the new facility will expedite increased economic activity as local businesses and retailers benefit from the boost in traffic. Recreational facilities attract visitors, businesses, and employees and their families to Drayton Valley, increasing housing demands in the area and promoting local tourism initiatives. Additionally, the new facility will offer town residents a new place for community connection while promoting overall health and wellness in Drayton Valley.

The facility has been designed to reduce operational costs by focusing on energy optimization that meets the 2017 National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB), making it energy efficient and further contributing to cost savings in the building. Construction of the new Drayton Valley/Brazeau Aquatic Facility is expected to take approximately 18 months, with a projected opening date in the fall of 2022. Following the completion of the new facility, Park Valley Pool will close, and operations will cease. The integrity of the building remains exceptional and consideration will be given to its future use. The Splash Park in Rotary Park will remain operational.