

Grant funding announced for the Aquatic Facility in Drayton Valley

Town Council was delighted to welcome the federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Catherine McKenna (via teleconference), Alberta's Infrastructure Minister, Prasad Panda, Yellowhead MP, Gerald Soroka as well as Drayton Valley-Devon MLA, Mark Smith to Drayton Valley on August 25, 2020 to make the official announcement that \$7,584,956 has been approved for the construction of an Aquatic Facility in Drayton Valley as part of the federal governments Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant!

"This long-awaited announcement is extremely exciting for our community." remarked Mayor Michael Doerksen. "Town Council, along with Administration, have been pursuing the vision of a new aquatic facility since 2012; I am ecstatic to announce that our dedication and planning for this project over the last 8 years is finally coming to fruition! Investing in new facilities is a critical component to any municipality, not only for the well-being and enjoyment of our residents but is an important step in growing the economy by attracting new families and visitors to Drayton Valley. This is a significant undertaking and I was also pleased to work with our municipal neighbours on this project for the mutual benefit of our region and residents."

During a Special Meeting of Council held on August 25, 2020, Town Council directed Administration to move forward with the construction of the new Aquatic Facility. Brazeau County Council also supported the project and have allocated \$5 million towards the construction of the new facility. The anticipated cost for the aquatic facility is \$21,241,319 with funding being provided through the ICIP grant, municipal contributions and community fundraising efforts and donations. The Town is also pursuing additional federal and provincial grants to further offset the capital costs of the project.

The new 27,000 sq. ft. 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 water slide.

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 other long-term aquatic positions being added once the pool is operational. Recreational facilities can attract visitors, businesses, employees, and their families to Drayton Valley, increasing demand for housing in the area and people supporting local businesses. Not only will this new facility promote overall health and wellness for residents, it will be a place where community members and visitors can connect, participate in swimming competitions or fitness programs, and learn valuable life-saving skills. 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, further contributing to operational cost savings in the building.

Following the completion of the new Aquatic Facility, Park Valley Pool will close, and operations will cease. The integrity of the building remains in excellent condition and consideration will be given to its future use. The Splash Park will remain operational for the enjoyment of our residents in Rotary Park.