



## Ravensong Waterdancers Synchro Club

Box 498 Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1T1

[www.ravensongwaterdancers.com](http://www.ravensongwaterdancers.com) ~ [ravensongsynchro@gmail.com](mailto:ravensongsynchro@gmail.com)

May 8, 2019

*Oceanside Services Committee*  
c/o Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to inform you of the Ravensong Waterdancers Synchro Club's needs with regards to the future plans of Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

The Ravensong Waterdancers Synchronized Swimming Club was formed in 1997, currently has 36 athletes aged 7 years to adult. We offer recreation through provincial competitive programming for our athletes, as well have had athletes who are part of the BC Summer Games and Espoir National competition. We provide a unique, well-rounded activity to promote healthy living for youth and adults in our community.

The primary challenges for our club with the existing Ravensong Aquatic Centre are the limited pool times and lack of depth in the majority of the main pool. These two concerns directly affect our club's programming which consequently causes us to limit the number of teams, even though we have growth potential from within the community and surrounding areas.

The goal as a short-term, cost-saving solution our club supports, is the addition of a new 25 meter tank, although a 50 meter tank would benefit more community members and user groups. Ideally, the tank would be 8 lanes wide and a minimum of 4.5 meters deep for at least 15 meters, centered in the pool tank, in order to meet our programming needs.

Currently we have programs running in both the Qualicum Beach pool and Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (Competitive routine practices) as many of the routine synchro elements cannot physically and safely be performed in the Qualicum Beach facility.

As an added bonus, if there was enough deck space for multiple teams to utilize around the pool tank and a spectator viewing area, it would create the opportunity for a variety of swimming meets to be hosted, with an increase in revenue for the community. This is not only for the sport of synchro, but also speed swimming, as we are aware the Breakers Aquatic Swim Club do not host meets in Qualicum Beach for the same reasons we do not – lack of pool time rentals, deck space, spectator seating, depth of pool.

Having a second pool tank would also open the door to new programming the RDN could offer such as Diving, water polo, Aqua GO (similar to swimming lessons, geared towards synchro), etc. and new community clubs.

Our biggest concern with any proposed changes to the facility would be the closure period due to renovations. This could be detrimental to our club's existence, based on feedback we've received from the Nelson Reflections synchro club, whose facility was closed for a year, and after 4 years from the closure, are still working to build their membership back to previous levels.

Approved at March 2, 2015 Monthly Meeting



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Our club's objective is to help ensure whatever solution the Oceanside Services Committee chooses, will benefit the majority of community members and the facility be more functional, with a new multi-purpose center still as the long term answer. We have many design ideas and are willing to provide feedback or input as the Committee continues to develop a plan.

The public consultation process has been clear over the past few years, a new rubberized track, second dive tank and the purchase of land for the long term goal of a multiplex in the Parksville area are what the people and user groups in the community want the committee to focus on. This was reinforced by the motions made at the RDN Directors meeting on September 4, 2018. The time for consultants and public input into what is needed is at a close, after discussing for many years (over 5) and various proposals presented, it is time for a plan of action to achieve these goals so that our kids, community members and clubs can start to reap the benefits. Let's get the public involved in new ways of excitement about ground breaking and opening ceremonies!

If there is anything you have questions about or would like further information, we would be more than happy to meet with you in person or over the phone.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our plea and share our ideas.

Regards,

Jessica Nemlander  
President

Heather Mahony  
Director