

Good afternoon,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a motion to have Gorman Pool to remain closed this summer (2021). I am not in favour of the pool being closed, and would very much like to see it reopened, albeit safely. Along with fellow residents, I believe the following to be true and stand by this as a fair argument to have Gorman Pool opened for 2021:

1. Opening the pool CAN be done safely with protocols such as pre-booking, contact tracing and limiting numbers. These protocols can be seen everywhere else in society, in businesses and other activities all across North America.
2. If beaches, gyms, basketball courts, tennis courts etc. can all be open across Ontario, why not the Newmarket outdoor pool?
3. The activity of swimming is one that ensures peoples' health and well being- both mentally and physically. Certainly needed during a pandemic.
4. The outdoor pool is a community hub and shouldn't be dismissed lightly.
5. The costs savings for closing this are insignificant. Is it all about the money? Closing the pool is estimated to save \$60,000 out of a total town budget of \$137,000,000 !!! That's only 0.0043% !! I'm sure the town can find better ways to save money.
6. There would also be a loss of employment and valuable skills for city workers employed there over the summer (often young people getting valuable work experience, not to mention income).
7. The activity of swimming was deemed SAFE by numerous epidemiologists around the world and poses no risk of transmission in the water. This is why beaches (without germ-killing chlorine) remain open.
8. By continually closing and limiting activities and areas, you only tend to concentrate and funnel people to other 'open' activities, thus increasing Covid transmission within the community. We saw this time and again over the year.
9. Mostly, it's been an incredibly hard year, and something to help brighten the days of the local community is certainly welcomed.
10. Lack of direction. From the public outcry over this decision, I've yet to see anyone vocally stand up and request that the pool be closed. Those who feel unsafe can simply choose to not go.
11. Lack of public consultation. When was the public consulted on this? There was none. This motion was slipped into the agenda, which is not right.

Looking forward to your support on this matter,

Rachel Diltz
Eagle Street Resident