

Renewal of the Saanich Commonwealth Place Operating Agreement and Trust Fund

The Operating Agreement (OA) and Trust Fund set up by the District of Saanich and the Governments of British Columbia and Canada in 1994 ensured that athlete development could flourish by giving priority to high performance training and competitions at all levels and led to many World Championship and Olympic medals. This support structure will reach the end of the initial 25 year term in August 2019, placing high performance access to one of Canada's most successful aquatic facilities in jeopardy.

The 1994 Commonwealth Games supplied \$15,000,000 of the \$22,000,000 construction budget to cover the costs of the 50 m Competition pool and the 25 m Diving area. Today it would likely cost in excess of \$80,000,000 to replace this facility, more than the entire 1994 Games budget.

Aquatic sports groups have grown tremendously over the last 25 years and currently produce over \$330,000 per year of rentals for training and hosting competitions, a more than threefold increase from \$75,000 (\$105,000 inflation adjusted) in 1994.

As of fall 2018, there were 1091 athletes in club and club development programs plus 2812 athletes in school outreach programs, for a total of 3903 athletes (Table 1). If these 1091 athletes, who are approximately half youth (13-18) and half child (7-13) in age, were to access Saanich Commonwealth Place by purchasing Annual Full Access Passes, the revenue would be approximately \$265,000 (Table 2). This is markedly less than the \$330,000 being paid per year in rentals.

SCP hosts over 52 competitions each year, of which 25-30 are major events with an annual total of 75,000 spectators. It has been estimated that the tourism/economic value of this activity to Greater Victoria is \$3-4,000,000 per year. In addition to tourism generated revenues, Sports based at SCP spend \$4,000,000 per year in the community.

In essence, Greater Victoria benefits from a well-developed aquatic ecosystem of which the Operating Agreement is a key component. Since SCP's opening, the OA has proven to be a highly effective template for a mutually beneficial engagement and partnership of High Performance Sport and Recreational pursuits. Ensuring that SCP remains an International level facility would enable any future Games bid, including a 2030 Commonwealth Games bid.

Athlete Success

The break down by event from 1994 to the present for the 158 athletes representing Canada from Saanich Commonwealth Place pool and their 61 medals at the Olympic Games, World Championships and Commonwealth Games is:

- 38 Olympians and 2 Paralympians
- 6 Olympic and 12 Paralympic Medals *(3/6 and 12/12 Club based)*
- 61 World Championship and 3 Paralympic World Championship Participants
- 15 World Championship and 10 Paralympic World Championship Medals
- 54 Commonwealth Games Participants
- 18 Commonwealth Games Medals

In support of these High-Performance outcomes Saanich Commonwealth Place programs employ 129 coaches, ranging from development to International, with 67% of these being female.

Table 1. Fall 2018 athlete numbers for aquatic sports.

Athlete Numbers					
Sport Group	Club	Club Development	Club Subtotal	School Outreach*	Total
Diving	28	58	86	112	198
Synchro	30	40	70		70
Swimming	400	400	800	1700	2500
Swim Center	10		10		10
Water polo	75	50	125	1000	1125
Total	543	548	1091	2812	3903

* School outreach provides diving, swimming and water polo programs for 37 schools.