

Do you want a Pool for Haliburton County?

A recently published survey undertaken by the Aging Well Committee of Haliburton County showed that of 435 people surveyed 52% were cottagers or part time residents before becoming a permanent resident. That means a significant number of people reading this either have, or eventually will, retire to Haliburton, and that also means that we should be far more active and informed about what our future retirement community has to offer as a place where we can stay healthy and active.

We are fortunate, to live in such a beautiful pristine environment without the noise, traffic, congestion and pollution of our cities, but there is something else missing from our county that all of us really should be getting more concerned about. Our county is not as healthy a place to live as most people think it is and here's why!

We are blessed with plenty of opportunities to exercise as long as we remain reasonably fit and strong, with good balance. However, if we ever find ourselves needing low impact exercise or water-based therapy to recover from joint surgery, injuries, stroke etc.....we simply do not have it!

Many of our local health professionals are frustrated with the fact that as a community we lack exercise facilities that will give us a broad range of quality rehabilitative care options for things like: arthritis, cardiac rehabilitation and recovery from hip/knee surgery. Out of 48 counties in our Province only three do not have a fitness facility that includes exercise equipment and a pool.....and we are one of the three!

A fitness facility with a pool in Haliburton County will provide far more than just a healthy form of exercise for our community, it will enable parents to take their children to swimming lessons without driving to Peterborough, Bracebridge or Bobcaygeon, often through treacherous winter conditions. It will also help keep much needed shopping dollars in our community, provide jobs for local residents in administration, as lifeguards and swimming instructors, fitness trainers, and maintenance staff. Swim meets will bring outside money into our local economy and advertise our community.

A fitness facility in Haliburton County would provide an environment for people of all ages and abilities to maintain and improve their well-being, and help attract health care and other professionals to Haliburton County because it will complete a large piece of the activities picture of "things to do in Haliburton". It will also make Haliburton County more attractive as a place to cottage or live, which will help our community grow. As lakeside residents age, statistics show that they prefer to move into town, but without housing and a full fitness facility we will likely lose this potential to grow our tax base and keep taxes lower. This should be a concern to all property owners!

The operating cost of bringing a pool to Haliburton County is estimated to be \$3.50 per year per \$100,000 of assessed property value. So for a \$500,000 property it'll add \$17.50 per year to your tax bill, but consider the personal cost of driving to Peterborough or Bracebridge or Bobcaygeon to access their facilities and the lost revenue to our local community and this operating cost is cheap!

The Pool Committee has been fundraising now for approximately 3 months and we have raised over \$10,000 of the required \$35,000 to undertake the first stage study required to bring a fitness facility to Haliburton. We have had tremendous support from our Medical Community with \$5000 in donations from that segment alone. Now we need the lakefront property owners to contribute to our fundraising efforts.

Please get behind this initiative; you count!

Contributions can be made in support of the "Haliburton County Swimming Pool Initiative" with Cheques made out to: Pool Survey Fund, c/o Bank of Montreal, 194 Highland St., P.O. Box 509, Haliburton, K0M1S0
Attn: Laurie Johnson