

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Laurier to keep pool open while helping community develop swim plan** *University encouraged by discussions with local aquatic supporters*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University will keep its 50-metre swimming pool open until at least Dec. 31 to give the community more time to develop a plan for providing local aquatic groups with a competitive swim facility.

The university had previously announced that its aging pool, which has been used by community aquatic groups for 35 years, would close permanently Aug. 31 due to the need for significant and costly repairs. In response to community concern, the university has re-visited the repair issues with its consulting engineers and determined that the pool can be kept safely open on a day-by-day basis while the university continues to work with the community to find a longer-term solution.

One option is to make interim repairs that could keep the pool open for up to five years, providing community groups with a training facility until a new competitive pool is built in the region. Laurier has offered to continue paying the operating costs to run its pool if the community contributes the capital funds for the interim repairs.

“Laurier has provided the community with an excellent aquatic facility for 35 years and we recognize that it is central to competitive swimming in this region,” said Jim Butler, Laurier’s vice-president: finance and administration. “We’ve been encouraged by the community’s expressions of support in recent weeks and we will do our best to keep the pool open for as long as we can while we work together for a longer-term solution.”

Butler stressed, however, that the pool’s status will be subject to daily evaluation until the funds are found to make significant repairs. “Safety is still the first priority, so we will continually and carefully monitor the situation,” he said. “If necessary, we will close the pool on short notice. We’ve discussed this approach with the user groups and they’re onside.”

The Laurier pool is the only 50-metre pool in Waterloo Region and is used by many community groups, including the Region of Waterloo Swim Club (ROW), the KW Synchronized Swim Club, the Waterloo Regional Synchronized Swim Club, the KW Water Polo Club, high schools, elementary schools, and Special Olympics athletes.