

September 18, 2020

### **Strathcona Gardens Limited Opening of the Main Pool Starts September 21st**

**Campbell River, BC** – As the days become shorter and the leaves start to change color, the window of opportunity to recreate outdoors frequently slowly closes.

The team at Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex has been very busy preparing the main pool for a gradual limited opening, scheduled for Monday September 21. The main pool is opening later than usual this year due to preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

“All aquatic staff have been thoroughly trained on new procedures and a COVID-19 Safety Protocols plan has been developed to limit the risk of virus exposure. The new safety protocols are aligned with both, Island Health and the National Lifesaving Society most recent guidelines.” says Ryan Christison Deputy Manager at Strathcona Gardens. “Those who plan to use the main pool are asked to arrive already in their swimsuits, as change rooms will have very limited access however washrooms remain open. We will be starting off gradually with a reduced number of programs such as lane swimming and registered fitness classes with the intention to build on these going forward.”

With a limited schedule to begin, Strathcona Gardens can assess and transition to extending hours and opening up other services and programs over time. This limited opening provides an opportunity for feedback from users experiencing swim or fitness classes during this phase. As everything is so fluid with the COVID-19 pandemic, Strathcona Gardens does not have timelines to share on the next phases of its reopening, as we have all experienced conditions and situations do change and that’s part of the uncertainty of this pandemic. Strathcona Gardens will gradually open in a safe manner and thoughtful way, understanding that its top priority is the safety of staff and its community.

“It’s recognized that the pool schedule to begin this fall season is limited, however the goal is to work towards a more normal operating schedule taking cautious steps forward in the COVID-19 restart plan”, says Ryan Christison Deputy Manager at Strathcona Gardens. “We sincerely appreciate the patience, support and encouragement we have received from the community as we navigate these unpredicted times.”

Screening of all pre-registered patrons will be required before entering the complex and physical distancing measures will be in place throughout the facility. Admission to the main pool, will be by pre-registration only which can be done either online or by phone, and users will be able to book their space up to 14 days in advance.

At this time, the leisure pool, hot tub, steam rooms and waterslide remain closed. The Rod Brind’Amour arena, fitness pods and pickle ball courts remain open and are available to all users by pre-registration.

For more information about fall programs offered at this time or to book your space in the main pool, please visit [www.strathconagardens.com](http://www.strathconagardens.com) or call 250-830-6777 between the hours of 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

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