

Mayor Fougere, Members of City Council, People of Regina:

Last year a ton of us came to City Hill on Budget Night to tell the Council we wanted our Maple Leaf Pool rebuilt. You never wanted to do this for us. You seemed to think you had better ideas but in the end, you had to listen and we are all very glad about that. I can't wait for the new Maple Leaf Pool.

But now we have another swimming pool problem. It regards whether the City is going to listen to the people who actually use the Wascana Pool who are saying, "Make us a 50 meter or 50 yard pool, but not a blob shaped pool with a tiny lap pool on the side." The people saying this are actual pool goers. These people are parents too. These people are in the know! They swim at the Wascana Pool all summer long.

I wonder: Do you swim at Wascana Pool more than a couple times every summer or do you at all? How about other people involved in the decision making?

I want to again refer to the December,8, 2014 Outdoor Pools Facility Plan Update where the proposal to decommission Maple Leaf Pool was made and plans to make an Enhanced Wascana Pool to the tune of 17.5 million dollars was advanced. This plan was called Option 5 and it was overwhelmingly rejected by the public last year with no on-line questionnaire needed but also, with no on-line questionnaire ever given to us in the first place to even answer to!

In all my presentations, I always tried to impress upon Council that making an enhanced pool in Wascana is a waste of money. Why, when the City is so strapped for money, won't Council consider rebuilding the pool for less than 10 million as the 2014 Facility Plans Update outlined? And furthermore, why won't the City put in its on-line questionnaire, "Would you rather have an Enhanced Pool that is going to cost in and around 17.5 million or would you rather have a 10 million dollar pool that looks a lot like the old pool but with new change rooms?" I think putting this option in the questionnaire would have shown some respect to all the people who have been advocating for a simple Wascana rebuild all these years. Instead, there were leading questions in the questionnaire and they all pointed to, "What kind of stuff do you want at the enhanced pool?" So much for a democratic consultation.

Kids and families were already sufficiently happy with the old pool set up. Kids had the diving boards, brought their Frisbees and beach balls and Z99 blasted as the sound track. They even had a slide. People loved the rectangular pool. This proposed blob shaped pool cannot improve on what we already had going on at the old pool. In fact, I strongly believe a blob pool could likely take away. With a big 50 yard or meter pool, you accommodate the leisure people who want to cool off a bit in the water, the kids who want to dive and splash around and the serious swimmers who need long uniform lanes in order to do what they do. This makes fiscal sense and it also pays tribute to the fact that you don't always need to try and improve upon things. Sometimes things are made right the first time.

So council, please just rebuild the Wascana Pool as it was. It's a design we know that everyone will enjoy!

Thank you.

Lesley Farley