

Danny :

As you may recall I reside at 1113 Gavel Road and I am one of your constituents.

I am also a former board member and past President of the Yarmouth YMCA and am familiar with the efforts to keep the YMCA Open, and I wish to thank you and your council for stepping up financially in the manner you did. The support your council and the town provided did not go unnoticed, and I wished it could have spurred on the Municipality of Yarmouth but for whatever reason that council, at that time was completely “tone deaf” to the benefits the Yarmouth YMCA provided to the entire region, on so many different levels. I personally know of a physician who was/ is contemplating leaving the area because there is at present no community pool.

I write to you as a parent of two young boys age 2 and 3, and we used to participate in parent-tot swims twice weekly at the YMCA pool. They were doing very well on their track to become “swimmers” , and developing confidence around water. It was 100% their favourite thing to do and now they have no understanding at their age as to why we can’t go swimming like we once did. I purposefully avoid driving past the former YMCA with them in my vehicle as it causes them to grow upset and ask me why we don’t go swimming anymore, it is gut wrenching for me to see their disappointment.

We are going to have a generation of non-swimmers in this area if local government does not take steps to work together and open the former YMCA pool facility on an interim basis while a plan for a modern facility is developed at the Mariners Center.

It would be sadly ironic for an area known world-wide as a “fishing capital” blessed with beautiful beaches, to not be able to offer its children the opportunity to learn how to swim. Swimming is more than a great recreational pursuit enjoyed by all ages, it is also a fundamental life saving skill, and for local government to not swiftly develop an interim plan to re-open the pool is shameful.

I am sure you have read the article below but I do send it along to reinforce my position.

I am hoping you and your fellow councillors are treating this with priority, this community has had a pool since 1967, here we are in 2021 and we have nothing. It feels regressive not progressive to lose a community pool, I hope you can engage the other leaders of local government to get the pool back in operation, our children and our entire community deserve better than this.

[https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/communities/southwest-nova-scotia/missing-the-yarmouth-ymca-facilitys-closure-keenly-felt-in-dead-of-winter-544669/?fbclid=IwAR2yBYba5KDLXLJLvRX6E5mtK3nOy96jN6IXY2cDSyOJWBuSZZtgXS\\_CZaQ#.YA7vhK8MM-0.facebook](https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/communities/southwest-nova-scotia/missing-the-yarmouth-ymca-facilitys-closure-keenly-felt-in-dead-of-winter-544669/?fbclid=IwAR2yBYba5KDLXLJLvRX6E5mtK3nOy96jN6IXY2cDSyOJWBuSZZtgXS_CZaQ#.YA7vhK8MM-0.facebook)

Regards,

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