From: Sandra Dupuis
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:34 PM

Subject: Re: Submission for March 20 and 21 City Council meeting - Preliminary 2024-2027 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budgets re: Pool Closures - Opposition to Closures

March 17, 2024

His Worship, Mayor Gillingham
Councillors
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

City Council meeting dates: March 20th, 2024 and March 21st, 2024

Re: in **opposition** to Preliminary 2024-2027 Multi-Year Operating and Capital Budgets proposal to decommission Eldon Ross, Happyland, and Windsor Park pools

Please accept this as my submission in strong opposition to the proposal to decommission Eldon Ross, Happyland, and Windsor Park Pools to be placed on record for both the March 20th and March 21st, 2024, council meetings.

Thank you to Councillor Allard for his work to save these local pools. Thank you to the residents who have taken the time to speak or write in support of keeping these pools. Thank you to the councillors who take the time to read this and to those who have looked into saving these pools.

It is unimaginable that, in a time when mental health services and crime rates are ever an increasing concern, our city should even consider decommissioning 3 pools in disadvantaged areas of the city. The value of proactively investing in existing recreation amenities that encourage youth engagement and community sense of belonging is a much needed component of any city's safety, well-being, and crime prevention strategy. As well, as we learned in the earlier days of the pandemic, the outdoor pools became very useful when indoor attendance presented more risk and allowed us much-needed recreational relief.

The 4th principle of the *Complete Communities* planning document states that we should build *"on existing assets, including natural heritage features (rivers, urban forests, and parks), cultural heritage features (the historical villages and heritage buildings and structures), built form (mature neighbourhoods and Downtown), community focal points (facilities, open spaces, and main streets), and the existing pattern of streets. The existing character and form will not substantially change for a significant portion of the City."*
It has been noticed that the *Complete Communities* document does not seem to have been effectively applied with respect to the proposal to decommission these existing local pools. Please see the attached document for a more detailed explanation. Also explained in this document is a sampled-neighbourhood comparison study based on Google Map screenshots taken of Point Douglas, St Boniface and Charles/Tuxedo/Westwood wards. Please find attached graphs, chart, Tribune articles, and neighbourhood comparisons.

The following are a few of the concepts raised in the *Complete Communities* document in brief point form as they might apply to Happyland Pool:

- directly on Marion street which is an Urban Mixed-Use Corridor designated as Priority Corridor
- helps to *reduce private automobile use* and *minimizes the number and length of trips* that people need to make - *walkable neighbourhood*
- multi-facility park with newer playground, Disc Golf course, picnic tables, fire pits, proposed AT path *(Moving on Marion)* - more facilities coming with the Water Tower District development
- surrounded by *dense population*
- *geographic area of poverty* and lower income (average median household income is 21% Canadian average)
- *residential intensification target area*
- new Water Tower District development with substantial residential, commercial, industrial
- *Heritage feature* - originally built in 1934 by Kiwanis fund-raising private money
- more *sensitive environmental location near the Seine* should be considered
- *cheapest* outdoor pool to run in the city
- all 3 St Boniface pools operating costs together $322,084 are less than any single one of Transcona Aquatic ($374,170,) St Vital ($402,588,) and Kildonan ($537,650) pools*

Concerns of residents regarding the confusing reasons given for closing Happyland:

- attendance which is artificially deflated by severely limiting capacity over last few years ex. not enough lifeguards
- the pool has been closed completely on weekends, the potentially busiest times
- the wading pool has seldom been open in the last few years
- calculated operating costs bring up questions ex. does removing sending Happyland lifeguards to other pools also include sending the cost of those lifeguards?
- there's been no mention of needing excessive repairs (no failing tank?) - it's smaller pool to repair even if there were issues
- there's been no offer of splash pad to replace Happyland pool and wading pool so residents can't even make a deal to swap a new amenity to keep the old

With the news that Bonivital pool will be closed for repairs, closing 2 other pools this summer in St Boniface will leave people of all ages in the community with much fewer options for recreation and relief from heat. This is especially concerning for youth. I hope you will agree that this issue is too important and appears to still have too many unsettled questions and concerns to simply rush through. The impacts of this decision are more than simply financial ones.

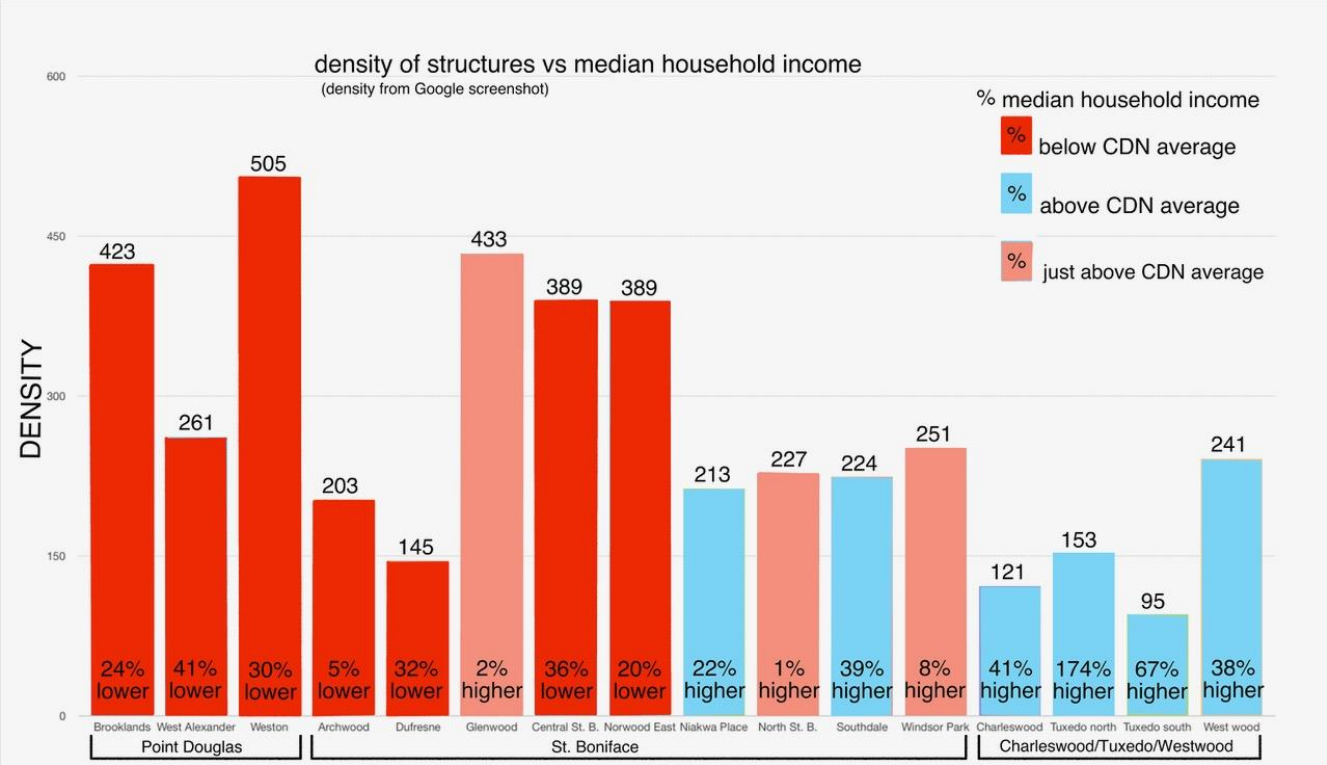
Please strongly consider delaying the proposal to decommission these facilities and, as has been suggested for Eldon Ross Pool, grant the St Boniface community, at minimum, some time to explore possible solutions for both Happyland and Windsor Pools.

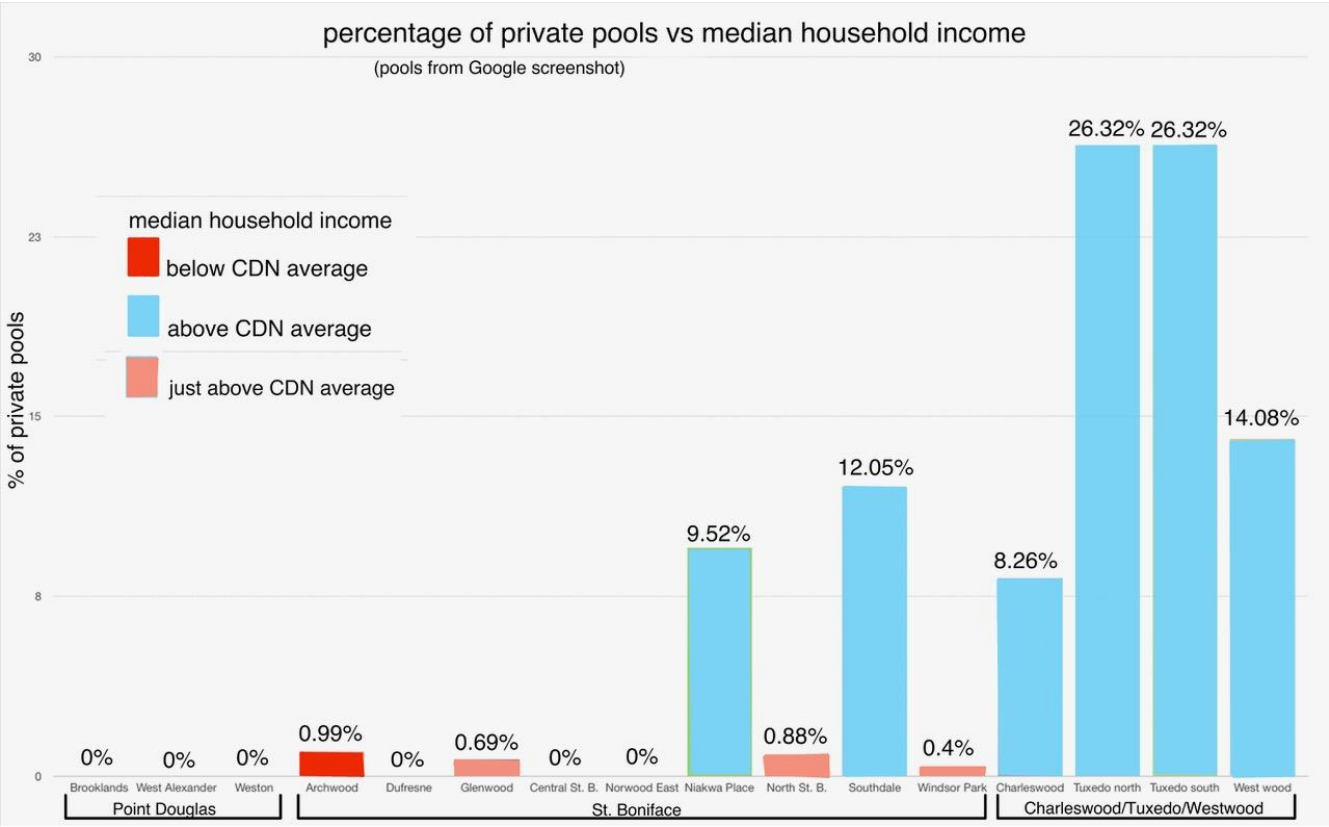
Thank you for the work you are doing.

Kind regards,

Michelle Berger
R2J 0P3

**Pools targeted for closure cheaper to operate,* Winnipeg Free Press , March 4, 2024
https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/03/04/pools-targeted-for-closure-cheaper-to-operate


density of structures vs median household income
(density from Google screenshot)
% median household income
% below CDN average
% above CDN average
% just above CDN average
DENSITY
600
450
300
150
0
423
261
505
203
145
433
389
389
213
227
224
251
121
153
95
241
24% lower
41% lower
30% lower
5% lower
32% lower
2% higher
36% lower
20% lower
22% higher
1% higher
39% higher
8% higher
41% higher
174% higher
67% higher
38% higher
Brooklands
West Alexander
Weston
Archwood
Dufresne
Glenwood
Central St. B.
Norwood East
Niakwa Place
North St. B.
Southdale
Windsor Park
Charleswood
Tuxedo north
Tuxedo south
West wood
Point Douglas
St. Boniface
Charleswood/Tuxedo/Westwood

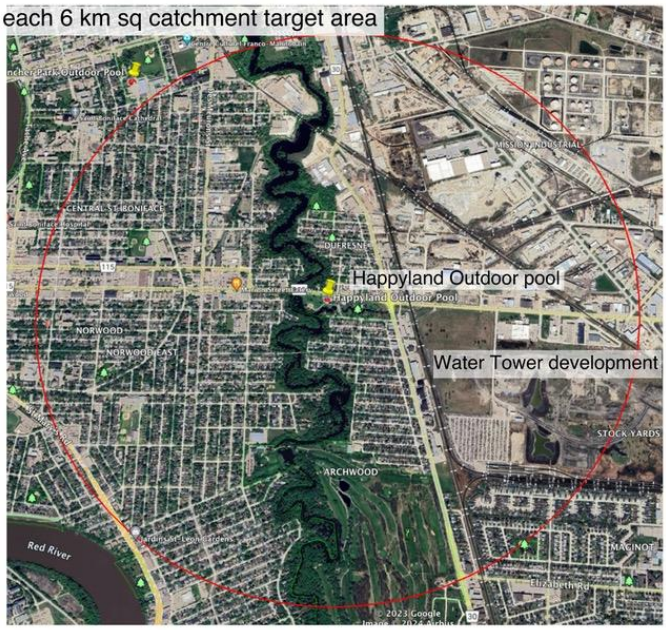

percentage of private pools vs median household income
(pools from Google screenshot)
% of private pools
30
23
15
8
0
median household income
below CDN average
above CDN average
just above CDN average
0%
0%
0%
0.99%
0%
0.69%
0%
0%
9.52%
0.88%
12.05%
0.4%
8.26%
26.32%
26.32%
14.08%
Brooklands
West Alexander
Weston
Archwood
Dufresne
Glenwood
Central St. B.
Norwood East
Niakwa Place
North St. B.
Southdale
Windsor Park
Charleswood
Tuxedo north
Tuxedo south
West wood
Point Douglas
St. Boniface
Charleswood/Tuxedo/Westwood

comparison of 1 neighbourhood in each 6 km sq catchment target area



Westwood 241 structures 34 private pools

38% higher CDN median household income



Norwood East 389 structures 0 private pools

20% lower CDN median household income



Southdale

224 structures

27 pools

median household income:

39% above CDN average



Central St. Boniface

389 structures

0 pools

median household income:

36% below CDN average



Tuxedo (north)

153 structures

40 private pools

median household income:

174% above CDN average



Weston

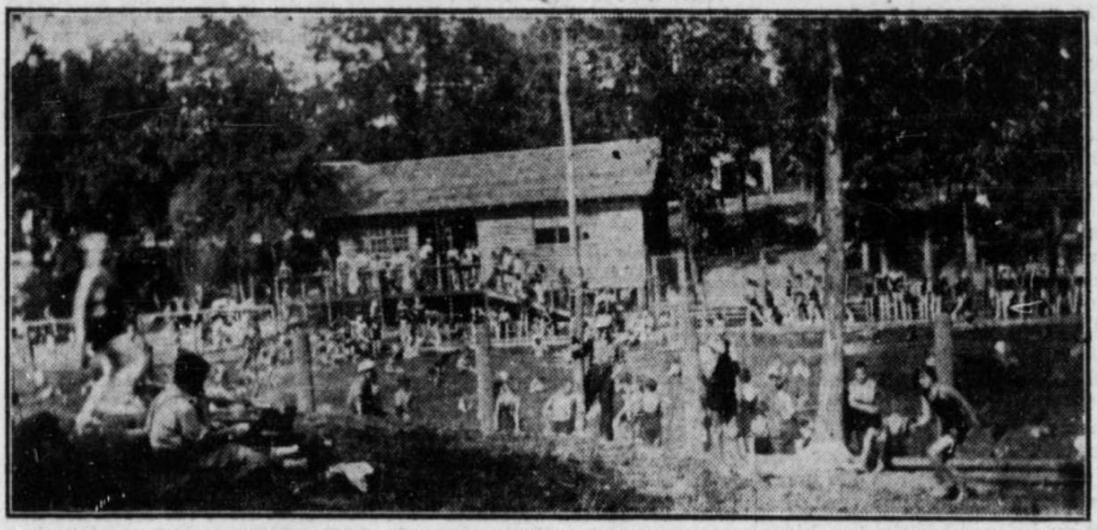
505 structures

0 private pools

median household income:

30% below CDN average

"HAPPYLAND" COMPLETED IN ST. BONIFACE



Members of the St. Boniface Kiwanis club celebrated the completion and official opening of the "Happyland" swimming pool along the Seine river at a banquet Thursday in Transit hotel. The club put over the construction and installation of the ten-acre recreation ground for the children of St. Boniface and Greater Winnipeg, with the assistance of many private donations. The total cost was $8,000. There is now an average daily attendance of 450 at the swimming pool.

river at a banquet Thursday in Transit club put over the construction and inst

'HAPPYLAND' AT ST. BONIFACE IS NOW COMPLETED

Kiwanis Club Creates Park With Assistance of Private Donors

Completion of the Happyland Swimming Pool, on the Seine river, St. Boniface, was celebrated at the Transit hotel, Thursday, by members of the St. Boniface Kiwanis club. This organization put over the creation of the park, with the assistance of private donors, at a cost of $8,000.

A $3,000 dressing-room with separate showers is one of the features of St. Boniface's new recreation ground of 10 acres. Today the average daily attendance is between 400 and 450.

Among the donations in cash or kind were gifts from Canada Packers, Ltd.; Winnipeg Electric Company, T. Eaton Co., Ltd.; Hudson's Bay Company, International Laboratories, Ltd.; Veltries Distributors', Ltd.; Safeway Stores, Ltd.; Piggly-Wiggly Company, Modern Dairies, Shea's, Ltd.; Kiewel's Brewery, Ltd.; Riedle's Brewery, Western Canada Flour Mills Company, Soubry Grai nand Feed Company, Dominion Wheels and Foundry, Ltd.; Transit Hotel, St. Boniface Creamery, Martin Paper Products, Ltd.; Speirs-Parnell Bakery, Swift Canadian, Ltd.; J. H. N. Leveille, E. B. Walker, P. Coutu and Company, D. S. Wood, Ritz Cafe, Liquid Carbonate Company, R. J. Speers Corporation, Ltd.; North Star Oil Company, Ltd.; Carters-Hall-Aldinger Company, W. J. Holmes, Toupin Lumber and Fuel Company, Dowse Sash and Door Company, St. Boniface Hardware, Briggs Hardware Company, Partridge and Halliday, H. Winder, Knudsen Bros., Keewatin Lumber Company, Acme Sash and Door Company, J. Baxter Sign Company, Star Baggage and Furniture Movers Company, Public Works Department of St. Boniface, The Beligum Club, Alderman N. Pirotton, Municipality of Ste. Anne, Frank's Electric Shop and Charlie Court.



Mrs. Florence Waren, shown diving and n inset, has been swimming for 73 years.

Mrs. Waren Is 81 — But She's Not Too Old for Diving

Youngsters and oldsters alike could say little else but "wow" Saturday morning when 81-year-old Florence Waren walked to the

When Mr. Schick said he'd have another rung put on the ladder for her, Mrs. Waren promised to be there every day.

This will not help Mrs. Waren's husband, William, who has been trying to discourage his wife from swimming for some time now.

construction if the present price

Parade Tonight For Kathie

St. Boniface belongs to Kathie McIntosh tonight as the city demonstrates its pride in the hometown 20-year-old who was the first person to swim Lake Winnipeg.

Plans include civic receptions at St. Boniface and Winnipeg city halls, official opening of a swim pool and a windup at the Norwood Flood Bowl complete with presentations, hot dogs, roast corn, music and fireworks.

Here is the "Kathie Night" timetable:

6 p.m.—Reception and presentation at St. Boniface city hall.

6.15 p.m.—Motorcade arrives at Winnipeg city hall where Kathie is presented to mayor and council, receives city presentation.

6.25—Motorcade leaves city hall, travels down Main St., across Norwood Bridge, up Marion St. to St. Boniface Kiwanis Happyland Park.

6.45—At Happyland Park, Kathie officially opens new swim pool, awards Junior Red Cross swim awards to St. Boniface

Rocket To See Swim

Athol Ferguson, director of swimming, has announced that Maurice (The Rocket) Richard, star of the Montreal Canadiens will be at the Kiwanis Happlyland Pool during the St. Boniface 50th Jubilee Celebrations on June 19 when the "Water Fantasia" will take place.

A practice will be held for all children taking part in the races at the Kiwanis Happyland Pool June 14 beginning at 1.30 p.m. All the children and officials and life guards from St. Boniface and Norwood who have been chosen to take part in the "Water Fantasia" are expected to turn out for practice.

June 15 the pool will be open at 1.30 p.m. for all performers, officials and life guards taking part in the "Water Fantasia".

Free Swim Classes At St. Boniface

The Kinsmen Club of St. Boniface have underwritten the cost of free swimming for the children of St. Boniface and Norwood.

Athol Ferguson, director of swimming, reports that a cheque for $504 was received by St. Boniface Swimming and Water Safety Association from the Kinsmen Club of St. Boniface, Norwood and St. Vital to cover expenses of the summer program.

Lessons are given on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the St. Boniface pool and the Kiwanis - Happyland pool. Late Kiwanis - Happyland pool. Latecomers may still register by bringing their child to either pool on July 7 between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

neighbourhood comparisons Google screenshots

	Structures	private pools	% with private pools	median household CDN income
Point Douglas				
Brooklands	423	0	0	24% below
West Alexander	261	0	0	41% below
Weston	505	0	0	30% below
total	1189	0	0.00	31.66% below
St Boniface				
Archwood	203	2	0.99	5% below
Dufresne	145	0	0	32% below
Glenwood	433	3	0.69	2% higher
Central St. B.	389	0	0	36% below
Norwood East	389	0	0	20% below
Niakwa Place	213	22	9.52	22% higher
North St. B.	227	2	0.88	1% higher
Southdale	224	27	12.05	39% higher
Windsor Park	251	1	0.4	8% higher
total	2474	57	2.70	21% below
Charles/Tuxedo/ Westwood				
Charleswood	121	10	8.26	41% higher
Tuxedo north	153	40	26.32	174% higher
Tuxedo south	95	25	26.32	67% higher
West wood	241	34	14.09	38% higher
total	610	109	17.89	80% higher