

Dear City Clerk's Office:

Please add the below correspondence to the agenda for the upcoming CAPS meeting if it is not too late:

Re: Thames Pool Decision

CAPS Committee Members:

As a father of three and a resident of Ward 11, it is of my opinion that it is imperative that the Community and Protective Services Committee act to ensure that Thames Pool continues to be available for use as the most preferred outdoor pool in our entire city.

As the staff report indicates, Thames Pool is the only 50m outdoor pool in this region, has a capacity of up to 500 users, is fully accessible, and represents 30% of all outdoor pool use across 11 pools and is 3.3x more visited than our next busiest pool.

Olympic Gold Medalist Maggie MacNeil put London on the map worldwide in the 2021 Olympics, after using Thames Pool to prepare for her best-in-the-world performance leading up to the games. She too voiced her support from all the way down in Baton Rouge, Louisiana that Thames Pool remain open: [Link](#)

Staff recommended in their report that it be "fiscally responsible" to decommission Thames Pool. Children in Ward 11 and 13 are already a low priority for recreation in our city, having to travel to other neighbourhoods to access sports teams and splash pads. Thames Pool has been a crown jewel of our neighbourhood for ninety-six years, and a place where many learned to swim, cooled off during a heat wave, and made life long friendships.

You cannot put a price on water safety, and on health and wellness. We know roads continue to crack and the pipes underneath them fail on a yearly basis, yet we continue to repair them with the same methods over and over again. With 30,000 users per summer, it is of my opinion that the per-user maintenance dollars spent to date have been more than valuable given the results they created.

The pool existed renovated but mostly unchanged from 1927 to 2009. There were no flood control structures in the Thames River until the Fanshawe Dam in 1953 and Pittock in 1967. Thames Pool did survive the floods of 1937 and 1947 relatively unscathed, and over 1,100 homes were destroyed and 5 people killed in the 1937 flood. The below picture is of The Coves in that flood, but Thames Pool still stood.



The Children of Wards 11, 13, and the west side of Ward 1 provide some of the heaviest users of Thames Pool, along with many summer camps spread across those areas. My children used to insist that all of their summer camps be the Wortley YMCA camp because they visited Thames Pool 3 times a week. Since the closure, that camp now has to offer sprinklers and kiddie pools in the middle of Wortley Village Green and we now sign them up for Lambeth YMCA Camp.

I've spent the last ten years advocating on behalf of over 1,300 local fathers and their children. We brought Automated Defibrillators to over 35 local schools because they save lives. Strenuous physical activity such as swimming saves lives, as does the opportunity to learn how to swim itself. Local parents and children already cannot get into swim lessons with the City of London because there are not enough spaces. Permanently closing Thames Pool will only make that worse, and put the water safety of local children even more at risk.

Please vote no to the staff recommendation to close Thames Pool on behalf of Londoners, their children, the past ninety-six years, and future generations to come.

Thank you,
Jeremy McCall

Ward 11 Resident and father of three future pledged lifelong Ward 11 residents