

## FOR RELEASE March 23rd, 2023

## Working Together to make the new Mount Forest Pool and Aquatics Centre a Reality

On March 20th, a major milestone for the Mount Forest Pool and Aquatics Centre was achieved when Council voted in support of moving forward with the project as part of the 2023 Budget process. During the meeting, Council decided on a taxpayer contribution of \$2.8 million dollars that will be funded over the next several years. Council also decided on a \$2.5 million dollar community fundraising goal – a critical partnership that will help make this long awaited pool a reality.

At the March 21, 2023 meeting of the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee, committee members were pleased to welcome guests Mayor Andy Lennox and Councillor Steve McCabe. Staff presented the most recent workplan for the pool and the Committee was excited to discuss how their efforts could be supported in achieving the fundraising goal set by Council.

Member Jessica McFarlane was thankful to have council representation at the meeting and had this to say following the meeting, "The Aquatics Committee was given positive news that Council has approved within the budget, to move forward with the new outdoor pool in Mount Forest. Our growing community has a lot of amenities to offer families and seniors, and a new pool is officially on the list! Committee members, Council members, and Township staff, had the opportunity to openly discuss our thoughts about how we can work together to get this pool built. We still have money to fundraise, so we will be looking to the community for support with donations and volunteer help for fundraising events."

The outdoor pool has been an area of focus for Council, residents, and Township staff. This long discussed capital project is now coming to reality. Councillor Sherry Burke, Chair of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee, noted "A clear commitment from Council to move ahead with the pool is a welcome step. The Committee can now begin to develop a fundraising strategy that builds on the community's interest and desire for this important project."

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