

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed January 13, 2022

### **Beban Pool to open on January 17**

*Aquafit classes and swimming lessons also commencing*

#### **Summary**

As of January 17, the City of Nanaimo will be opening up the main 25-metre tank at Beban Park Pool. In addition, aquafit classes will resume at both Beban Park Pool and Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, and a small set of winter swimming lessons will be available for registration.

The opening of the Beban Park main pool comes after a series of repairs were conducted. During that time, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre accommodated the vast majority of public swimming sessions and provided space for user groups and rentals. Now that both pools are fully operational, citizens can enjoy more swimming opportunities.

A short set of winter swimming lessons will be held until a full set can be offered in the spring. Available classes will be viewable online starting on Monday, January 17 with registration beginning on Wednesday, January 19.

To see the pool schedules that begin on January 17, please visit [recreation.nanaimo.ca](https://recreation.nanaimo.ca) (drop in). Pre-registration is only required for aquafit classes. All other sessions do not require pre-registration.

There have been several improvements to Beban Pool, including new tiling in the washrooms, LED lighting upgrades, water-efficient taps and overall painting found throughout the facility. In additions, an accessibility audit was completed last year that should help the City of Nanaimo determine ways to enhance everyone's ability to access the pool amenities found at Beban Park.

For those who haven't visited Beban Park Pool in awhile, Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun, a Coast Salish artist, was commissioned by the City of Nanaimo to create large-scale murals that were unveiled last fall. These feature the movement of the dog salmon run and the ecosystems sustained by the herring run and the eelgrass. Creatures, including littleneck clams, sea lion, bald eagle, octopus, and others, appear in his designs. Interactive and interpretive signage with English and Hul'q'umi'num words, and a take-away guide is available to share information, language and stories related to the artwork.

Although both pools are open, Provincial Health Orders require that weight rooms remain closed until at least January 18, facility capacities be restricted to 50 percent, and everyone over the age of 12 provide proof of vaccination in order to participate or spectate. As health orders are updated, schedules and procedures will be adjusted. Due to the demand of aquafit classes, pre-registration is required up to 8 days in advance by calling our registration desk at 250-756-5200 or online at [recreation.nanaimo.ca](https://recreation.nanaimo.ca) (register for a program, drop in).

*Strategic Link:* Providing opportunities to recreate supports a liveable community.

## Key Points

- Beban Pool's main 25-metre tank will open, along with the rest of Beban Pool's amenities on Monday, January 17.
- Aquafit classes at both Beban Park Pool and Nanaimo Aquatic Centre will resume on January 17 with mandatory pre-registration. Pre-registration is available by phone with a credit card at 250-756-5200 or online at [recreation.nanaimo.ca](http://recreation.nanaimo.ca).
- A short set of winter swimming lessons will be offered. Available classes will be online for viewing starting on Monday, January 17 with registration beginning on Wednesday, January 19.

## Quotes

"On behalf of council and staff, I would like to thank members of our community for their patience as repairs at Beban Park pool were undertaken. With both pools being fully operational, we are happy that we can once again provide a wide variety of swimming opportunities for our citizens."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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