

January 3rd, 2021

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2021! We know that many people hoped to wake up January 1st to find that 2020 was just a dream and that life would be magically back to normal. We also know that magic comes from hard work and practice. Therefore, while the vaccines start to roll out we will continue to work hard to follow the advice of our local health authorities and governing bodies.

In any other year we would be starting into competition season and this year is no different - sorta. While it is competition season, they will look a little different. Over the next number of months, competitions will be virtual AND be a mix of dryland and in-water. Knowing that the rules and access to pools varies across the province and across the country, both Ontario Artistic Swimming and Canadian Artistic Swimming have committed to supporting competitions and creating a fun and engaging environment for swimmers. I think we all know it won't be perfect, but we can still look forward to some great events over the coming months. As we prepare for that, our goal is to ensure that everyone is having fun along the way!

Key Dates

- **Jan 4-8:** First week back; check TeamSnap
- **Jan 8th:** Deadline for ordering Olympium masks
- **Jan 4th:** Hollycrest applications open
- **Jan 21st:** Lisa Alexandra Tech & Routine Meet (Dryland)
- **Feb 5th:** Hollycrest application deadline
- **Feb 25th:** Leslie Taylor Cup
- **Mar 5th:** Novice & Masters Regionals

Olympium Masks

Happy Holidays everyone! Hopefully everyone is enjoying quality family time despite the lockdown.

To show some team spirit during this difficult time, we wanted to offer everyone the opportunity to purchase custom Olympium masks for our swimmers and family members. In preparation for future pool time, we also have some fun swim caps that can be purchased. All proceeds will go towards Olympium. Masks are \$15 each, while silicone caps are \$10. Please order by January 8th; we expect delivery in 2-3 weeks.



[Order Here](#)

Please forward payments via e-transfer to m.zaitsev@yahoo.ca

A Message from the President

Reprinted from December 18th Email

Given all the challenges we have encountered this year, I wanted to take a step back and provide an update on a few important topics. Apologies up front, as this did get a little lengthy, but well worth then read. Specifically I want to address:

- The direction we are getting from our Provincial Sport Authority, Ontario Artistic Swimming regarding meets,
- An update on the club, our finances, and what the rest of this year is looking like,
- Another callout for much needed volunteers.

Ontario Artistic Swimming / Canadian Artistic Swimming

The good news is that the consistent messaging from OAS is that Meets are continuing, although in modified form. Under the direction of our national sport body (Canadian Artistic Swimming), the bodies are constantly monitoring the health environment, and pivoting as needed. We are hopeful that at some point we can get competitions back in the pool. We are just not sure yet when that will happen. It is important to note that the virtual competitions conducted thus far have been very successful. The work at dedication of our coaches and athletes has been on display. Great work everybody!

Club Update

For our club specifically, we have had quite a roller coaster. Starting the year unsure about things like pool time and competitions, then to be able get teams into a pool, even in new and spread out locations, and then have to retract back to virtual practices. One of the questions that has started bubbling out of all this is something like:

"Now that we are not in the pool, and pool time is expensive, should we not see a reduction in fees..?"

The answer is a bit complicated, but sums up like this: We are not in a position to evaluate rebates until at least the end of January or into February.

I will explain a little as to why that is the case. Going back to the end of last year, the OSSC Board, knowing a difficult year was ahead, made the decision not to increase fees for the 2020/21 season. Knowing costs are steadily increasing, but unsure of how the year was going to go, we wanted to hold onto that little savings. As the year has unfolded, our operations have been challenged for a number of reasons.

1. Our enrollment has shrunk. As many can imagine, we do not have as many, or as large of teams that we have had in the past. Further, our Recreation Program has also been understandably shelved until at least the Spring/Summer of 2021. Further, we were unable to hold our usual summer camp programs. The impact of this financially is that not only reduced revenue, but our overhead costs have to now be split across fewer swimmers, making the cost associated with each member higher.
2. Increased facility costs. Even though right now we are not incurring pool costs, to date we have actually encountered higher than usual pool costs. This is the result of a couple of factors. First, with the herculean effort to get teams into pools, where finding ANY pool time was our key priority, we ended up being much more spread out and less concentrated than usual. This means that where we used to be primarily based at the Olympium pool, and a few secondary locations, now we had many locations, with the per hour pool time rates also being higher than normal. Again, our priority was to

get swimmers safely into pools, wherever we could find the availability. This increased the pool costs by a staggering 21%. Also impacting this are the Health guidelines we must follow that dictate maximum occupancy of pools, decks and change rooms. Again, this caused an overall increase in costs. In spite of these difficult scenarios, the management team did a great job securing pool time when it was safe to do so.

3. Gyms were more expensive. In the early part of the year, the use of the many gym locations was actually more expensive to the club than pool time. Again this was impacted by the necessary occupancy guidelines.
4. Unexpected PPE costs. While not as significant as the above, we have also had to spend a significant amount of funds on PPE to properly protect our coaches and other employees.
5. Loss of income from fundraising activities. The club normally hosts a number of events like the Watershows and hosted meets that usually generate the club a significant revenue. This year, these events were not possible. Even standard fundraising activities like the Loblaws Card program have been impacted negatively by the current environment.

The result of all of the above has led to a challenging financial situation. Fewer Swimmers, Increased pool costs, increased facility rentals, increased overhead expenses and reduced fundraising/fee-offset opportunities all result in higher overall costs to run the programs in 2020/21. Our initial projections of a small loss this year, have ballooned into a much more significant amount. Currently, depending on the amount we receive from the government CEWS program (the wage-subsidy program which is helping the club keep our current coaches), we are now looking at a loss this year of between \$30,000 and \$60,000.

I hope you are still reading, because it is not all doom and gloom! As a club, we have for years been slowly building a reserve fund for just such unexpected events. This fund should allow us to continue operating (for a short period while we work over the next 2-3 years to recover, anyway) without having to take drastic measures.

Further, as we are currently in a situation where we are not in the pool, nor a gym, we should begin to have some relief from these high costs. As such, the Board is committed to re-evaluating the fee structure as needed, as we were able to earlier this year, when the pandemic started. We just need to see what happens in January/February with the operation restrictions and how long they will be in place. If we do enter a time when the fee structure needs to be altered to compensate, the Board will do so.

VOLUNTEERISM

I want to take this opportunity to mention one other important area. Normally our great club is always able to find the necessary volunteers to get the important tasks done that make this club possible. This year, while very different, is still the same in this aspect.

We NEED your help. We have numerous key roles that remain open. I strongly encourage you to check the Volunteer Listings for where you can be of service. If you are unsure, let me know, and I can direct you to the right person!

Thank you all, and I hope you have found this message informative. Take care and stay safe!

- Cory Bayly, President

A New Year, a New Name?

On July 22, 2017 the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA), the international federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee for administering international competition in water sports, announced that they have renamed Synchronized Swimming to Artistic Swimming.

Following that, in the fall of 2018 both Synchro Canada, and Synchro Ontario officially changed their names to recognize artistic swimming in their name; now Canada Artistic Swimming and Ontario Artistic Swimming respectively.

Now it's our turn and we need your help. In advance of next season Olympium Synchronized Swim Club will become Olympium Artistic Swim Club. Therefore we're looking for some creative people to help us!

So, are you creative? Do you want input into the launch of Olympium Artistic Swim Club? We would LOVE your help!! OSSC is changing its name and hoping to update it's look for the 2021-2022 season. Beginning in January we will be meeting virtually to discuss new logos, new colours and everything else that will come along with this exciting update. If you are interested in being a part of this creative team please email: tavia.erin@gmail.com. This volunteer position will contribute towards your volunteer points.

You Spend	You Earns
\$800 Groceries <small>Subeys, Superstore, Walmart</small>	\$40.00
\$350 Gas <small>Esso Gas Card, Esso Discount Card</small>	\$7.00
\$300 Clothes <small>Gap, Mark's, the Shoe Company</small>	\$15.00
\$400 Takeout <small>Jack Astor's, Ultimate Dining Card</small>	\$40.00
\$250 Gifts & Household <small>Indigo, Amazon, Cineplex, Walmart</small>	\$25.00

You can earn up to \$1,285 for the school shopping for things you already buy!

Visit FlipGive.com/join and use code:

69C6P5

Olympium 2020/2021

*cashback varies by store / retailer offer

New Year's FlipGive

For those who've already registered for FlipGive you would have seen some great sales and promotions leading up to this holiday season. So far this year members have raised a total of \$2,893.00 and now you to can earn between 1%-20% when you shop online or buy gift cards too! This is an easy way to meet your Personal Fundraising Commitment just by shopping for items you would purchase anyway. Visit FlipGive.com or download the FlipGive app. [Click here to join](#)

- Michelle Young, FlipGive Coordinator
ossclipgive@gmail.com

Coach Kerri Talks

Each year Kerri, a Mental Game Coach hosts a series of talks for both swimmers and parents. It's time for us to start this up again, so we are looking to host some virtual talks for swimmers or parents or both in the new year.

If you have any topics or questions you want covered please let us know. Please contact: tavia.erin@gmail.com.



We're Looking for Volunteers!

Did you know we're still looking for volunteers? Volunteers help keep the club organized - from team parents to fundraising coordinators it is the volunteers that help with communications and provide the fundraising events needed for each of us to meet our fundraising commitment. They are also a great way to develop personal skills that not only help the club deliver all our programming to athletes, but also help you develop your skills - skills that can be used in the work-place as well.



Focus Area	Board Member	Positions Available
Treasury	Pauline Leong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator Meets/Travel/Member Events Coordinator Fundraising and PFC
Human Resources	Wendy Robertson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety Coordinator
Operations	Traci Sherritt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and Music Coordinator HP - Junior Team Parent Operations Coordinator Pre-Comp - 10U Team Parent - Red / Yellow Pre-Comp - 12U Team Parent - Green Pre-Comp - 8U Team Parent - Silver Team Ware Coordinator
Membership	Tavia McLachlan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand Team Lead Coach Talks Event Coordinator Engagement Coordinator Recreation Team Recruiter Water Shows/Year End Banquet Lead
Fundraising	Holli Melville,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottle Drive Coordinator Meat Fundraiser (Apr/May) (URGENT) Online Raffles (Feb) (URGENT) Sponsorship Program Coordinator Spring Fundraiser (Mar/Apr) (URGENT)

Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/vjuJJcS>

Contact Us...

Throughout the season, you may have a few questions - if you can't find us at the pool, feel free to reach out via email. For general questions, please email info@olympiumsynchro.com. Of course you may have a more specific question, so feel free to reach out to anyone below.

Programming

- **Kerri Morgan**, Head Coach
headcoach@olympiumsynchro.com
- **Vanessa Bessy**,
Director, Evening Programs
info@olympiumsynchro.com
- **Masters Programming**
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Key Volunteers

- **Chris Foster**, Ombudsman
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- **Catherine Ringler**, Registrar
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- **Oleg Romanyshyn**, Website
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- **Chris Foster**, Newsletter Editor
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- **Lois Delazzari**, Loblaws Gift Card Program
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Board of Directors

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- **[Open]**
Director at Large



If you or your swimmer have a question about practice, meets or anything to do with programming please head to **your coach**. Your coach is your best place for information about your team. If they don't know the answer they will work on finding it for you or they will have Vanessa or Kerri get in contact with you.