

July 18, 2010

Welcome members and guests to the grand opening of our new all seasons aquatics center. Board minutes dating back as far as 1971 discuss the possibility of an all season aquatics, and I am absolutely delighted that the dream has become a reality in this fabulous structure. It is hard to believe that one year ago this coming Tuesday the entire club was an indoor and outdoor aquatics center, not by choice.

I would be speaking for the next hour if I named and thanked everyone involved in bringing this project to completion. However, I believe there are certain organizations and persons who we do need to thank publicly at this time.

I would like to acknowledge our long and cooperative relationship with our landlord, the City of Edmonton, which has recently been extended for another 50 years. While the club is indeed fortunate to have the location it does, it has been a great promoter of the city by hosting numerous provincial and national events and producing national and international athletic champions.

I would like to acknowledge the financial assistance the club received through the Western Economic Diversification Canada's Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program. The Royal Glenora Club has long been a part of the Edmonton sporting community, and literally thousands of non-members use our facilities each year in the various competitions and events the club hosts on virtually a weekly basis.

From the clubs perspective, past presidents Ron Pawlowski and Don Hoover were instrumental in dealing with the grant.

Our financial institution, Servus Credit Union, has been very good to deal with during the project, and I would like to thank Garth Warner and all of the other people at Servus who have helped us through the construction of our redevelopment.

It is not often that the finished project looks better than the concept drawings, but in our case, I think that is absolutely true. Thank you to Fraser Brinsmead and his firm Brinsmead Kennedy Architecture for his vision of the works and his services to the club throughout the project.

I would also like to thank our primary contractors on the project, Clark Builders and Pemco Construction. We always were able to deal with both parties in a cordial manner, and the work was always done professionally and on time.

The staff at the RG has had to deal with many disruptions during the redevelopment period, and should be thanked for their dedication to the club. In particular, the sports professionals suffered during the renovations and the period following the flood, without complaint.

Our former general manager, Ralph Pollock, was very involved with the project in the early stages, and I thank him for his contribution. Our present general manager, Dave Warren, has been tireless in the past year dealing with the flood and the project, and I cannot stress enough how fortunate we have been to have Dave at the club. Frankly, a lesser individual would be long gone by now.

The clubs redevelopment committee, headed by Craig Gardiner and Don Agnew, has put in countless hours with no compensation whatsoever dealing with the project. Words cannot begin to describe Craig and Don's contribution to the club. Frankly, I do not know where we would be without them. Donna Dawson was very involved in the design of the improvements and finishes, and we are deeply indebted to her.

I would like to thank all of the clubs boards which were involved in putting the vision together and completing the project headed by presidents Scott Patterson, Don Hoover, Bill Smith and Ron Simpson.

Last but not least, thanks to the members for your patience and support over the past couple of years. We now truly have a spectacular facility for the next 50 years.

Finally, a special welcome to Jean Ross, our former pool manager and honorary club member. Many of our members will remember Jean at the pool, and we are thrilled to have her in attendance.