

## **Wilmot Aquatic Aces Swim Club - Aqua 7 Swim Meet – January 29,2012**

**Good morning to everyone -**

**and thank you for coming! Thank you to our incredible piper – Mr. Robert Shilliday – what a wonderful way to honour and initiate our new facility!**

**My name is Paul Mackie, and I am one of the many proud members of the Wilmot Aquatic Aces Swim team that are very happy and honoured to welcome you and your children to our first official swim meet – an Aqua 7 meet – at our Fantastic new Wilmot Recreation Aquatic Complex.**

**This is a day that we have been anxiously awaiting for many many years and a day that has arrived much sooner than any of us had expected – thanks to an economic recession and the availability of government building fund dollars.**

**Many of us will recall the phrase – shovel ready – that we heard many times when the infrastructure funding programs were being discussed in 2008 and 2009 and thanks to the planning and vision of the Wilmot Township staff and council, this portion of the Wilmot Recreation Complex was in fact – Shovel Ready! That allowed both the Federal and Provincial governments along with our Township, the ability to grant and receive huge sums of Building Fund dollars more or less immediately, resulting in a ground breaking ceremony to occur almost ten years sooner than original expectations. The result of these efforts and those dollars is before you now ! A facility that the Wilmot Aquatic Aces – our local competitive swim team, can now promote to not only our local area, but to our provincial and national swimming and coaching bodies as a world class facility – formally recognised – just a few weeks ago – by the International Swimming Federation – as a facility that has been designed and built to International Swim facility standards - allowing for World Record times to be achieved and recorded here in this facility. This may sound like a simple**

**issue, but rest assured, this facility joins a very elite group of facilities of this status in Ontario and in Canada. We are very proud of this fact and honoured to be part of such an amazing accomplishment.**

**With all of this said, this exciting event that you are participating in, gives us a formal opportunity to thank and recognise a number of very important people that have pushed for, have advocated for, and who have understood and recognised the importance of designing and building the best possible facility here in our small but mighty community of Wilmot Township!**

**I will not ask those that are being recognised to do anything embarrassing but I would ask them to wave, stand or jump up and down, so we can see you, and acknowledge your efforts and support**

**First-off – Our former mayor – Wayne Roth !**

**Wayne had a dream of a facility of this type, one that served the community in every possible way – from hockey to swimming to youth to seniors, to the disabled, to everyone that formed the tax base of Wilmot Township. Wayne – I think you succeeded – you are in your dream and you can be proud!**

**Congratulations**

**Second – To those of our past and current council – some of whom are here today and some who are not – Terry Broda, Peter Roe, Elliot Fung, Les Armstrong, Jeff Gerber, Mark Murray, Barry Fisher and Al Junker. We extend our thanks and congratulations. Our past council pushed and advocated for many years for this facility – from it's inception as the Field of Dreams – to what you are experiencing today. To our current council – you have been given a gift of a facility that I can assure you, is the envy of every other township and community in Southern Ontario. Be proud of it, and keep it accessible to all who**

wish to make use of it. It will serve our community well and will play a very key role in the building of our community in the future.

Third – to our current Mayor – Les Armstrong – you get to stand twice today – as a former councillor, you played a huge role in the development of this facility and you too, can be proud and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for this facility and all of the events that will take place in it. Well done!

Fourth - to Township staff – from the financial teams under Grant Whittington, to the office staff at Castle Kilbride, the aquatics staff under Vicky Luttenberger, Angela Bylsma and Kristy Themistocleous and to - most importantly – Scott Nanckivell, his project and construction team, and his facility management team. Without the solid efforts of this entire group and the patience and diligence that they have shown to keep the project moving forward has been incredible and needless to say – appreciated. Look at what they have achieved!

Fifth – to our Member of Parliament – Harold Albrecht. Your support of this facility has been incredibly strong and consistent from the very beginning. I recall very clearly – during a meeting at your office with our group, almost exactly three years ago - you showed your complete support for our efforts and desires to build – whenever the funding might come – the best possible facility possible – a fully competitive swimming facility – that would be the envy of every other community in our Region and in Southern Ontario. One month later the announcement was made that funds through the Canada Building Fund from both the Provincial and Federal governments were being granted and on that day – February 17, 2009, the ground was broken on what has now become this complex – the Wilmot Recreation – Aquatic Complex. Many thanks to you and to your Provincial counterparts – at the time – our former MPP – Leanna Pendergast who also showed incredible support for this project.

**And finally – thanks to the coaches, executive, families and swimmers of the Wilmot Aquatic Aces! Without you, there would have not been a need for a pool of this competitive nature, and while a new facility was required and would have been built, the size and state of the art nature of this facility would not have been necessary and our envied position in the swimming world today, would not have been achieved. Be proud of this facility! Use this facility! Enjoy this facility! It's yours to promote!**

**Thank you and let's get swimming!!**