

Wilmot's new competitive swimming pool is so exact, it's "scary"

Wilmot's new swimming pool will meet world-record standards, even down to the millimeter. The soon-to-be-open pool has been recognized for its accuracy by FINA, the world's primary water sports organization.

The pool needs to be exactly 25 metres long for short-course competitions, and

FINA sent its own staff to measure and check that Wilmot got it right.

"We're so bang-on it's scary," said Kristy Themistocleous, the township's interim aquatic pool manager. "It's probably one of the closest in Ontario."

That precise length means the Wilmot Recreation Complex will be an excellent spot to hold competitions, said Joni Sanders, coach with the Wilmot Aquatic Aces.

This special ranking is rare, she said. Most community pools don't meet FINA's highest standards, she said.

"We're really lucky, it's one of the best facilities around," Sanders said.

One of the swim team's newest members is already a world-record holder, and would need to compete in a precisely-measured pool for a new record to count. Even a millimeter off the proper pool length is enough to disqualify any new records, Sanders explained.

The Aquatic Aces plan to finally move to the new pool at the Wilmot Recreation Complex on Jan. 7.

"I think everybody's excited now, and ready [to move]," Sanders said. "We need the space now, so they're looking forward to it."