

To residents of the County of Annapolis:

March 5, 2010

On behalf of County Council, I am writing to update you on the Lifeplex Wellness Centre and our efforts to ensure its future.

As you know, the Basin Wellness Society (BWS) has operated the Wellness Centre for three years with hard-working staff and volunteers, as well as increasingly substantial financial support from the municipality.

County Council has come to terms with the reality that the current governance model is not sustainable. As part of this transition, the BWS will cease operations of the Lifeplex Wellness Centre on March 21, 2010.

The County was advised by BWS that the Society only had funds to continue regular operations without any further revenue until mid April. The County determined the closure date of March 21st to ensure these remaining funds could be used to reimburse membership dues to members, while allowing the facility to remain open for March Break.

Currently, about 40% of the County's recreation and culture budget is spent on this one building with approximately 600 members from Annapolis County. In this year's budget, the County will spend \$330,000 in mortgage payments and will have to absorb approximately \$250,000 in accumulated debt from the Society.

The County is in negotiations with the YMCA. This well-known organization is looking forward to providing community-based services from this state-of-the-art wellness facility. The Y is an international organization that is well-known for providing programs for all ages and all economic levels. The Y will be conducting a membership feasibility study in the catchment area. This will be done by way of phone survey. The community can help ensure the continued operations of the wellness facility by being supportive of the Y's initiative.

Brian McConnell, Chair of the Basin Wellness Society, said, "I believe personally it is time for all Directors and members of the Society to promote and assist in any way they can the coming of the YMCA to Lifeplex. I will be doing this at every opportunity as well as discouraging negative activities and comments."

During the transition, the commercial portion of the Lifeplex building will continue to operate and residents will have access to the physiotherapy facilities.

While we want to do everything we can to encourage the YMCA to come to Annapolis County, we are also realistic that the Y will only come to our community if we are open and supportive of their efforts.

We encourage you to support the Y and respond to their survey so they have good information to work with to develop their business plan.

We understand it will likely be May before the Y completes its due diligence and signs a contract with the County of Annapolis.

In the meantime, check out updates on the transition at www.lifeplexinfo.ca. I would like to thank-you for your continuing support.



Warden Peter Newton,
County of Annapolis