

Report Type: Community Development Report
Prepared By: Megan Anthony

Swimming Pool Report (May – July)

The 2026 swimming pool season has had a very positive start. Spring start-up and facility preparations went smoothly, allowing staff to complete training, equipment checks, and operational tasks efficiently in advance of opening. The transition into the summer season was successful, and the pool has been operating well.

We have an excellent staff team this season consisting of 13 lifeguards, 10 of whom are also certified swimming instructors, 3 junior lifeguards, and 3 cashiers. Staff have worked well together, demonstrating professionalism, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons. Their teamwork has contributed significantly to the success of the season so far.

Swimming lesson registration has been exceptionally strong, with approximately 498 registrations combined between the Outlook Elementary School swimming lessons, Small Steps Early Learning Centre lessons and the regular summer swimming lesson program. This level of participation highlights the continued importance of aquatic programming within our community, and the value families place on swimming education and water safety.

The pool was also pleased to host several successful community events throughout the season. Canada Day and Potato Festival activities were well attended and provided enjoyable opportunities for residents and visitors to cool off and celebrate. In addition, we recently hosted a Night Swim, which attracted approximately 50 participants and was very well received.

Our fitness programming continues to see strong participation. Both Aquasize and Lane Swim attendance have been excellent this year, demonstrating continued community interest in aquatic fitness and recreation opportunities.

The pool is currently recognizing National Drowning Prevention Week, with activities focused on promoting water safety awareness and educating the public on drowning prevention. Staff are also preparing for the upcoming Rodeo Week by planning additional activities and programming to help make the week an enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

Overall, the 2026 swimming pool season has been very successful to date. Strong staffing, high program registrations, excellent community participation, and successful special events have all contributed to another outstanding summer at the Outlook Swimming Pool. We look forward to continuing to provide safe, high-quality aquatic programs and services throughout the remainder of the season.

Canada Day & Potato Festival Report

We successfully hosted our annual Canada Day and Potato Festival celebrations, offering a variety of activities and entertainment for residents and visitors throughout the week. We were also pleased to partner with the Outlook & District Heritage Museum for Canada Day, helping to create a community-wide celebration that showcased many of the great organizations in our town.

Canada Day was well attended throughout the day, with families enjoying the various activities and festivities. As is typical, we saw attendance decline between the community supper and the evening fireworks display. Overall, the day was a success and provided a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate.

Our Potato Festival ran from July 2–4, featuring a diverse lineup of family-friendly events and entertainment.

On July 2, we hosted a Reptile Show, which welcomed approximately 100 attendees and was a great hit with families. We also hosted the Irrigation Capital of Saskatchewan Water Olympics at the swimming pool, providing a fun and unique activity that encouraged community participation.

On July 3, we hosted a community supper followed by a DJ. Unfortunately, attendance was lower than anticipated due to poor weather, which impacted participation throughout the evening.

July 4 was the highlight of the festival and featured an excellent turnout for the community lunch. We were fortunate to have several local organizations provide a wonderful variety of food, including:

- Outlook & District Wildlife Federation with their popular fish fry.
- Peace Valley Mennonite Church serving delicious, loaded potato casserole.
- United Church offering traditional lefse.
- The Town of Outlook and the Kinsmen Club serving hot dogs and potato salad.

Our Kid Zone was once again a favourite attraction and remained busy throughout the day. Entertainment on the main stage began with demonstrations from the local Taekwondo group, followed by our first daytime music performance featuring Kevin and Marg Harcourt. We then hosted a magic show that was both fantastic and very well attended.

The evening featured an outstanding lineup of live music, including The Riverbottom Boys, Autopilot, The New Daydream, Brett Michael Monka, Greenwing, and Brady Weldon. While the performances were exceptional, evening attendance was lower than we had hoped. We believe many people had already left for the lake to enjoy the remainder of the long weekend.

Overall, we were pleased with the success of the celebrations and appreciate the many volunteers, community organizations, performers, sponsors, and staff who helped make the events possible. We plan to continue hosting our Canada Day celebration on July 1 while moving the Potato Festival to a dedicated single-day event in August. We believe this will provide each event with its own identity, reduce conflicts with the July long weekend, and encourage stronger attendance and community engagement.