

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/08/2011

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What's New with FLIP?

The summer has flown, for Lopez and for FLIP—Friends of Lopez Island Pool. Good things are happening and it's time to share with this supportive community:

New Pool Building Plans: FLIP is still seeking ways to reduce costs of pool construction and make it affordable while retaining the high quality of two complementary indoor Myrtha pools. Swimmers will have a choice of a smaller, warmer, easy access water therapy/learning pool in addition to the standard 25-yard, multi-use pool. We recently interviewed a Myrtha pool construction company who can cut building costs in half by using pre-fabricated panel construction. FLIP is reaching out to the Lopez community for additional Building Project Committee members with construction project experience to help sift the pros and cons of this approach, and to find ways to place our fine Lopez contactors and subcontractors on the job.

We will soon launch a major capital campaign for construction, kicked off by a generous matching foundation grant, and need the expertise of one who has "been there and back" with construction management. We are so fortunate to have received the in-kind construction phase contributions of John Sorenson for land at the island center, Jeremiah Johnson for future excavation, Tom Pal for future painting, Ted Richey for water consultation, and Bob Parrish for surveying. With contributions from the community, foundations and visitors paying all fees as we go, FLIP is already more than midway through the final phase of project planning!

Big News: The biannual USA Swimming Association "Build a Pool Conference" will be held in Seattle October 14-16, 2011 together with the World Aquatic Conference. FLIP volunteers will be taking advantage of the opportunity to gather information and obtain a critical professional review of our pool strategy. This is YOUR chance to join FLIP in this final planning stage. FLIP will pay conference registration fees for anyone interested in strengthening our project. Please contact Robin Bergstrom at 468-2253 by September 15th, if you can join us there and bring our mantra to many ears: Lopez Will Swim!

New 468 Club Joiners and Sponsors Swim the Salish Sea: Each Sunday afternoon at the MacKaye Harbor Boat Launch brave and enthusiastic wetsuit swimmers gathered to support Lopez Pool fundraising, their bright orange SEE ME safety floats bobbing behind in the water. The addition of five new swimmers and sponsors this summer made the afternoons lively! Welcome Rita O'Boyle, Gene Helfman, Allan Dougherty, Jean Peterson and Michael Peterson, and also two young granddaughters of old-hand Swimmers of the Salish Sea. Join us next summer for fun in the sun and bracing water, or call Robin at 468-2253 to see who continues to swim while the weather is good.

FLIP continues to move forward with humor, candid honesty and tenacity! Visit the website www.lopezislandpool.org. Email questions and comments to lopezislandpool@gmail.com. We are eager to hear from you!

Photo: 468 Club Swimmers Robin Bergstrom, Allan Dougherty, Jean Peterson and Linda Barton.

