

New coach looking to grow Summerside Dolphins' programming

Robin Loyola brings more than 20 years to swimming club based out of Credit Union Place

Author of the article:

By **Jason Simmonds**

Published Oct 23, 2025

Last updated 1 day ago

4 minute read



Robin Loyola was recently named head coach of the Summerside Dolphin Swim Club. Loyola brings over 20 years of coaching experience in Ontario and Alberta to the Credit Union Place-based club. Photo by Jason Simmonds /Journal Pioneer

Robin Loyola is excited about building up and growing the Summerside Dolphin Swim Club's programming.

Loyola and her husband, Dave, recently moved to P.E.I. from Calgary, and Robin accepted the head-coaching position with the Dolphins on Aug. 15.

"Matt Reid, the president (of the Dolphins), reached out," said Loyola. "I have a son (Zander Glatz) that lives here, and my husband and Tom Ponting, who is the head coach of the Charlottetown Bluephins, are very, very good friends.

"We knew of the opening (with the Dolphins), and then Matt called me... We were ready for a change of pace, and a new challenge, and this opportunity came our way, and we couldn't say 'no.'"

Robin, a former competitive swimmer who reached national-level status, brings over 20 years of coaching experience to the Dolphins, who are based out of Credit Union Place. Dave, who is a volunteer coach under Robin, has coached for 30 years. Overall, the Dolphins have seven coaches working with athletes.

Robin and Dave have a proven track record. In Calgary, the husband-and-wife team grew a program from 60 swimmers to almost 400 during a 20-to-25-year period.

"We hope to do the same here," said Robin.

Ironically, the Dolphins are in a similar position with about 60 swimmers ranging in ages from four to 15-years-old.

Robin explained that the learn-to-swim swimmers are in the water two times a week while there are competitive swimmers training in the pool as much as six times a week.

Many roles

As a new coach, Robin is wearing many hats early in her tenure.

"Priority, as always, are the swimmers in the water, making sure that they're having fun, gaining confidence, and learning to swim," said Robin. "The second priority is to bring awareness to this amazing program and to our sport on the Island."

One way the Dolphins are attempting to increase numbers is the introduction of a learn-to-swim program.

"It swims twice a week, that is not competitive," said Robin. "We're hoping, of course, they'll become a feeder program into our competitive program, but it's not mandatory."

Life skills

Robin feels young athletes can learn a lot of life skills from swimming, and the sport provides a great alternative while still being able to experience a team setting.

Those factors played a big role in Robin taking up swimming.

"It really was friendship, and to do something that you were good at," said Robin in explaining what attracted her to swimming. "The health thing is nice, but it really wasn't a motivator as a kid.

Hosting events

The Dolphins hosted a development Halloween Meet on Oct. 18, and will also a second pre-Christmas event – Fall Splash Swim Meet – at Credit Union Place from Nov. 21 to 23.

The Swim P.E.I. annual general meeting and annual awards will be presented at Credit Union Place following the Fall Splash Swim Meet on Nov. 23.

Steady process

Robin said a swimmer's development is a work in progress, adding it's important to not rush things.

"I'm very passionate about making sure that it's gradual, so there's longevity in the sport and you're not just looking for results for today – it's for the future," said Robin.

"Swimming should be a cradle-to-grave love of the sport."

Get to know community

Another priority for Robin is getting to know the Maritime aquatic community.

"I went to Tatamagouche for the Atlantic Coaching Conference, and the whole area just has a different flair, flavour, and I love it," said Robin, who hopes to work with the other clubs to grow the sport. "It's really getting to know the area, because right now, like, even the time standards, I'm not familiar with.

"I got a lot of learning to do.

"But the community is so welcoming; everybody's really excited you're on board, and I'm really excited to see what we can do this year."

Jason Simmonds is the sports editor at The Guardian in Prince Edward Island. He can be reached at jsimmonds@postmedia.com and followed on X [@JpsportsJason](https://twitter.com/JpsportsJason).