



# FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **Reminder: Calendars for each group are available online. You can find the links to each group's calendar here:** <https://swat.poolq.net/menu/group-schedules>

### DID YOU HELP OUT AT A RECENT SWIM MEET?

Parents and family members who officiate during meets earn volunteer points. To ensure your points are accounted for, please forward your participation to:

[volunteerpoints@swatswim.ca](mailto:volunteerpoints@swatswim.ca)

### STAY CONNECTED WITH SWAT!

**Website:** [SWAT Website](#)  
**Facebook:** [SWAT Swim Facebook Page](#)  
**Facebook Group:** [SWAT Family Forum](#)  
**Instagram:** [@SWAT.SWIM](#)

## ACADIA UNIVERSITY POOL: A COMMUNITY CALL TO ACTION!

The Acadia University Pool has been slated to close permanently on June 25, and the community is mobilizing to save it. Swim Nova Scotia, along with concerned swimmers, parents, and community members, is actively engaging with Acadia University, the Town of Wolfville, the Municipality of Kings County, and local MLAs to advocate for the pool's preservation.

Losing the Acadia pool would mean losing access to learn-to-swim programs, recreational and fitness activities, and *high-quality training and competition opportunities*.

The Tritons are working to raise awareness of what losing the pool would mean for them, the Varsity swim program, and the broader community.

You can help by signing and sharing the **[petition](#)**.

Express what losing the pool would mean to you by respectfully communicating with key community figures such as:

- County of Kings Councillors: [councillors@countyofkings.ca](mailto:councillors@countyofkings.ca)
- MP Kody Blois: [Kody.Blois@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kody.Blois@parl.gc.ca)
- Wolfville Town Councillors: [towncouncil@wolfville.ca](mailto:towncouncil@wolfville.ca)
- Acadia President, Jeff Hennessy: [president@acadiau.ca](mailto:president@acadiau.ca)
- MLA Julie Vanexan: [mlajulievanexan@gmail.com](mailto:mlajulievanexan@gmail.com)

*Working together is essential to ensure swimming remains accessible for all!*

# ACADIA UNIVERSITY POOL CLOSURE – A LETTER FROM COACH MATT

I hope by now many of you have heard the news regarding Acadia University's decision to shutter their pool and Varsity Swimming Team this summer. While I believe the financial responsibility of running a pool can be burdensome this is truly a tragedy if it comes to pass. I have not been in this province very long, but already Acadia University holds a special place in my heart and memories. The annual AA Winter Championships held in February are the de facto kickoff to championship season here in Nova Scotia and it is the first time I get to see the consolidation of each swimmer's progress and the SWAT program as a whole. It is an intimate and energetic environment that cannot help but be infectious and drive very strong performances from SWAT swimmers individually and in relay competition.

I feel for the Wolfville Tritons swimmers and their families that now must decide if they want to keep the swimming journey alive. I feel for the Tritons coaches that have carried on the club legacy and their own personal swimming legacies in the Wolfville community. I feel for the Tritons organizers, planners, administrators, while they try to figure out how to keep the club moving forward now with this distraction looming overhead; for the rest of the season when maybe there isn't a next season; for the future in the community while they look for a new home.

I have strong feelings for the University Athletes and Staff. I am intimately aware of the feelings that come with this type of announcement. While a varsity swimmer, my Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawk teammates and myself were faced with a similar crisis. The pool was scheduled to close in the middle of the season if there was no plan or funding towards necessary repairs and renovations. If you have decided to stay in the sport long enough to be a varsity swimmer, swimming is a core piece of your identity. To have that taken away from you out of your control is a hard reality to face and I was shaken as the realization that the sport that I loved and enjoyed was coming to an abrupt and unscheduled end.

Fortunately, that wasn't the destined end for myself, my Uni teammates or the Club that I grew up with in Waterloo, Ontario. Through the efforts of the university swimmers, the club families, and the local communities and governments we managed to raise the necessary funds to keep the facility open. It is still open to this day and the club and Varsity squads are stronger than ever. There is still an opportunity to do the same here in Nova Scotia. The announcement timeline gives the Wolfville, Acadia, and Nova Scotia swimming communities and opportunity to prevent this unhappy outcome. To start, you can find a link to a petition to find a way to avoid the closure. It is a small thing, but adding your voice will be helpful. Please follow Wolfville Tritons, Acadia University Swimming and [saveacadiapool2025](#) on social media. You can find information to help support the efforts of the local stakeholders.

I hope there is a positive resolution and outcome to this news, and I hope we can be a part of it in any small way.

Matt Pedersen  
SWAT Head Coach

## UPCOMING MEETS

Swimmers or parents are expected to confirm or decline attendance for upcoming swim meets via the SWAT website. Timely responses are essential for effective event planning by the coaches, so please ensure your swimmer's status is updated as soon as possible. If a swimmer is unable to attend, it is equally important to formally decline the invitation.

- **Nova Tech #4 (February 15, 2025):** Nova Tech #4 will be held at Centennial Pool on Saturday, February 15, 2025. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- **AAA #2 (February 22, 2025):** The final AAA LCM meet before Championship season begins. This is a one day affair at Dalplex. Swimmers that qualified for AAA at AA 2 may swim at this meet to get their AAA toes wet. Swimmers or parents can declare attendance on the SWAT website until **February 15, 2025**. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- **AA Winter Championships (February 28 – March 2):** Acadia University is the home to the first meet of Championship Season. AA swimmers get a crack at a three-day meet with finals, medals, and awards. This is also the last chance to qualify for AAA Winter Championships. Swimmers or parents can declare attendance on the SWAT website before **February 21, 2025**. *Please update your swimmer's availability for finals and team relays in the notes section*. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- **AAA David Fry Winter Provincial Short Course Championships (March 7 – 9):** AAA Winter Provincial Short Course Championships (at Dalplex) is the second meet in the Championship Season. The AAA swimmers get a chance to head back to SCM for a fast provincial champs and a final chance to qualify for East Coast Championships. Three days of finals, medals, and awards await the best Nova Scotia has to offer. Deadline to declare is **February 26, 2025**. More information can be found [HERE](#). Hotel information can be found [HERE](#).
- **Main Tour Team (March 12-17):** Fifty eager swimmers from Nova Scotia, aged 11-14, are ready to continue the Championship Season, competing against some of our American counterparts at Bowdoin College in Maine. If your swimmer is attending, check your emails and remember that a hard copy Travel Authorization Form and final payment are due to Swim Nova Scotia by **March 3rd, 2025**. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- **2025 Winter East Coast Long Course Championships: (March 27 – 30)** ECC qualified swimmers pit themselves against the best in the Maritimes from: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia at the Dalplex, in Halifax. Four Days of the best swimming in Atlantic Canada with heat and finals, medals, and major awards up for grabs. Swimmer Competition Levels List (pinned banner on the SWAT homepage) will be updated after the meets this month. Please check the qualifying standards [HERE](#). More information will be found on the Swim Nova Scotia website in the coming weeks. Deadline to declare is **March 20, 2025**.





## MEET RECAP BY COACH MATT

### AA AGD#2

On Saturday, February 8 the AA SWAT swimmers took to the lanes again for their second meet of 2025. 23 swimmers represented the club from Novice, Junior, and Senior groups. Together the squad earned 46 personal bests and swam 16 events for the first time. We had three swimmers make their AA Debuts. We had one swimmer complete their AAA Qualification. This is a tough time of year for many. There were several swimmers sick leading to a smaller squad than normal and a few tough performances while under the weather.

The Novice Group sent ten swimmers earning 19 best times and ten first-time events. Three swimmers made their AA debuts after graduating from Nova Tech at Nova Tech 3 in January.

Katya rolled up with her first 400 Freestyle and 200 Breaststroke. Rachel swam in the morning only and swam her first 200 Breaststroke as well. Isaiah made his AA debut with 3 best times and 2 first-time events now that he gets to swim 200m stroke events. He dropped a big 15 seconds in the 200 Freestyle. Avery had a good meet with 3 best times including a 10 second improvement in the 100 Fly. Farrah had 2 personal bests including a 4 second drop in the 50 Fly, and she swam her first 400 IM ever. Brother Jude also swam his first 400 (freestyle) as part of his 2 first time events. He added 1 pb from his other races as well. Kayden started his AA career with 2 best times including a big chunk of time off in the 100 Backstroke. August earned himself 3 best times highlighted by 11 seconds off in the 100 Breaststroke and a sub 3:00 effort after 10 seconds off in the 200 Freestyle. Mylee, the third AA debutante dropped 6 seconds in both the 200 IM and 100 free for her 2 best times and added a first 200 Back for good measure. Ryan rounds out the Novice contingent with 3 best times and 1 first-time race. His biggest improvement was in the 200 IM with 22 seconds of overall improvement.

Eleven Junior swimmers took part in the competition. They walked away with a collective 24 best times and six new events. We also add one Junior member to the AAA competition ranks.

Angus fought off a morning illness and earned 2 best times and swam his first 200 Fly. He took 4 seconds off his 200 Freestyle and brought his 50 Free below the 30 second threshold. Claire took 2 seconds away from her old 200 Fly for her 1 best time. She also completed her first official 1500 Free; a big improvement from the unofficial result from practice a week earlier. Madelynn took 2 best times home and officially completed her first 200 Breaststroke. She bettered her old 100 Free time by over 3 seconds. Charlotte was inspired with 4 best times racing in rare events. She crashed through 7:00 with 40 second best time in the 400 IM, and smashed her 100 Breaststroke by 14 seconds. After nearly a week off due to sickness, Ocean returned to the pool with 2 best times on the day. She had a 10 second best time in the 100 Breaststroke and took another 8 seconds off in the 100 Back. Ethan erased 3 personal bests. He took a humble 9 seconds off in the 200 Free, but demolished his previous 200 Breaststroke by 48 seconds. Kennedy had 2 bests and 2 1<sup>st</sup> time events, completing her first 200 Breaststroke and 400 Free. She added big, best times in the 200 Free and 100 Breaststroke. Leonie made her 2025 racing debut in the pool with 3 best times highlighted by matching 7 second improvements in the 200 Free and 200 IM. Erica R also came away with 3 best times including a 17 second besting of her old 400 Free that brings her under 6:00 for the first time. Alex W was strong with 4 best times and 1 first time event. He swam his first 400 Free and had over 10 seconds of improvement in the 100 Breaststroke and 8 seconds in the 100 Free. He also bettered his 200 Freestyle from last meet by nearly 3 seconds and grabbing his 3<sup>rd</sup> AAA qualifying 200m event and fully qualifying for AAA competition. Morgan made a valiant attempt at competition while managing some chronic injury pain.

Just 2 Senior swimmers made an appearance at the AA2 meet. They have been in a stressful training block and came away with 3 best times as a pair. Sam had 2 best times including nearly 7 seconds in the 100 Back and 2 and half seconds in the 100 Free as he hunts AAA and Travel Team standards. Gabriel C was managing some illness symptoms and came out of the meet with a modest PB in the 50 Back.

AA Swimmers make their next splash at Acadia University for AA Winter Champs February 28-March 2. A heats and Finals meet with lots of individual hardware up for grabs with medals and Age Group High Point Awards available for swimmers. Hopefully there will be an extra body or two to join them from the Nova Tech ranks after competition this weekend on February 15. AAA graduates will be making the jump at the SCM David Fry AAA Winter Champs at Dalhousie University the following weekend, March 7-March 9.

## EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Additional SWAT caps are available for purchase at \$10 each. To order, please email [equipment@swatswim.ca](mailto:equipment@swatswim.ca) to request a cap and send \$10 via e-transfer to [vpfinance@swatswim.ca](mailto:vpfinance@swatswim.ca), including "cap purchase" in the notes of the transfer.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are still several volunteer opportunities available within our team! Your involvement is crucial to our success and helps create a vibrant community for our athletes and their families. As a thank you for your dedication, volunteer points will be awarded for each position filled. These points will be deducted from the annual volunteer point requirements outlined in the SWAT fee guide. Join us in making a positive impact—together, we can achieve great things!

**Communications Chair:** Do you enjoy social media? Help SWAT by sharing all of our good news stories and getting the word out about how amazing our club is. SWAT uses Facebook and Instagram to share our stories. Working closely with Coach Matt to share our information will help SWAT promote our program.

**Meet Manager in Training:** This exciting two-year role offers valuable hands-on experience in meet management. In the first year, the person in this role will work closely with our current meet manager, gaining practical knowledge while assisting with Nova Tech meets. By the second year, they will take on a leadership position, overseeing both Nova Tech and Age Group meets with continued support from the current meet manager. It's a fantastic opportunity to build new skills, make a meaningful impact, and play an essential role in our team! If interested, please contact Kristy at [kristylegge@swatswim.ca](mailto:kristylegge@swatswim.ca) and Jen Kershaw at [officials@swatswim.ca](mailto:officials@swatswim.ca)

**Fundraising Committee Member:** As a Fundraising Committee Member, you will help plan and organize exciting fundraising activities that directly benefit our club by enhancing equipment and supporting coach training. This is a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with fellow members, share ideas, and take part in several committee meetings throughout the swim season. If you're passionate about helping our team thrive and want to contribute to our success, please reach out to Darren at [darrenhiltz@yahoo.ca](mailto:darrenhiltz@yahoo.ca). Together, we can elevate our club to new heights!

**Cost Recovery Chair:** As the Cost Recovery Chair, you will play a pivotal role in driving fundraising initiatives for individual swimmer accounts. This position involves managing volunteers for the committee, selecting exciting events for cost recovery, and effectively communicating with SWAT members about our goals. You'll also track sales and earnings for participating SWAT members to report to Finance, while assisting with the receipt and distribution of goods to members. Join us to make a significant impact and contribute to our team's success! If interested, please contact Kristy at [kristylegge@swatswim.ca](mailto:kristylegge@swatswim.ca).

**Event coordinator:** The Special Event Manager organizes social events for both parents and kids, including holiday celebrations and team-building evenings. They plan gatherings that strengthen team spirit and foster community, ensuring every event is well-executed and enjoyable. If interested, please contact Kristy at [kristylegge@swatswim.ca](mailto:kristylegge@swatswim.ca).

**Webmaster:** In this role, you'll manage and enhance SWAT's new website, Pool Queue. If you have a passion for technology and design, you'll have the chance to showcase your skills while improving our online presence. Join us in creating a vibrant digital space that engages our community and keeps everyone informed. If interested, please contact Kristy at [kristylegge@swatswim.ca](mailto:kristylegge@swatswim.ca).

## HELPFUL TIP:

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*When looking for **psych sheets** and **session reports** for an event, visit [www.swimnovascotia.ca](http://www.swimnovascotia.ca) a few days before the event date, and on the home page, click on “Latest News”. Meet Details will be listed here – just click “Read More”.*

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## QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR PARENT REP

**Mini Waves:** Coach Matt at [matt@swatswim.ca](mailto:matt@swatswim.ca)

**Tidal Waves:** Coach Matt at [matt@swatswim.ca](mailto:matt@swatswim.ca)

**Novice:** Coach Matt at [matt@swatswim.ca](mailto:matt@swatswim.ca)

**Junior:** Emily Reiner at [recruitment@swatswim.ca](mailto:recruitment@swatswim.ca)

**Senior:** TBD