



November 2021

## Welcome back!

After a long and bumpy ride, the masters swimming community is delighted to return to the pool for the 2021-2022 season. Masters teams across the province have resumed training, with capacity limits and other changes to ensure safety. Masters swimmers are now working hard to rebuild swimming fitness after lengthy periods without access to pools and programs. We've missed our teammates and good friends, and the expertise and motivation that our great coaches provide. With provincial vaccination rates among the highest in the world and decreasing COVID numbers there is reason for optimism. Among other things, Swim Ontario is looking to provide a number of opportunities for in-person competition for masters swimmers this season. Check out our Competition Calendar later in this newsletter for more details!

## Registration

- Registration with Swim Ontario masters for the 2021-2022 season is off to a great start. There are currently 40+ masters teams and 843 swimmers registered with Swim Ontario Masters. We are particularly pleased to see growth in integrated clubs (clubs with both age group and masters swimming programs), a club structure that highlights our “swim for life” philosophy. Swim Ontario and the masters committee extend a warm welcome to the following new Swim Ontario clubs: Ancaster Alligators Masters, Cambridge Mavericks, Burlington Masters Swim Club, and Cobra Masters Swimming of Brampton.
- In these challenging times, new clubs are particularly interested in the extensive insurance coverage, as well as other benefits including the organizational infrastructure, expertise and support that Swim Ontario can provide.
- If you are interested in affiliating with Swim Ontario Masters, or have any questions regarding registration, contact Heather Dwinnell at [heather@swimontario.com](mailto:heather@swimontario.com).

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## Swim Ontario Masters Virtual Performance Rankings

Swim Ontario is re-launching the masters virtual rankings. While swimmers are happy to be back in the pool, we miss having opportunities to challenge and test ourselves, and to see where we stack up in our favourite events. This unsanctioned virtual initiative will help participants swim safely, set goals, and find motivation. The virtual rankings are designed to provide flexibility for coaches and to allow the timed swims to be incorporated into regular practice sessions. To ensure broader participation, lane swimmers can have a lane buddy or lifeguard time their swims.

Results, rules, guidelines, entry link, and other information relating to the Virtual Rankings can be found on the Swim Ontario website at [HERE](#). Times must be submitted by the following deadlines to be included in the postings.

- November 12th, 2021
- December 17th, 2021
- January 21st, 2022
- February 25th, 2022
- April 22nd, 2022
- June 3rd, 2022

## Competition Calendar

The Swim Ontario Masters Committee has been working to provide masters swimmers with some racing opportunities after a long hiatus from in-person competition. The 2022 Masters Provincial Championships and Masters National Championships are in the calendar. Swim Ontario is also looking to provide a few additional in-season competitions for masters swimmers. While some dates need to be confirmed with organizers and facilities, the preliminary competition calendar includes the following events:

<b>2021-2022 Competition Calendar</b>		
EOMAC Semi Serious 14*	Etobicoke Olympium	December, 2021
Spring Splash*	Burlington	February, 2022
Susan Douglas Memorial Meet*	Wilmot Recreation Complex	March 6, 2022
2022 Ontario Provincial Championships	Etobicoke Olympium	March 26-27, 2022
2022 Canadian Masters Championships	Quebec City	May 20-22, 2022
*Dates for these meets are subject to confirmation.		

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Competitions will need to comply with Swim Ontario's Return to Racing Framework (for return to racing information and framework see: <http://www.swimontario.com/page.php?id=3031>)

## Swim Ontario Awards: The Masters Special Achievement Award

Congratulations to Middlesex Masters swimmer Jillian Best, winner of the 2021 Masters Special Achievement Award. Jillian swam 52 km across Lake Ontario on August 3-4, 2021, swimming from Niagara-on-the-lake to Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto. Jillian underwent a liver transplant five years ago. She was the first transplant recipient to complete a successful lake crossing. Jillian did the swim to increase awareness about organ donation and transplant survivors – and to raise funds for the purchase of specialized equipment for London Health Sciences Centre. Her dedication and passion for the sport of swimming and her commitment to help others serve as an inspiration. Jillian, you make the masters swimming community proud!



## Get engaged and involved!

Your feedback is important and helps us better serve the masters community. We encourage the masters swimming community to share ideas and feedback with us at:

[masters@swimontario.com](mailto:masters@swimontario.com).

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You can also stay engaged and up-to-date by visiting our website at: <https://www.swimontario.com> or following/liking us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/swimontariomasters/>.

Swim Ontario is delighted to welcome Annamay Oldershaw to the Masters Committee. Annamay brings a lifetime of swimming experience at club, varsity, elite, and masters levels. She was a long-time national team member, world record holder, and member of Canada's 2008 Olympic team. She currently works as a teacher and lives in the Burlington area. Masters swimming will benefit from Annamay's extensive experience in the swimming world, her enthusiasm, and skills. The committee is delighted to welcome her aboard!

If you are looking to make a more significant contribution to masters swimming in the province, consider putting your name forward for volunteering for the Swim Ontario Masters Committee. Current committee members include swimmers and coaches from teams large and small across the province. If you are interested in participating on the Committee, please reach out to the current Committee Chair, Katie Osborne, at [osborne.katie@outlook.com](mailto:osborne.katie@outlook.com).