

Contact: Mike Stansberry
IGLA 2016 Co-Chair
Making Waves Aquatics Club
Phone: 780-905-8180
E-mail: info@IGLA2016.org
IGLA2016.org / IGLA.org

2016 INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESS RELEASE

Registration Opens for 2016 IGLA Championships

Edmonton welcomes the world!

Edmonton – In the first week of registration, athletes from three continents, North America, Europe, and Australia, have already signed up to compete in the 2016 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships held from August 8-14, 2016 in Edmonton, Canada.

At the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, the Making Waves Aquatics Club won the bid to host the championships that takes place in years between the Gay Games. Previous championships have been held in Stockholm, Seattle, Reykjavik, Honolulu, Copenhagen, Washington, D.C., and Paris. The last time the championships were held in Canada was in 2001 (Toronto).

The team is busy preparing to host athletes from around the world to compete in swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming, open water swimming, and the famous Pink Flamingo™. “My first IGLA swimming championships were in Toronto in 2001 followed by the Sydney Gay Games in 2002. I had such great experiences and met so many friends that it inspired me to share that experience with others. The parties were fun too!!” said Mike Stansberry, IGLA 2016 Co-Chair.

“We’re thrilled with the response we’re getting from the international community, particularly the Americans with their strong dollar in relation to the Canadian Loonie.” said Justin Shields, IGLA 2016 Co-Chair.

“Edmonton is a beautiful city in the summer near the Canadian Rocky Mountains, and we have a world class facility that’s walking distance from our downtown core! We’re also hoping to further promote Edmonton’s reputation as a world class host of international sporting events.” said Stansberry.

There are 63 IGLA Member Teams representing approximately 2,700 Athletes from 17 Countries. Organizers hope to host up to 1,000 athletes this summer. There are also 12 social events being planned for that week.

"I've already heard that the Sydney Stingers and the Toronto Triggerfish water polo teams were planning to send two teams each to the tournament; in fact Edmonton started its own LGBT water polo team because of local interest in hosting!" said Shields.

"I'm very excited for this year's IGLA! The preparedness of the organizers has been top notch and gives me, and should give the IGLA Membership, full confidence that this will be a world-class event that will be hard to forget. The efforts that have been made to get the city and tourism bureau behind this event has allowed for costs to stay low and for organizers to incorporate some interesting and fun planning and promotions. I'm looking forward to it being a true IGLA, rather than folded into a larger event, as this allows better oversight and interaction with the IGLA Board and organizers. Join me and the other IGLA Board members at this year's IGLA 2016 Edmonton to make it one for the books!" said Kris Pritchard, IGLA Co-President, a water polo player with the Washington Wetskins.

"I have already registered to compete in Edmonton and I am looking forward to a week of fun and competition with friends old and new. I have been to the last several IGLA competitions and I'm very impressed by the Edmonton organizers and their planning efforts. They have been willing to learn from previous successful IGLA hosts the best practices for running a successful competition and have engaged with experts in all Aquatic disciplines to ensure the individual needs of each sport are met. I am also impressed by their commitment to host an event that is welcoming to everyone!", said Elisabeth Turnbull-Brown, IGLA Co-Present, a swimmer with Team New York Aquatics.

Making Waves Aquatics Club is Edmonton's masters swim club and water polo team for the gay and lesbian community and their friends. Since 1999, they have fostered participation in aquatic sports in a gay-positive environment that is supportive of all athletes.

IGLA is the world's foremost international organization solely devoted to developing and promoting gay and lesbian swimming, water polo, diving, and synchronized swimming. Their mission is to promote participation in aquatic sports among lesbians and gay men and friends of our community, and to ensure maintenance of the highest standards for aquatic competitions and international standards for all Gay Games and IGLA Championships.

Registration is open at IGLA2016.org.

- 30 -

Related news articles:

Edmonton Journal (January 2015): <http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/edmonton-to-host-international-gay-and-lesbian-aquatic-championships-in-2016>

GayCalgary® Magazine (October 2014):

<http://www.gaycalgary.com/Magazine.aspx?id=132&article=4307>