



April 30/2010

To Whom It May Concern,

As of Friday, April 30th, at 10 pm, Manitou Springs Mineral Spa will no longer have a license to operate its pool from the Sask. Dept. of Health, and therefore must close its doors (**pool only-hotel and other businesses stay open**) to all of the public and our hotel guests, for an undetermined amount of time. This information was relayed to us with a phone call, at 4 pm on April 29th, from Leslie Rea (Manager – Safe Communities Dept.- Saskatoon Health Region).

The primary reason why the Dept. of Health has decided to shut us down, is due to the following breach of the Public Health Act and the swimming pool regulations, 1999, and the General Pool Design/Operational Standards and the Swimming Pool Design/Operational Standards:

“skimming devices should be capable of handling at least 75% of total filter rate.”

Manitou Springs agrees that most of our skimmers are plugged with a very hard encrustation, resulting from 23 years of mineral salt build up, on the inside of the skimmer piping. HOWEVER, we have proven to the Dept. of Health, with a recent comprehensive Engineers report, that our pool water flows through (“turns over”) our filter system approx. 14 times per day. The minimum required “turnover” of any pool is 4 times a day through its filter system. Therefore, we are filtering the pool water (through our working skimmers and our pool floor “suction intakes”) approx. 3.5 times more than the minimum amount required. We also drain off approx. 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of pool water every night to waste, and “top up” the pool with fresh lake water as a result.

The Spa’s Management sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience this has caused, to our much appreciated pool patrons and our 24 staff members, but we have been given very little notice, in order to react properly for our staff, patrons, and the surrounding communities. Our management team would like to express that we are doing everything within our power to try to resolve the situation, so we can open up our spa once again. We will be attempting to clear the block skimmers very soon, with a special liquid, and we are optimistic with the results. Although the Dept. of Health has the power to allow us a time extension to try this newly found method and therefore keep our spa open, they have chosen not to do so.

Please note that the Dept. of Health’s sudden decision has had nothing to do with any Spa patrons illness or tragedy, as our Mineral Spa has no record of illness from our pool water (at least not within the last 10 years for sure). We take great pride in keeping our water very clean for our patrons.

Although we are shocked and upset over this recent decision by the Dept. of Health to take our pool license from us, we are unable to comment any further at this time. The new board of directors and Management that took over the operations in Sept. of 2009, have tried their best to comply with every demand of the Dept. of Health, despite their lack of communication, and unwillingness to answer our questions regarding this and other issues. We ultimately view this as an unfair attack, on what we feel is a world class resort and spa.

If you wish to express your comments or concerns, there is a list of contact information provided on the back. It should be noted that the Greg Brkich office is currently trying to resolve this situation for us.

Sincerely,
Manitou Springs Mineral Spa Management

Provincial And Federal Gov't Contact Information

Hon. Don McMorris – Sask. Minister of Health
Room 302 Legislative Building
Regina, Sk. S4S 0B3 ph: 787-0624

Greg Brkich, MLA Arm River- Watrous Constituency
Box 1077 Davidson, Sk. S0G 1A0 email: gbrkich@mha.legassembly.sk.ca

Greg Brkich Legislative Office: 203 Legislative Building Regina, Sk. S4S 0B3
Ph: 306-787-9036 fax: 306-798-0221

Greg Brkich Constituency Office: 102 Washington Ave. Davidson, Sk. S0G 1A0
Ph: 306-567-2843 toll free: 1-800-539-3979 fax: 306-567-3259

Lynn Yelich- yelich.l@parl.gc.ca ph: 975-6472 fax: 975-6492 Unit 71 – Market
Mall 2325 Preston Ave. Saskatoon, Sk. S7J 2G2

East Central Tourism (Colleen and Sharon) ph: 647-2155 fax: 647-2144

Public Health Services – Safe Communities Department Contact Information

101-310 Idylwyld Drive North Saskatoon, Sk. S7L 0Z2
Main Office ph: 306-655-4498 or 655-4605 fax: 655-4498

Dr. Ross Findlater – Deputy Medical Health Officer ph: 655-4498
Dr. Stephen Whitehead – Deputy Medical Health Officer ph: 655-4498

Leslie Rea – direct line 306-655-4631 email: lesliej.rea@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Brent Latimer – Supervisor – Safe Communities Dept. direct line ph: 655-4644
Email: brent.latimer@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Terry Gibson – Supervisor ph: 655-4498