

## WEST VANCOUVER AQUATIC CENTRE IN THE SWIM WITH MAPEI

In 1974 West Vancouver built an aquatic centre that boasted a 50-meter pool. The shape and slope of the facility provided the interior volume needed for international diving and swimming events. In 1976 the aquatic centre became the home of the West Van Otters Swim Club, where children of all ages could train for competitive meets. For nearly 30 years, the centre served the community well; but it was beginning to show its age, so in March 2003 it began undergoing a facelift.

V.P. Tile Imports Ltd. was tapped to do the pool renovation and expansion and update the bathrooms and changing rooms. Peter Anglin, project manager for V.P. Tile, used MAPEI products to ensure the success of his company's efforts. MAPEI had developed a proven track record with the architects, Hughes Condon Marler, having provided materials for several aquatic centres in the region.

At West Vancouver Aquatic Centre, the existing 50-meter pool had to be built up to accommodate skimmers placed vertically into the wall. *Mapecem® Premix* – a fast-setting pre-blended concrete mix – was used over the Granirapid® System to build up the pool walls. V.P. Tile added *Planicrete® AC* to the sand-cement mud bed to give more strength and alkalinity resistance to tile placement around the skimmers. A new leisure pool and whirlpool were added to the existing lap pool. All surfaces in the new and renovated areas were covered with *Mapelastic™ 315* and supported with *Mapeband* accessories. *Planitop® 12* vertical repair mortar was used to perfect the walls of the leisure pool.

V.P. Tile used the *Kerabond™/Keralastic™* mortar system (in white) to set the 27,000 sq. ft. of tiles in the leisure pool and whirlpool tanks and deck areas and the wall tiles and mosaic tiles in the bathrooms and changing rooms. New tiles in the lap pool were grouted with white *Kerapoxy®* epoxy grout. The combination of Gail & Agrob-Buchta porcelain tiles in the leisure pool and whirlpool were grouted with *Ultracolor®* grout in white, as were the porcelain wall tile and mosaic tiles in the bathrooms and changing rooms. MAPEI representative Luigi Federico visited the site weekly during the renovation to offer support and technical assistance. He said, "V.P. Tile did a great job, and the result is a really exciting new centre for all the residents of West Vancouver."

The renovation kept the West Van Otters out of their home pool for a season; but their return to the pool at the grand opening on January 24, 2004, brought renewed excitement and determination to the team. The aquatic centre sports an ozone water treatment system, which reduces the ill effects of chlorination while improving the water quality. A heat pump and an underground piping system make use of geothermal processes to help heat and cool the centre.

Architecturally appealing wood beams support a garage-like mechanism that opens and closes the glass panels in one side of the aquatic centre. This structure allows swimmers to experience an outdoor feel to their workouts during the summer months. For the enjoyment of all, the centre also features a water slide, a wave pool, and a sauna in addition to the new whirlpool.

Health and fitness are important qualities of life in West Vancouver, and the new aquatic centre renovation is providing an attractive venue for reaching those goals. MAPEI's record for strength and reliability has helped put the West Van Otters Club back in the swim and has provided a springboard for renovating other facilities in the region. It's time to chalk up another win for the West Vancouver Aquatic Club and for MAPEI.