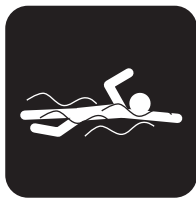


POST'S
GUIDE
to the
PAN AM
GAMES



SWIMMING (OPEN WATER)

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

BY KAITLYN McGRATH
NATIONAL POST

Venue

Ontario Place West Channel

Venue acronym

OPW

Landmark status

Medium

It was formerly an amusement park called Ontario Place that fell onto hard times. Now the site is being developed into something that is described as an “urban parkland” by the provincial government.

Other events at venue

Road cycling (including Parapan Am), marathon, 20-kilometre race walk, the men’s-only 50-kilo-

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metre race walk, water ski and wakeboard, triathlon

[The venue page at the TO2015 website as road closure maps of the various event courses.](#)

Transit options

From Yonge-Bloor station, take Line 1 southbound to Union Station. Board the 509 Exhibition streetcar which will take you into the Exhibition Grounds. Other options are the 511 Bathurst streetcar from Bathurst Station (Line 2); the 29 Dufferin bus from Dufferin (Line 2) and Wilson (Line 1) stations or the 193 Exhibition Rocket temporary express bus from Dundas West Station (Line 2). You can also take the GO Train to the Exhibition stop on

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the Lakeshore West line.

For exact directions, try:

Triplinx.ca

[TTC trip planner](#)

Schedule

July 11 Women's 10km final

July 12 Men's 10km final

[See the full competition schedule at the Pan Am website](#)

How it works

It's much like the swimming races held in pools, except longer, colder and dirtier (we don't know why some athletes opt for it, either). It's a freestyle race that consists of six 1.67-kilometre laps, equalling a 10km distance, in

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Lake Ontario. There are no walls, flip-turns or pool lanes, just a swimmer and the open water.

Nations competing

13

Canada's team

Men

Eric Hedlin, Victoria; Richard Weinberger, Surrey, B.C.

Women

Jade Dusablon, Quebec City; Samantha Harding, Brandon, Man.

Tournament format

Swim fast. The top three finishers get cool medals.

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Results from 2011 Pan Ams

Women

1. Cecilia Biagioli, Argentina; 2. Poliana Okimoto, Brazil; 3. Christine Jennings, U.S.

Men

1. Richard Weinberger, Canada; 2. Arthur Frayler, U.S.; Guillermo Bertola, Argentina

Why it's worth watching

Pools, smools. Who wants to watch a swimmer in a controlled environment when you can witness the sport in its purest form?

Competition outlook

Men

Brazil's Diogo Villarinho, Ecuador's Esteban Enderica and the United States' Charles Peterson are all ranked in the top

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10 according to FINA. Richard Weinberger, of Canada, won this event at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Guadalajara. He's currently ranked No. 78 in the world.

Women

Biagioli, the defending champion, is the highest-ranked swimmer in the event as No. 5 in the world. Kristel Kobrich, of Chile, is ranked No. 16 in the world.