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### **St. Catharines, Ontario – Local coach earns six-year contract.**

The St. Catharines Aquatic Club has signed head coach Dan Stratton to a new six-year contract effective immediately.

"Our club executive wanted to ensure our swimmers continue to benefit from the stability that comes with consistent professional coaching," says St. Catharines Aquatic Club President, Don Boucher. "Since the fall of 2008, Dan has devoted himself to the advancement of our junior and competitive swimmers and in just two years Dan has inspired, educated and coached our swimmers to their best performances"

Stratton, a swim coach since 1993, has been involved at all levels of amateur swimming: club, university, provincial, national and international. "Dan's education and coaching experience was exactly what the St. Catharines Aquatic Club (SCAC) needed to re-establish itself as a leading regional and strong provincial club", says Boucher. "Our competitive swimmers have big aspirations and Dan is the right coach to take our team to a whole new level."

"This six-year contract is an exciting commitment to professional swim program across northern Ontario," says Stratton, who is continuing his coaching education thanks to a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health. While coaching SCAC Dan is training to become a learning facilitator. As such, he will play a leading role in the training of new qualified and certified swim coaches in this community and in northern Ontario.

In the opinion of Don Boucher and the volunteer executive of the St. Catharines Aquatic Club, the city's John Rhodes community pool is the best teaching facility in northern Ontario and they wanted their coaching staff to be the best too. "From our beginner kids (age 7) who are just starting to enjoy the water to our most dedicated athletes with provincial and national goals and including future coaches, this six-year contract ensures great leadership for years to come."

The St. Catharines Aquatic Club (SCAC) is for swimmers from age seven to seventeen. Swimmers at all competitive levels enjoy the benefits of professional coaching. The club, founded in 1978, is managed by dedicated volunteers and sanctioned by Swim Ontario. For an interview or more information about St. Catharines Aquatic Club program call 705-941-9880.