

In Manitoba, as those first warm rays stir the senses, we start to pine for some fun in the sun. We long to hear our children laugh as we play with them outdoors, making memories that will last a lifetime.

Oasis Leisure Centre has everything you need to make your backyard dream resort a reality. From its early beginning in 2000, Oasis has now grown to be Manitoba's largest pool and spa company.

"In the last 10 years we have really taken off," says Operations Manager Jason Lawrence. "Winnipeggers love swimming and our summers are hot, so pools are a natural product to own and enjoy. By putting in an above or in-ground pool, anyone can transform their backyard into their very own home-based resort. We have everything to make your backyard into a theme park."

Options in terms of pools, water features, spas and outdoor accessories have never been greater. Whether the dream involves an 8-foot high Turbo Twister waterslide, a beautiful lighted rock waterfall, a massive walk-through grotto, or a combination of all three, there are home resort possibilities for every budget.

One very affordable option is an above ground pool within a deck, available either as a do-it-yourself project or installed by Oasis professionals. Lawrence strongly recommends a pool heater.

"We have five months of swimming in Winnipeg," he explains. "You want to enjoy every ounce of fun, and with a heater you can swim all season long."

After all, with sizes ranging from 15 feet to 30 feet round, an above ground pool can hold a large volume of water. There are also oval shapes from 12 x 18 feet to 18 x 40 feet, long enough to do laps.

Or for bigger budgets, there are in-ground pools. Lawrence notes that the trend is personalization, with homeowners colour coordinating steps to match their liners in blue or grey instead of the basic white. Diving boards and water slides are available in greys and sandstone to blend in with landscaping.

The most important design aspect is to get the pool properly sized and placed into the yard with room for all future patio furniture, gazebos, spas and accessories. "For in-ground projects, we offer 3-D drawings that allow people to visualize their pool before we even dig," he adds.

And that isn't the only exciting technological innovation. Automatic robotic pool cleaners are the latest trend. They just drop into the pool and vacuum the entire area in one hour or less. Salt water systems that eliminate the need to handle chlorine also make owning a pool easier than ever

"A pool cleaner, salt water system and cartridge filter combination will eliminate 98 percent of the workload," says Lawrence. "With the right equipment, you only have to spend 15 minutes a week on maintenance."

"We have also added complementary home resort products," he notes. "These include island BBQ's, natural gas firepits, outdoor fireplaces and patio furniture — everything to complete your backyard oasis."

Throughout the summer, in celebration of its 10th anniversary, Oasis will be offering specials on all of its Home Resort products, plus giving customers a chance to win back their purchase, up to \$10,000! Growing from three to 30 employees in the past decade, the company now plans to expand its facilities at the current location. The result: more options to feed Manitoba's insatiable appetite for fun in the sun.