

Rin Robyn Pools®

December 2019

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2019 Winter Newsletter

Welcome to the Rin Robyn Pool winter newsletter! We talk about all things Rin Robyn, hot tubs, streams, and pools!



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Baby it's Cold Outside...

Well, in truth the cold really hasn't set in, but we know it's coming. We layer our bodies with clothes and snuggle in blankets, hunching over to protect our core. As we hustle from car to building our muscles tighten, our backs ache and joints stiffen. Sometimes it's not just the cold that makes us ache...it could be lifting the snow shovel, slipping on the ice, or juggling the kids and groceries.

Life just has a way of making our muscles tenser in the winter.

Well, Rin Robyn Pools has the solution to some of the stiffness and winter blues.

Hot tubs!

Water is healing and hot tubs are designed to be therapeutic. They offer hydrotherapy and hydromassage. All in the convenience and privacy of your home!

Pause for a moment and think about a time you spent at the lake or woods, the sounds of a gentle stream trickling nearby and birds singing. It makes for a relaxing day! Water soothes us.

Now, imagine on a cold winter's day, walking onto your patio or deck, slipping your achy body in warm moving water and leaning back onto massaging water jets targeting those problem areas.

Breathe...your blood flows...tenseness in your body slowly decreases...your toes uncurl...your shoulder rest...close your eyes...hear the sounds of nature...feel the water move...your core is warm and relaxed

Hmmm, it makes for a great start to the day or aids in a peaceful night's sleep. This moment can be yours. You can totally own it. Your small square footage of space can easily become your escape, while never leaving your home. We even offer hot tubs by Jacuzzi®, which plug right into a regular outlet, making it very simple to add to hydrotherapy to your life. Let us help you get out of the cold! Baby it's cold outside!

Come see our hot tubs in our retail locations in Bernardsville, Chester or Hackettstown and consider giving yourself a "To: Me, From: Me gift!

The History of Swimming Pools

The benefits of swimming pools are clear: they provide therapeutic relief, a good source of exercise, and a habitat for relaxation. But few of us today are aware of the deep history that has allowed for us to be able to take advantage of this simple luxury.

The beginning of swimming pools tells a tale much different from the ways we understand them now. Archaeological records from Egypt, dating from around 2,500 BC, indicate that swimming pools were utilized as a communal and potentially ceremonial gathering ground. The earliest public pool site, measuring 12 meters by 7 meters, is known as the “Great Bath” in modern-day Pakistan. This pool was ensured water-tight by intricately fitted bricks held together with gypsum plaster. Additionally, a layer of tar was coated on top of the side walls.

Along with the ancient Egyptians, the ancient Greeks harnessed this idea and continued to develop it. As the economy and standard of living increased within the Greek Empire, so too did their ingenuity, and from 800-600 BC the ancient Greeks continuously designed and executed pools. Though initially built for the purposes of hygiene and bathing, pools were later introduced into outdoor recreational spaces.

The Romans of course saw the beauty and splendor of swimming pools and began to tweak the designs of the Greeks by 100 BC. Luxurious and ornate bath houses, adorned with marble and sprinkled with art, were at the center of festivals and feasts. These bathing pools were some of the first instances of water circulation systems, utilizing the well-known aqueduct structures to assist with the supply of natural, fresh water. The Romans were also the pioneers of heated pool systems, sourced by a manual furnace.

Swimming pools hardly strayed from these facets of design until the end of the 19th Century. During this time, Great Britain paved the way for increased sanitization and clarity of swimming pools. Not long after this period, as swimming became all the more recognized through Europe, swimming began to be acknowledged as a sport. This allowed for the development of competitive teams, and ultimately the inclusion in the Olympic games by 1896.

Today, we see the benefits of swimming pools similarly to our historic counterparts and are able to enjoy their assets in a variety of ways. We too have brought swimming pools into the world of art, often as compliments to exquisite architectural design. The utility and elegance of swimming pools has been known for centuries -- and we have a plethora of history to thank for that.

Opening Our New Store in Chester

2019 has been a pivotal year in the 61-year history of Rin Robyn Pools®. On Monday, December 31, 2018, we signed the Purchase and Sale Agreement and in March of 2019 we closed on the purchase of this Historic Chester building at 1 West Main Street (see photo below).



1 West Main Street is located on the southwest corner of Chester's Main Street (Route 24) and Route 206. Directly behind it is the Chester Mall. (See photo above).

The first buildings to be put up at this location were the combination Freight and Passenger Station (left building in photo below) and the Engine House (right building in photo below) for the Central of NJ Railroad's Chester Hill Branch, completed in 1873, it was one of the Iron Mine Railroads of Northern NJ. This branch of the railroad served the many iron mines that were all along Chester's Main Street. These buildings were torn down around 1931. The Sampson Iron Mine was directly across the street on what now is Larison's front lawn, which explains the extraordinarily high iron content of the store's well water!



Originally called the Chester Oil Company, the current building was constructed in the 1930's and was always used as a gas station.



1 West Main Street, Chester, circa 1940

In the photo above, you can see that the building used to have towers on each end of it, with apartments upstairs, and at one time it had a restaurant in it. The towers remained in place until sometime before 1971. Also, the text reads, "The Chester Oil Company, where 24 meets 31 at Chester". What is today Route 206 was built as Route 31 and remained Route 31 until sometime in the 1940's.

Our building subsequently became the home of the Mohawk Oil Company and was a Sunoco station for many years.



Here's a picture of it taken in the mid 1970's from the parking lot of the Chester Mall (on the right). The building (now without the towers) is at the far end of the parking lot on the left.

When the intersection of Main Street and Rt 206 was widened and realigned in 2010, the State of NJ took away some of the property belonging to the prior owner and restricted access to the property with an entrance confined to only from Main Street.

These entrance constraints were the death knell for its use as a gas station and the Sunoco station pumped its last gallon of gas in July of 2010. The owner at that time removed all the pumps and tanks and performed an environmental remediation that took years but resulted in a clean bill of health for the property in 2018, subsequently putting it up for sale.

When we first learned that the property was for sale, we immediately loved the fact that it had a full-size garage door, which meant that it would be easy to bring hot tubs, and even gigantic swim spas, onto the showroom floor.

However, after we acquired the property, the building still had a couple of interior walls that needed to come out in order to create the showroom space. A structural engineer was called in and steel beams were installed to support the building where the walls were. One of the walls was made of concrete! It proved to be a challenge to take it down, but we got it done.

New flooring was installed, slat board was put up on the walls, fresh paint along with a mural that provides the feel of a NJ wooded view. We moved in our BioGuard® pool and spa chemicals, installed our BioGuard® testing lab, brought in all of the other products and opened the store in early May!

We're very pleased to have opened this new location in Chester – although people may think that we're new to Chester, the owners of Rin Robyn Pools® have lived in Chester for 40 years.

And the latest great news, is that we've been now sought out by Jacuzzi® Hot Tubs to be the exclusive dealer in the area for their venerable product line. The name Jacuzzi® is synonymous with hot tubs and spas, and there's a good reason for that. Jacuzzi® sets the standard by which all hot tubs are measured.

So, stop in and see our new Chester location – and check out a new Jacuzzi®. We're open year around.

Jacuzzi®



Hot Tub Moving!

We are very experienced in moving hot tubs and we do it almost every week. This fall we moved close to 10 hot tubs in one day to bring in our new Jacuzzi® hot tubs. This meant taking out all the other hot tubs out of our Chester location and bring the Jacuzzi® brand hot tubs into our Chester location. We beat our record by moving close to 10 hot tubs in about 7 hours.



These pictures are of the hot tubs being taken off the truck. (Wow...That's a lot of Jacuzzis!) These pictures include our management team taking the hot tubs off the truck during our weekly management meeting. Now that you know how they got here and what they look like on a truck, come on down and see what they look like without the packaging and with water inside them. We think they look much better that way. However, they were packaged very nicely if you are someone who appreciates that.

But all the hard work pays off and we have all the Jacuzzi® hot tubs in Chester. This was all hands-on deck and we got the hot tubs off the truck, out of the store, and in the store. We achieved our goal of getting all the hot tubs moved in time for the holiday season. We made our goal by two days by getting them in the store before Thanksgiving!

Water Features in the Winter?

After completing the new driveway stream at our Princeton project this year, the owner was asking recently if she could keep the stream going through Thanksgiving because she wanted her guests to see it when they came to visit. She was most concerned about it freezing since last year's Thanksgiving brought record lows to New Jersey with the high temperature in the 20's and the wind chill in the single digits. We talked about this subject amongst ourselves, and since the temperatures are dropping it felt like a good topic to discuss for this Rin Robyn Pools newsletter. If you want to run a water feature all winter, here are some things to know and think about.

It might seem like water features can't operate in winter temperatures, but the ice insulates the water from the cold air. This lets the water flow under the ice, and this movement prevents the water from freezing solid.

Running the water feature all winter creates awesome ice formations and unique sounds. It can be enjoyable to watch and listen to the water feature in the winter, being in the moment, sounds from the wider world muffled by snow cover. However, as splashing water causes ice to form on a fountain or waterfall, it's important to have a large basin. All that ice means there's less water in the supply basin. Since the basin is in the ground, there's enough warmth to prevent it from freezing. But you may need to top off your basin with extra water just in case. Also be aware that ice dams can direct water out of the pond or stream so be prepared to occasionally use warm water to melt these ice dams.

In addition, all those ice formations give the opportunity to add lighting for an even more dramatic effect. At a time of year when the outdoor space may seem drab and colorless, an icy water feature can take a yard from whatever to wow.

We hope this information was useful. Enjoy the colder temperatures.

Thank you!

**Happy Holidays and have
a great New Year!**

See you Soon!

-Rin Robyn Pools Staff

