

From: April
Sent: April-11-16 10:27 AM
To: Johnson, Brenda
Subject: FW: Proposed Swimming pool/hot-tub by-law

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I just wanted to express my deep concern regarding the proposed swimming pool/hot-tub by-law for the City of Hamilton. I relocated to Ancaster last year to a wonderful home with a moderate sized backyard with the expectation that this would be a home I raised my family in. I had planned to build a swimming pool in a portion of my backyard so that my family could enjoy our backyard as so many of our neighbours. With this new by-law, I would no longer see anything but a fence in my backyard.

I am a mother of a two year old boy, with another on the way. I understand that it is about safety, not aesthetics, but I also believe that it is my responsibility as a homeowner and a mother to educate and supervise my children in all aspects of their life, including water safety. Regardless of having a pool in my own backyard, I have enrolled my two year old in progressive swimming lessons to teach my child that water can be dangerous. He will be around water throughout his childhood without my direct supervision, and these life skills are necessary. I have door chimes on my exterior doors to ensure my son doesn't attempt to leave my home without me knowing, as I do understand that children don't have 100% focus, 100% of the time. If I install a pool, this would be mandatory in my home. It is a parents responsibility to teach their children, not make an assumption that a fence will keep a child safe. This by-law will severely deter me, a conscientious and diligent parent, of being able to install a pool or hot-tub in my backyard. Consequently, I will not receive the enjoyment of my property that I had intended when I purchased in this area.

There are safety concerns all around my children and some are directly preventable, like head injury's and mandatory bicycle helmets. Others that would be impossible to tackle, like children run over by their own parents vehicles while playing in driveway's. Accidents are tragic, but they happen every-day and I cannot keep my child in a bubble, I have to educate them on safety.

It is my job, not the City of Hamilton.

Thank you,

April Burk, CPA, CMA