

From: Bill Bell

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 2:38 PM

To: Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Donna.Skelley@hamilton.ca; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi; Office of the Mayor

Cc: 'Robert Wood'; 'Dana Boucher'; 'Lisa Simpson'; 'Bob Simpson'

Subject: 4 sided fence bylaw

To All council members , City of Hamilton.

Let me first say that we are entirely in agreement for the promotion of backyard safety around the swimming pool. However, this by-law is totally unworkable in todays small backyards with set backs proposed. It also restricts all homeowners ability to enhance their own backyard in an age when more and more people are creating their own backyard retreats and foregoing the cottage etc. People with no interest or do not see the value in a backyard swimming pool may or may not see the implications of these restrictions. People who are non swimmers and who have children who are non swimmers may also see value in this change. This by-law will not change the fact that accidents will happen. A 4 sided fence does not take precedence over proper supervision and care for children.

When I attended both public meetings there was not anyone in the room from the public, that was in agreement with this change. It almost appears our comments via public consultation fell on deaf ears at this meeting. The two who agreed were City staff and representatives from McMaster study at the second of two meetings.

At both meetings , I requested that Robert Wood from the Pool and Hot Tub Council of Canada, come and speak . He attended and was able to present some facts and give our position on this matter. He also spoke of a tiered approach to safety in the backyard without the requirement of a four sided fence. . He also spoke briefly at the committee meeting. I have attached a copy of the full presentation and the one page presentation for you review.

We are not against safety in the backyard, we presented some viable educational alternatives to promote the importance of backyard safety around the pool. We also offered our assistance in implementing an educational program for the public. This tiered approach has been adopted in the cities of Ottawa and London, as opposed to the 4 sided fence.

There is already a lot of misinformation of this by-law passing. I have been contacted by several customers who will cancel the sale if this becomes a requirement. I am very opposed to the changes put forth regarding the 4-sided fence that does not allow the house to be included as one of the sides. I have been fielding numerous calls today from existing and potential customers , all opposed to this change.

I strongly request that this gets sent back to committee for review and amendment to remove the 4-sided fence component on April 13 2016

Sincerely

Bill Bell
President
Bud's Spas & Pools