

**Re: Response to proposed pool fence enclosure within a fence enclosed yard.**

**Honourable Mayor and esteemed members of Council:**

I have a degree in Architecture, I currently am in the landscape construction business and have installed 100 + pools over the years as part of our landscapes. As good intentioned as this proposed legislation is, it is in my mind unwarranted, costly, complicated (in its physical site implementation) and if passed will severely hamper our business as well as all other landscape and pool company's.

This fence enclosure proposal also creates a bit of a false dilemma. It is hard to find an argument against multiple (2) pool enclosures that might save a life. It would likely be harder still if it were 3 enclosures. To diminish the likelihood of an accidental drowning boils down to good house / pool rules! People wanting pools in their yard have seriously contemplated the "safety issue" for their children prior to installing a pool. Those that want a 'second line of defense' will make the decision to put a fence around their pool until such time that kids have grown up and then they have the option to remove. Ultimately it should be left up to the conscience of the home owner. You can be sure that if people were forced to put in secondary enclosures they would take down them down immediately after final inspection.

You could find far more safety hazards in and outside a home that are not governed by legislation. Accidents will happen where parents are not vigilant and it is my experience that pool owners, by and large, are indeed diligent and vigilant when it comes to pool safety.

I personally know of two incidents of near drowning in Richmond Hill where the fence around the pool was left open while perimeter fence was locked. I believe the immediate pool fence enclosure created a false sense of security in those two incidents. If perimeter fence is locked there potentially is less thought given to securing the inside fence.

Lastly, I would suggest that that there be consideration given to the option of manual slide locks installed on inside doors to prevent young children exiting their backyards. Beyond that, there is little else that one could claim a 100% assurance of preventing an accidental drowning, including multiple fences.

With kind regards,

Marc Schutten

Pres. Granitepark Inc.