

From: Andrea Dalrymple
Sent: April-14-16 2:14 PM
To: Farr, Denis; Bedioui, Ida
Subject: RE: Proposed Pool Enclosure By-law

Dear Members of Hamilton council,

RE: Proposed changes to Pool enclosure by-laws.

Today, in the Hamilton Spectator, I read an article about council member Maria Pearson's experience with a young child falling into her back yard pool. I commend her for her quick actions, however, having a 4-sided enclosure would not have made any difference in this situation since she was standing beside the child when the incident happened. So, my point is, having a pool fenced on 4 sides will not necessarily make any difference to potential drowning incidents.

I am opposed to any changes to the current by-law with regards to back yard pools. Pool safety is and should remain the responsibility of the homeowner and parent. It is common sense that young children gravitate to water and, as such, if a parent has a back yard pool and young children, they need to be extra vigilant. This can be accomplished in a simpler manner than forcing everyone to have a 4 sided fence. Below are a few examples:

1. Mandatory locked gates going into the back yard. I believe this is already a by-law.
2. Extra locks on any doors going into a back yard that is too high for young children to reach in households with children under 10 years of age;
3. Another method would be an alarm on any doors leading to the back yard that would sound if the door was opened in households with children under 10 years of age. I understand that a study was done that found that this was only as good as the parent setting the alarm, however, this again is a responsibility of the homeowner/parent.
4. An alarm that sits in the water when not in use that will go off with wave action in households with children under 10 years of age; .

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the homeowner/parent to closely supervise their young children around the pool. I feel that adding an extra fence would not accomplish the goal of preventing back yard pool drowning, only parents can do that by closely monitoring their children.

I would also like to comment that not every house necessarily has direct backyard access from the house, for example a side or back split style house and some bungalows only have side exits. This would mean that even though these houses have no direct exits, they would still have to have a 4 sided fence? That doesn't make sense.

In closing, even fencing with self closing gates can be propped open, only a responsible parent can prevent back yard drowning's.

Sincerely,

Andrea Dalrymple, Dundas, ON