

Dave and Tina Burke
665 Prospect Street
Palmerston, ON N0G 2P0

May 30, 2016

Bill White
Town of Minto
Highway 5941
Harriston, ON N0G 1Z0

Dear Mr. Bill White,

I would like to be present as delegation at the June 7th Town Council meeting.

As a concerned resident, I would like the following issue addressed: The need for a clear by-law that would specifically regulate any body of water based on its depth; including a pool, hot tub, spa and landscape pond or other water feature. This regulation should apply to all properties in the Town of Minto.

Specifically, the issue is a pond located at 675 Prospect Street in Palmerston with a depth of more than 36" and given the fact that the pond is located in the front yard poses a major safety concern to immediate neighbours as well as the community as a whole. There are many young children that walk directly in front of this house going to and from school every day.

Ornamental and landscape ponds are great! They are nice to look at and are great habitats for various wildlife. Unfortunately they are not so good or very safe for young children. In fact, drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death to Canadian children. Near drowning incidents is highest in this age range as well. No matter how hard you try, it is difficult to always know exactly where your child is, and drowning often occurs while a parent or caregiver assumes their child is safe.

It is a homeowner's responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves, their family as well as anyone else that enters onto their property. To have an open body of water only a few feet from where children live and play is asking for disaster. Water features are enticing to little ones and a homeowner should take all necessary precautions to ensure that their environment is safe and free from hazards that may cause harm. Researchers estimate that safer pool fencing could prevent seven out of 10 drowning incidents in home swimming pools for children under five years of age.

The model SAFE KIDS CANADA by-law <http://www.parachutecanada.org/policy/item/safer-pool-fencing-laws> is used as a template by many municipalities.

(a) **“Pool”** means an excavation, structure or product, which is:

- (i) located outdoors on private property;
- (ii) capable of being used for the purposes of swimming, wading, paddling or bathing;
- (iii) capable of holding water in excess of 0.61m (2 feet) in depth at any point;
- (iv) an open exposed water surface of 1m² (10.7 ft²);

and includes a hot tub and/or spa pool and landscape pond meeting the above criteria, but for the purposes of this by-law does not include any pool which is:

- (1) a pond or reservoir to be utilized for farming purposes or as part of a golf course;
- (2) a pool owned by any public or governmental body, agency or authority, or;
- (3) an existing natural body of water or stream;
- (4) a privately owned stormwater management facility;

It is time for our municipality to take action as well. It is the municipality’s responsibility to help protect everyone, especially our children. Integrating a clearer by-law would definitely make the Town of Minto a better and safer place to live.

Sincerely,

Dave and Tina Burke