

Community

Outdoor pool bylaw termed "a safety measure"

The Town of Halton Hills has begun to crack down on residents who don't properly fence in their outdoor pools, said Bylaw Enforcement Officer Ron Stein during an interview Friday.

The crackdown is a safety measure, said Mr. Stein, to pre-

vent a young child from accidentally falling into a pool and drowning. "It's this time of year across the province you hear of people falling into pools and drowning," said Mr. Stein.

As a result of the crackdown, Halton Hills resident Tony Zilo

who lives on Sideroad 27 was found guilty and fined \$500 Thursday during a Milton court hearing for not having a proper fence surrounding his pool.

Mr. Zilo has 30 days during which time he can appeal the decision. If no appeal is filed, Mr. Zilo will be expected to build a fence within a reasonable amount of time or face another round of charges, explained Mr. Stein.

When Mr. Stein, responding to neighbors complaints, first investigated the Zilo property last summer he found the property was surrounded by page wire fence on one side, a wooden farm fence on another and thick bushes on the other two sides. Access to the property could be gained through gateways that were always open, said Mr. Stein.

The Town's pool bylaw, Mr. Stein explained, stipulates a homeowner's entire property or the pool itself must be surrounded with a chain link or similar fence that "is four feet high and not climbable." As well, the fence must have one or more gates that are self-locking in which the locks are located on the inside of the gate door, he said.

Contrary to the bylaw's intent, Zilo's pool was easily accessible, said Mr. Stein. Mr. Zilo could not be reached for comment at press time.

According to Mr. Stein, the court rejected all three of Mr. Zilo's defenses.

Mr. Zilo tried to argue the pool was a secondary water supply for a washroom and a dishwasher in

his house, said Mr. Stein. He also tried to convince the court the bylaw should be exempted from the bylaw because ponds located on agricultural lands in Town don't have to be surrounded by a fence.

This argument was rejected, said Mr. Stein, because ponds located on farms are not easily accessible.

His final defence was that he shouldn't be required to install a proper fence because he has seen other pools around Town without

the fencing.

Mr. Stein said the Town investigates all complaints about pools, as well as infractions he comes upon.

Mr. Stein predicts this conviction could be one of many. He is already acting on 12 complaints regarding improper fencing around pools.

Mr. Stein also warns no one is exempt under the Town pool bylaw regardless when the pool was installed.



Daffodils for sale

Georgetown resident Elaine Chatten was one of many selling daffodils in Georgetown over the weekend to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit. Ms. Chatten was selling her daffodils at Georgetown District High School during the Town of Halton Hills sponsored Healthy Lifestyles event Saturday. (Herald photo)

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