

# Fencing law breaks new ground



In May 2008, Toronto City Council revised a bylaw to require all new in-ground pools to be enclosed by a permanent four-sided fence; or, where the wall of a building forms part of the swimming pool entrance, the use of a self-closing and self-latching door is an alternative to a fourth fence.

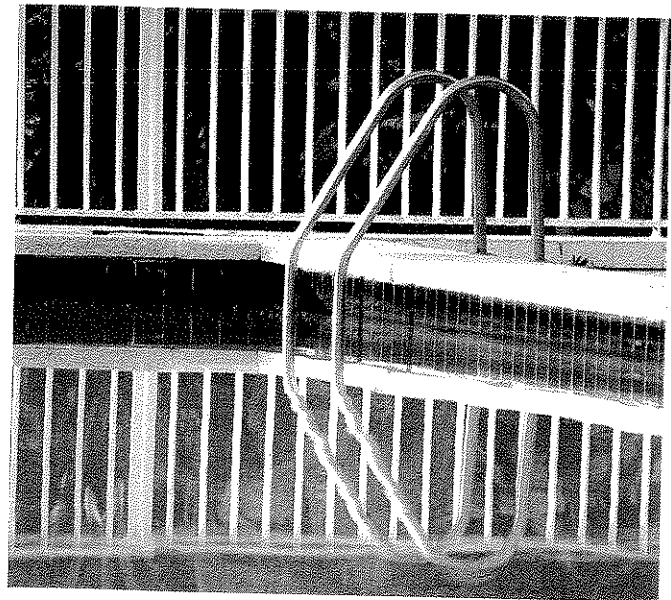
This is in contrast to most North American municipalities that require only a three-sided fence (with the fourth side being the house). Safety experts, including the Lifesaving Society, strongly believe this is insufficient to prevent toddlers from inadvertently accessing a backyard pool when the door is left unlocked or open.

“With three-sided fencing, you are protecting all of your neighbours’ children from coming into the pool area, but not the children in your house,” said Barbara Byers, the Society’s public education director. And backyard pools are the number one location for drownings of children under the age of five. Four-sided fencing that isolates the swimming pool from the home is widely acknowledged as the most effective strategy to prevent such drownings because it does not require human interaction to work – it is always in place.

The most stringent swimming pool enclosure regulations are those in Queensland, Australia, where regulations require compulsory four-sided fencing on all outdoor residential pools, irrespective of when the pool was constructed.

The Lifesaving Society encourages all backyard pool owners to fence in their pools on all four sides and to ensure the pool gate is: securely fastened, self-closing, and can be locked when the pool is not in use. Backyard pools should be inspected at least annually by the pool owner or by an NLS-certified lifeguard recruited by the owner. Go to our website and download the Society’s *Backyard Pool Safety Inspection Checklist* to inspect your own pool.

Contact the Lifesaving Society to purchase the “Within Arms’ Reach” DVD on backyard pool safety or visit our website.



## 100 TIMES THANKS!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the Society’s 100th anniversary Gala, and to the following individual and organizations: Alisa Gayle-Deutsch, CIBC, Eunice Denby Flowers, Franklin Templeton Institutional and Journal Printing.

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Club, Mariposa Cruises, Patti McMullen, Nautical Adventures – Tall Ship “Empire Sandy”, Ninutik (Maple Sugar), Nottawasaga Inn Resort, OLG – Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, Quinlan Road/Loreena McKennitt, ROM – Royal Ontario Museum, Scarborough Town Centre, The National Ballet of Canada, Trisha Romance (The Romance Collection Gallery), Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club, Toronto FC Team, Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club, VIA Rail Canada, Walmart Canada Corp. c/o Sam’s Club and Ryan Winger.

All funds raised go toward drowning prevention education.