

Appendix B

Response presented by Bryn Evans on behalf of the Consortium of Licensed Oakville Pool Builders and the Pool and Hot Tub Council of Canada

Good afternoon,

My name is Bryn Evans and I work with Pioneer Family Pools and am also a resident of Oakville. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak at this information session.

Simply put, we believe this bylaw change will create significant harm and limited good, if any.

Why?

Firstly, an OLS/P.ENG grading plan will cost the Oakville Taxpayer a minimum of \$5,000 in addition to all the other fees the Town requires which in 2023 amounted to close to \$4,000. As of 2023, the Town of Oakville had the most expensive application requirements for a swimming pool installation in all of Ontario. Coincidentally, we've recently learned that one of the fees within this application (the development fee) has now gone up 35% year over year from 2023 to 2024 (also without notice). I would ask any staff at the town of Oakville who worked on this new bylaw, if they lived in Oakville would they feel it is fair to pay almost \$10,000 in order to receive a permit to build a pool in their backyard? As a comparison, the other municipalities that make up Halton are all under \$2,000 including all requirements for a pool permit (Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, Acton). This also comes at a time of a looming recession, higher interest rates, and greater than normal inflation.

Secondly, this proposed bylaw will slow down the permit process significantly. In the Town's 'information sheet' it noted this change will speed up the permit process. What the Town fails to include in their assessment of timing is the length of time an OLS or P.ENG will need to prepare a topographical survey, and then grading plan for application submission. This is a minimum 8 weeks before it even reaches the hands of the Town. Quicker turnaround times? I think not, this will at least triple the length of time to complete the overall permit process which in turn will have a massive effect on these seasonal businesses and the Oakville tax payers.

Finally, we are confident this measure will not solve the stormwater issue the Town hopes to address. Grading plans have been used in infill projects for some time, and there are areas of Oakville that continue to flood. There has been no quantitative data or documentation provided by the Town to prove that grading plans are making a difference.

The town of Oakville pool permit process has seemingly now become a "catch-all" to attempt to correct all past and previous issues created on private properties. The town is capitalizing on their resident's desire for a swimming pool as a tool to force corrective property measures unrelated to the installation of a swimming pool. The proposed changes to this process will have a drastic effect on our entire business community!

A consortium of pool and landscape contractors alongside the Pool and Spa Council of Canada and Landscape Ontario met recently to discuss the addition of the grading plan the Town is proposing as part of the site alteration application.

We as a group fundamentally understand that the Town is attempting to mitigate the effects of stormwater and we certainly agree it's an issue that is only getting worse. However, we feel the solution needs to be more collaborative with the stakeholders it effects rather than a top-down approach.

This consortium of licensed pool builders and the Pool and Hot Tub Council of Canada are formally requesting that the Town of Oakville address this complicated issue by deferring the new by-law change and striking a subcommittee to review the issues we have presented. This will create more open dialogue and processes with licensed builders and the Development Engineering department.

Thank you for your time.