

Pool fencing material still under review

by Michelle Minnoch

Staff is looking into the different types of materials acceptable as pool fence enclosures, as requests have recently been made to include rod iron fencing in the by-law.

"It is permitted in other municipalities," said Councilor Paul Wardlaw. "In my opinion it's safer."

Rob McAuley, Director of Planning and development, said staff was currently looking into a re-draft of the by-law.

He said the issue was the spacing between the rod iron polls and safety concerns regarding the fact children

may be able to squeeze into a fence if the spaces between the rods are too large. They are looking into the guidelines as stated by the Ontario Building Code and may look into performance tests not only on the rod iron fencing, but on other types of fencing.

The chain link fence is permitted in the by-law and he said for the time being, those interested in other types of fencing could rent a temporary chain link fence until the by-law is revised.

Deputy Mayor Gord Wauchope noted that it is a lot easier for a child to climb a chain link fence than the rod iron and chain link fencing is "no

where near as safe." Mayor Brain Jackson said it is the spacing between the rods that is what needs to be looked into.

With two deputations at the beginning of the evening regarding residents who wanted to install such fencing, Councilor Wardlaw requested if the staff could just look into rod iron fencing to speed up the process.

McAuley said there are requests in to look into tempered glass and veneered fencing. He said they are making every effort to get the issue back to the table by the July 23rd or August 8th meeting.

Speed reductions discussed

by Michelle Minnoch

Town staff is looking into possible speed reductions in three areas; Leslie Drive from the 25th Sideroad easterly to Willard Avenue, Willard Avenue from Innisfil Beach Road north to Leslie Drive, and Jans Blvd. from Leslie to Webster.

The speed would be reduced from 40 km/hr from 50 km/hr.

Councilor Rod Boynton remarked the wider the street, it seems the more of a racetrack it becomes.

Councilor Dan Davidson asked if the posted limit would be 24 hours, or only during the time when the kids are in school. Councilor Bill Pring said in the area of Innisfil Central they have a sign with flashing lights, indicating when drivers are to slow down to the 40 km/hr.

"My concern is the street racing on these streets," said Councilor Boynton. "We need to reduce the speed to stop the racing."

Public comments invited on Library Master Plan

The Innisfil Public Library Board invites all residents to comment on the recently released draft Library Master Plan. The Plan will be used to determine the library's hours of operation, space requirements, materials and staffing levels for the next twenty years.

The responses collected from the public during the month of July will be incorporated into the final document and will affect the direction of Innisfil's library service in the years to come.

Display boards highlighting various components of the Plan are available in the Churchill Branch until July 14. The boards will be sent to the Stroud Branch for the week of July 17 to 21 and then move to the Cookstown Branch for the week of July 24 to 28, 2007.

A complete copy of the draft Master Plan is available at any branch or online at www.innisfil.library.on.ca.

Thank you for helping to make our library service the best it can possibly be!



Susan, Francesca, Paola and Linda are four members of Innisfil's Dragon Boat Team. The team held a fundraising BBQ for the RVH last Friday.

photo by Michelle Minnoch

Essa decides against cat bylaw

by Richard Blanchard

Essa council has decided not to proceed with a bylaw to control the municipalities' wayward cats.

Council decided earlier this year to look at a bylaw which would have restricted the number of cats at a residence and place other restrictions on the felines.

The issue was raised when a township resident was found with almost 60 cats living in their house.

But both council and staff said Wednesday night that the township did not have the resources to adequately

enforce such a bylaw.

"Such bylaws are almost impossible to enforce," said township clerk Carole Trainor.

Mayor Dave Guergis added that trying to catch stray cats was a daunting task. "It's pretty difficult to catch them," he said.

Councillors said that they had a few calls about problems with stray cats but they had not increased in volume over the past couple of years.

Council did not make any decision about offering township residents live traps to catch stray cats. It as an option raised during previous discussions about the stray cat issue.

Fire in Barrie prompts Fire Marshal to issue warning

Ontarians should plug portable air conditioners directly into electrical outlets or, if that is not possible, use heavy-duty appliance extension cords warns Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Crawford.

This fire safety warning comes after the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) confirmed a near million-dollar fire in Barrie began with the improper use of an extension cord.

When OFM investigators arrived at the Dupont St. W. building, which contained nine apartments and three retail outlets, they noted a refrigerator and a portable air conditioner plugged into a 16-gauge extension cord.

OFM investigators examined the electrical wire within the melted cord and noted obvious arcing damage.

"If you can, plug portable air conditioners directly into an electrical outlet. If that is not possible, use a 'listed' 14 gauge, three-wire grounding type appliance extension cord," said Crawford. "The type of cord at the fire scene was a light-duty extension cord. These cannot handle the load of air conditioners and other heavy appliances. For example, last summer, a young father and his 3 week-old child tragically died in an apartment fire where an extension cord was being used improperly with a portable air conditioner.

Fortunately in this latest fire, no one was injured and the fire alarm system was functional."

As the warm weather continues and people turn to their air conditioners for relief, these fires should serve as reminders, for landlords and tenants in particular, of how important it is to ensure that air conditioners are operating safely and that homes and multi-unit dwellings be equipped with working smoke alarms on every storey and outside sleeping areas. The fast-moving fire began on Sunday and left a number of Barrie businesses out of operation and several people homeless.

Work on branding to move ahead

by Michelle Minnoch

Branding the Town of Innisfil was discussed Wednesday night as the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) gave council the same presentation it received in November before the election. The topic of branding for the town was discussed.

"The question always comes up as to why we need branding," remarked Councilor Boynton. "I believe branding is vital."

Mayor Brian Jackson said branding was important, as it affects everything from

signs to the town's letterhead.

Councilor Lynn Dollin argued she attended a branding workshop and the lead should be taken not by council or EDAC, but town staff. "If the staff is not going to buy into it, then it's not going to fly."

Councilor Bill Pring said it was outside consultants that had the weight, and they would gather their resources from within the town. "The outside people will be doing this with guidance."

The mayor said the committee should move on this right away.

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