
TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. LEE YOUNG, MANAGER OF RECREATION SERVICES
T. HARRISON, ACCELA PROJECT COORDINATOR

NOTED: B. ROTH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES
A. BOURRIE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: LIFE SAVING SOCIETY – ON GUARD CARD PROGRAM

DATE: APRIL 8, 2019

The City of Barrie Recreation Services and Building Services have partnered to bring the residents of Barrie the Life Saving Society's On Guard card program.

A backyard pool provides the ultimate summer fun for kids, friends and family. It is important to know the risks so danger can be avoided - whether as the owner of a backyard pool, or when visiting. The single most important way to keep everyone safe is to ensure that **young children are always supervised in and around the pool**. If residents know the risks, pool rules can be established so everyone can stay safe and have fun.

The On Guard card is used to designate the safety supervisor(s). The On Guard Pledge is to maintain constant and vigilant supervision until relieved of duty. Whenever a child is in or near the water, one or more individuals are designated to be "on guard" watching – ideally, someone with the maturity and training to recognize and respond to a person in distress.

Drowning is the second leading cause of preventable death for children under the age of 10 years. The backyard pool is the number one setting where children under 5 most often drown. Most of these victims are alone – often during a momentary absence or lapse of supervision. Drowning is silent. Most victims rarely call, wave or signal for help because they cannot keep their head or arms above water. You need to be close by. Drowning can happen swiftly and can occur in inches of water. The sad reality is that each year there are tragic stories of children who drowned in a pool because an adult turned their back or eyes for a minute to answer the phone, talk to someone, flip the burgers on the barbeque, get a towel or any number of things.



Building Services issues approximately 125 pool fence permits per season. When residents receive a City of Barrie pool fence permit, they will also receive an ON GUARD card package. The ON GUARD card should be used to **designate the safety supervisor** who will take the On Guard pledge and it should be passed to the next adult when called away.



RECREATION SERVICE MEMORANDUM

If residents currently have a valid pool fence permit, they can contact Recreation Services or Building Services through Service Barrie to obtain more information and an ON GUARD package.

If you have questions about this card, please do not hesitate to contact either department. We hope you have a fun and safe pool season.