

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ELLIOT LAKE

By-Law Public Input & Consultation Feedback Synopsis

Animal Control and Responsible Pet Ownership

1. The harassment by By-law at what has been an undeclared off leash dog park for over 20 years at the East side of Spine Beach, and only this year has it become an issue. The City will be asked to either codify and identify boundaries to be established where off leash is allowed, or to provide an alternate beach with appropriate parking and road access for those with age or mobility issues of either the dogs or citizens. This would include people who have "comfort" or service dog needs.

In 2021, a letter to Council was accepted without debate or changes for needed improvements at the 2 City provided off leash dog parks, the improvements were budgeted, and nothing has been done, and the parks remain areas where people simply do not want to go.

The City is attempting to change what has become a 20+ year norm at Spine Beach, and that just does not fly well.

2. Section Dog/Cat Licensing

Draft Bylaw wording as worded:

No person shall harbor more than three (3) dogs at a residence.

No person shall harbor more than three (3) cats at a residence.

Notwithstanding items (r) and (s), no person shall harbor more than five (5) dogs and cats or any combination of them.

Input: This restriction can be seen as arbitrary and needless governance. Simply having the restrictions, set at 5 cats and/or dogs unless fostering for an organization would be more straightforward regardless of whether you are a cat or dog lover. It ultimately makes no difference within a residence providing adequate care is provided.

3. My first concern is dogs off leash at the beaches and along the trail system connecting Spine Beach to Westview Park! I like to launch my kayak from Spine and have had numerous large dogs greet me at face level with no attempt whatsoever by the owners to call them away or restrain them. Even had one (the dog, not the owner) attempt to urinate on my kayak! Last fall at Spine Beach I had a large aggressive barking dog come at me he was on a leash but the owner was a small women and was barely able to keep the dog away from me.

My second concern is large barking dogs in their yards but on a leash that lets them get to the sidewalk. I have had to adjust my walking route just last week. A dog scared me onto the road so the next day I crossed over and had three dogs in a driveway come running at me barking. They weren't leashed but must've been collared with devices as they all stopped at an invisible line! Point being, put the dogs in the backyard where they aren't harassing sidewalk pedestrians! Looking forward to some measures to encourage responsible pet ownership.

4. I'm a hiker, and I can tell you that I've had numerous encounters with unfriendly off-leash dogs over the 11 years that I've been here. There needs to be a no tolerance bylaw concerning off-leash dogs before some innocent child, or helpless senior gets killed. Watch the news, it happens all the time. Are we going to wait until it happens here, before we take decisive action? There should be no excuses. If your dog is found off-leash somewhere other than your own fenced private property, or the fenced dog park, you will be charged. And, it should be made clear that there will be no exceptions. Period.
5. I like the proposed by-law.
6. I live on Taylor Blvd. and have a very tiny 3 lb teacup yorkie. I walk her three times a day in my neighbourhood. A few days ago I went to take her out for her final evening walk, was just midway in my driveway when I noticed a large mixed breed, maybe lab/Shepard cross, running free in my neighbour's yard (not his dog). I picked up my little one and headed back in the house. As I was closing the door this dog was now on my doorstep.

Turns out it was another neighbour's dog whom I could see sitting on his front porch watching his dog "go for a run", I'm sorry but we have two dog parks to let your dog run! I have no idea if this dog is friendly or not but the size difference alone is enough to fear for my dog. I should not have to constantly look over my shoulder to see if a loose dog is coming while out walking. I am less afraid of running into a bear than an unleashed dog. Pretty sure the bear is not interested in me or my dog.

I am looking into a coyote Vest for protection of my dog. That is an expense I should not have to budget for if there was better enforcement and penalties for allowing your dog to run free or not assuring adequate restraints when unattended.

7. As a member of the Elliot Lake community living in a high rise with many seniors and dogs, some with mobility issues, walking their dogs is sometimes the only method of exercise and socialization for both dog and owner. The dog owners and walkers lost a lot of safe areas to do so due to the pandemic.
The dog swimming place at the west end of spine beach has been a safe place for dogs to swim and owners to converse for longer than the 23 years I've been here! Now it looks like the city plans to remove that privilege, this is not fair. It would be greatly appreciated if the city could section off the spine beach. All it would take is a few posts and signage.
A leash length of 2 meters would be good for large dogs =, but, smaller dogs seem to need a longer leash when they potty. 3-4 meters seems to be best (small dogs 30 lbs and down). Most of the small dog owners have invested up to \$50.00 on 'extenda-leashes' to provide that distance. The new rules seem to say no dogs on this trail in season with no snow? Also trails like the lakeside trail from spine beach to spruce beach (for example) is closed to people walking leashed dogs. Many of us with mobility issues need more leashed paths to walk on. The sidewalks in town are not safe; there are bicycles scooter and vehicles moving in and out of driveways.

8. Dear Committee members,

I attended the last meeting re the bylaw updates on August 2, 2022, and wish to express my concerns with regard to the Leash Bylaw.

I have lived in Elliot Lake for 5 years now, and in that time, I have been subjected to dog attacks on three separate occasions. The first attack ran down his driveway and attacked my dog. While attempting to get the dog off my dog, I was bitten on the hand by that dog and required medical treatment. The incident was reported, and the dog was placed in quarantine for 10 days (at home). My dog was on her leash.

The next attack, just a few houses away from my home. This dog was never on leash and was always aggressive. The owner claims they had an exemption from leashing or cleaning up after his dog, because of their disability. The result of that attack required veterinary attention, several stitches and severe swelling. My dog was on her leash.

The last attack took place at Spine Beach. I make a point of parking at the South East end of the parking lot by the ATV trail that runs back to the entrance. A group of people were sitting at the picnic benches at the North West end of the parking lot where the Cross Country Ski trail begins. A dog ran completely across the parking lot and attacked my dog (who was on her leash). When I went to complain to the dog's owner they told me that Spine Beach is leash free and bylaw had given them permission. I pointed out that they were sitting right under the sign that stated all dogs must be leashed at all times, but she insisted that that law has been changed and the signs were supposed to come down.

There are few places where people appear to be concerned with leashing their dogs. I have had encounters along the pathways surrounding Horne Lake, and at the monument. I have had encounters at Sherriff's Creek, Dunlop Lake, Depot Lake and Elliot Lake. All with the same phrase "Don't worry, he's friendly".

My dog was always very social with other dogs, but since the attacks, she is wary and often will snarl and bark at a dog that runs up to her unleashed. She is always on a leash and feels threatened when the other dog is free to come at her from any angle.

There are two dogs that live on my street that are allowed to roam and defecate wherever they please and no one to clean up after them.

I know Bylaw officials are extremely busy and I know they can't be everywhere. But somehow, the laws regarding dogs being unleashed have to be enforced and the fines should be a lot more substantial so people actually pay attention.

When people are afraid of walking their dogs in their own neighborhood and have to carry pepper spray or sticks to defend themselves, I would suggest there is a problem.

9. I wanted to provide some input on two sections of the Animal Bylaw. If I've misread a section, or these items are covered in another area, please advise.
1. I think there was an error on the description of Municipal Beaches – I'm thinking you meant westerly side of Spine and easterly side of Westview. In regards to dogs at beaches, I would like to request that there be a designated area that has easy access for dogs to enter the water. It doesn't have to be at the current city beaches along Elliot Lake, but as a community that has a lot of dogs, there needs to be a place where dogs can enjoy the water to cool down in the summer.

"Municipal beaches" means the shoreline of Elliot Lake in Westview Park extending between: the Westview Park Pavilion and the area known as Spruce Beach. The easterly sand limits of Spine Beach and westerly limits of the Westview Park Area.

2. I think the 'without provocation' definition under 'dangerous dogs' needs to be adjusted. The current bylaw would label a puppy as a dangerous dog because it bit someone while it was still learning to socialize, or a recently rescued dog that nips a person who pets them without permission because they were afraid. Dogs don't perceive attacks in the same way that humans do. Many dogs would consider being pet by a stranger to be an attack. Putting your hand out towards a dog (which people have normalized to be the way to approach a dog) is actually often seen as a threat from a dog's perspective. Owners need to be responsible for their dogs and train them, but people also need to learn to respect a strange dog's boundaries. There also needs to be more specific scenarios in the case where there are two dogs involved – the dog that bites is not necessarily the dog that caused the problem, but rather it is correcting a dog who's owner is negligent or hasn't properly trained/restrained their dog.

"Without Provocation" means that the dog has not been incited or induced to behave aggressively because: i. the dog was acting in defense of an attack on itself by a person or domestic animal; Page 8 of 2 ii. the dog was acting in defense of its offspring or reacting to a person or domestic animal trespassing on the property of its owner; or, iii. the dog was being teased, provoked or tormented.

Waste Collection By-Law

1. I need clarification on the two garbage bags. Is it bags or containers and what's the maximum size of the container I could fit 3 garbage bags in a 45gal garbage can....that would total 6 bags?
2. After reading the proposed updated waste collection bylaw, a few things attracted my attention. First in different parts of the bylaw, you can either use up to 2 containers or no more than 2 bags. This will lead to some people putting out containers and some putting out bags. Another section says you can only use 1 bag per container. This will make people over stuff the bags and the people collecting the garbage will be fighting with removing the bags. Over stuffed bags will lead to ripping and tearing of the bags and then creating a mess. To solve this people should be able to put smaller bags in containers until full. Then once the bylaw gets passed, bylaw officers should be proactive not reactive to enforce this and all other bylaws.
3. In your By-Law you state blue box shall not exceed 20x20x14in deep (so called low profile blue boxes). But should also include the use of the so called high profile blue box which is generally the same dim (20x17x24-26in(high/deep) the deeper design holds recyclables better especially paper products from blowing out from the wind and are easier for the pick up crew to handle as they don't have to bend down so low to pickup and dump (better for their backs) uses/ allows these size as standard blue boxes. I find the low profile boxes useless, as they don't hold much and anything lite (like paper/cardboard) blows out from the wind. This also means you need more boxes, which means more space to put them and carry to the curb (inconvenient). Anyway I am not going to change my use of my high profile blue boxes now matter what the bylaw says.
4. What is the acceptable manner of disposing of pet waste as the proposed bylaw specifically prohibits it's disposal through the waste collection system

Personal Recreational Cannabis Regulation By-Law

1. This email is for the public input for the draft of the new cannabis by-laws. First the part about not being able to be seen by the public is unfair. I don't understand how growing my own cannabis that people can see is a real issue. If people are offended somehow with seeing cannabis growing to bad it's on my property and I am doing it legally it's no one's business but mine. Second both sativa and indica plants can grow higher than 5 feet and some sativa can grow to 10 feet. So I need to build a 11-12 foot fence so that the general public can't see it. And to tell me to trim the top of the plants down the city needs to do more research about cannabis. As far as I am concerned the city has way more important issues than people growing there own Cannabis in there backyards. Also why is the city's business where I get my seeds from. If I have a friend who grows his own and gives me a couple seeds I can't grow them because they aren't from OCS or a legal retailer. Why does it matter where the seeds come from as long as I follow the rules when I am growing them. Most seed producers are black market. OCS only has between 10-15 different seeds. Most personal grows look for specific terpenes or strains that help provide them with the experience they are looking for. If the city wants to enforce new bylaws they really should do some major research and maybe even talk with some of the employees at the local shops and gain a little more experience. I would love to invite any council members or even the mayor to come down to Sessions and talk with the staff (myself included) maybe it will help them understand why so many growers are upset with these bylaws. Bylaws I personally believe are unjustified and are just targeting people who use cannabis either for medical conditions or personal use.
2. I would like to just say thank you to you for getting a by-law in place for the cannabis, however there is one issue that I believe that has not been addressed or maybe it was I just didn't see it, so here it goes I suffer from bad headaches that are brought on by the smell of cannabis (not always but occasionally) which causes me great discomfort and ametime pain I have noticed since the legalization of cannabis people thing that they can just walk around downtown smoking it like it was nothing I have noticed an increase of people high and they stink bad in stores and driving by in there cars.. Its disgusting and I sometimes just feel like dropping my groceries and just walking out. there needs to be a limit placed one when and where it can be smoked