

From: Bob Lepp <my.town.aurora.ca@gmail.com>  
Subject: Canine Commons - Nov. 28 dog bites child, breaks skin, no first aid kit, no rules enforcement  
Date: November 29, 2017 at 8:03:21 AM EST  
To: Helen Clarke-Jennings <helen@time4paws.ca>  
Cc: allcouncillors@aurora.ca, adowney@aurora.ca, Teresa Latchford <tlatchford@yrmg.com>, Brock Weir <brock@auroran.com>, Techa Van Leeuwen <TVanLeeuwen@aurora.ca>, Jim Tree <jtree@aurora.ca>, STienkamp@aurora.ca

Helen Clarke-Jennings, Lead volunteer Canine Commons Committee,

Cc: Council, Bylaws, Parks, Press (2)

I am aware you do not want to hear from me, BUT, the fact is you are in charge of the park volunteer committee.

I am glad to see you back in action, though.

As you may have heard, the Town and the Bylaws Manager had me criminally charged because I stood up for OUR rights to object to the way the Town abused you since 2011. I was able to get the bogus charges erased. But the toll on my family has been significant. I was placed in that position JUST for trying to help you out when you were sick last year. At least my efforts got you some visibility after 11 years of thankless volunteer work **EVERY day of the year.**

The park would not exist without you.

That said, you need to be more involved. And you STILL need to be **even more demanding** of the town to support you.

Yesterday an 8 year old boy was bitten, breaking the skin on his leg above the knee.

It was the child's "fault" in that he was running around waving his arms and the dog saw that as a threat to his mistress. The owners exchanged information. I mediated to calm the child's father.

But, it remains an issue I see frequently... children running around trying to get attention from other people's dogs.

Three suggestions.... The signage is not prominent enough, no one has access to written rules for use of the park and there is no first aid kit available.

[Your contract \(APPENDIX A click here\) with Al Downey requires volunteers](#) to.....

13. The CCC agrees to **develop and distribute informational materials designed to advise its members and users of the expected conduct and rules of use within the Park and the existence of this agreement.** The CCC further agrees to review and discuss the content of all such informational materials with the Town prior to distributing said information to the general public.

**YOU** are *required to tell users that THERE IS A CONTRACT IN PLACE WITH YOU TO PROVIDE SERVICES.*

This seems obviously aimed at making sure users know who does what in the park. They wanted you to tell us that you volunteers do EVERYTHING.

**No informational materials have EVER been created or distributed since you signed to do so in 2011.**

**Sorry for the shouting, but this is now 6 years overdue. And it causes issues. Those few who want people to follow the rules have no rules published.. so nothing improves.**

**Your official Canine Commons park Facebook page is private, no one knows it exists and if they do, they cannot view it unless you approve... your approval should NOT be required to see your posts about the park. If you want a private Facebook page, fine, but create a second one the PUBLIC can access, and advertise in the park how to view it.**

Without rules and clear signage accidents happen. Poop goes “unnoticed” because people are not told of the rule to keep your dog in sight 100% of the visit. People turn their backs, chat with each other, their dog poops out of sight.

An all weather first aid kit could be available if you wanted one. It could be locked with a dial combination, your number could be on it and people needing antiseptic and a bandaid could call you for the combination, then you could record the injuries "in case" someone sues the Town for lack of control of dog owners.

90% of dogs using the park have NO PET TAG from the Town. There needs to be a blitz at 4:30 - 6:00 pm by Bylaws on this issue, but they refuse to be involved. I object to Newmarket residents using the park daily and not having EITHER a Newmarket tag OR an Aurora tag.

I object to use of the park by dogs not having a tag, and this is all we have to prove rabies compliance. So many dogs show NO TAGS at all inside the park, this is unacceptable.

I object to people bringing in more dogs than they can reasonably control, per the rules sign in very small type. 3 is the limit at other parks having such a rule. I fully realize you do not publish such a rule due to your dog walking business, but the fact remains no one can control more than 3 dogs and 3 dogs are the maximum allowed for one owner by town bylaws.

I object to parking, in the wrong direction even, in the no parking zone at the gates to avoid the mud since it forces incoming cars to go into the wrong lane and because people can pop out from behind parked vehicles and get hit by an incoming car.



7 Parks "experts" constructed the fence, They knew nothing about building a dog fence. Compex, the fence hole contractor, laughed at their attempts.

I object to the new gates being installed with bottom rails TOUCHING the ground already, they will freeze in the first snow and then people will break them trying to get inside. They MUST be moved HIGHER. They were more concerned about dogs getting under the gates than they were about getting under the fence.



I object to the fence being built inside out... the fencing MUST be on the inside of the posts, and per the Town's own bylaws it must be installed so the "good side" visually MUST be towards the neighbours. They filled gaps under the fence with chips, these will easily be dug out by dogs and wild animals, especially by those not being watched by the person bringing them inside.

I object to the fencing having an opening size being too large and installed so that wild animals can get inside the park easily. Standard designs require fencing material to go into the ground under the fence and then going horizontal inside and buried so no animals can dig in or out.

I object to the CORRECT fencing be used on the gates, a 2 x 4 inch opening, but the improper 4 X 4 inch used everywhere else. They knew which fencing is

correct, but used the 4 X 4 mesh instead. Lots of breeds can get out through the large size they chose. And lots of baby wild animals can get inside. They could be rabid.

I object to the lack of a covered garbage can. Trash blows around the park and dogs can choke chewing water bottle caps. A simple trash can like at ALL OTHER parks is required. The garbage blowing around is simply not nice. The fact Downey has REFUSED to install a proper receptacle when HIS OWN BYLAWS REQUIRE pet waste be placed in ONLY “approved canine receptacles”. IN 2011, he got [\\$60,000 to \(CLICK HERE\) ADD 35 garbage receptacles](#) and did NOT put even ONE into Canine Commons.

EXPLANATION/HIGHLIGHTS	
Parks staff have been working since 2009 to increase the inventory of picnic tables, park benches and grab age receptacles in order to meet the demands associated with new parks and special events. This will require the addition of 35 picnic tables, 35 park benches and 35 garbage receptacles for 2011 in order to meet the anticipated demands.	

		Budget							
		Total	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Future
<i>Expenditures</i>									
Estimated Expenditures									
CONTRACTS		60,000	60,000						
		60,000	60,000						
<i>Expenditures Total</i>		60,000	60,000						

I object to Parks failing to clean up DUMPED YARD WASTE on the east side of the parking lot. I have sent multiple photos by Pingstreet, all 7 parks men building the fence ignored the dumped yard bags for over 2 weeks. The crap is still there if you could inspect please.

I object to the broken bollards, required by LSRCA rules. I object to the lack of “No overnight parking” signs as the LSRCA told me are required by their guidelines.

I object to ALL work being done WITHOUT a single permit as required by the LSRCA. I did a freedom of information request and they replied NO APPROVALS were ever given in a permit. The JOC got a building permit, but EVERYONE has FAILED to follow soil erosion requirements, they simply ignored

their permit and are liable for huge DAILY fines. The same man who built the JOC and now allows runoff to erode from the storage yard built the new fence, and he simply does not get the required permits, nor does he comply with LSRCA rules.

I object to the mud due to the incorrect gravel being used on the parking lot, it could easily be clean gravel so that mud does not build up on the pavement. We still cannot get a dog in and out with clean feet. I know how, back into the west side spots, exit onto the grass and then to the sidewalk. But mud is everywhere for most people. Make a pathway of chips around the perimeter of the mud so you can park on the chips and get your dog in and out clean.

Again, I know you do not wish to hear from me. BUT, as a taxpayer I have the RIGHT to speak to you as you are the ONLY person known to volunteer at this park. And every time I asked for something to be corrected I was told the volunteers were responsible for EVERYTHING in this park,

This park can be improved by following the contract you signed.

Best regards, stay well!

Bob

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