

Council Meeting  
June 19, 2023

**Comments Received Regarding Item 7.2**

Fighting Kites

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

A Letter to the Town Council of Oakville

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this document as “Information for Distribution to Council,” regarding **Municipal Enforcement Services Department – Report on Fighting Kites: June 6, 2023**

In November 2021 I contacted Councillor Marc Grant, to report an injury I had sustained while taking photographs on the Dundas Street bridge above Lions Valley Park. He was very helpful and put me in touch with Selena Campbell, Manager of Enforcement Services, to discuss my injury and concerns for our community. I was told I’d be included in a review regarding kite flying by-laws for the Town of Oakville.

**At that time I was unaware of the activity of Fighting Kites and could not appreciate the danger I had actually encountered.**

I did not hear back from the Enforcement Services office until the report that sits before council had been finalized.

It is with much more concern that I write to you now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Elise Box  
Oakville Resident and Nature Photographer

I am disappointed not to be able to speak to you in person, but I have recently been diagnosed with cancer and will begin my treatment soon.

**Please also Review:**

**Police: Kite-Fighting String Responsible...**

<https://www.voanews.com/a/police-kite-fighting-string-responsible-for-india-festival-deaths/6931342.html>

**Police say six people were killed...after their throats were sliced by glass-coated kite strings. Three children, including a two-year-old baby, were among those killed after the glass-encrusted razor-sharp strings—used by “kite fighters”...got entangled around their necks and slit their throats...**

## **Information for Distribution to Council regarding Municipal Enforcement Services Department – June 6, 2023 Report on Fighting Kites**

In November 2021 I contacted Town Councillor Marc Grant of Ward 5, about a kite injury I had received while taking photographs on the Dundas Street bridge above Lions Valley Park. **This event occurred before I knew anything about Fighting Kites...**

### **Excerpt from my Email to Marc Grant, Town Councillor - Ward 5: Dated November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

...**The injury happened** because someone was flying a kite too close to the Dundas St. bridge, from the Lions Valley Park below. They lost control of the kite...as it headed across 6 lanes of traffic, into the power towers on the south-east side of the bridge. The string had hit me in the back of my head before I saw it and realized it was attached to a kite. From the north side of the bridge, I saw the kite falling down from the electrical towers into the valley on the south side of the bridge. As the kite fell the string continued to run very hot over the railing of the north side of the pedestrian walkway where I was standing, over 6 lanes of traffic and into the south side of the valley. I ran west to try to get away from the coarse, black string.

It must have become hooked on a passing car or truck mirror, because in an instant it was in front of me again. I raised my right hand to protect face and tried to get low enough to evade it. I was not able to do that and the string cut through my hand like a razor. I instantly began to bleed profusely. I continued running to my husband's car...he took me to the hospital...

### **Address to Council**

I am unsure how council could conclude the recommendations from the "Report on Fighting Kites," to be an adequate solution to the dangers of kite fighting? How could those proposed guidelines prevent the injury I sustained while on the Dundas Street bridge?

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council request that the Parks and Open Space Department provide to the 2023 Budget Committee the budget implications for the implementation of a public education campaign to promote safety in the parks and proper disposal of kite strings as outlined in the Fighting Kites report from Municipal Enforcement Services department dated June 6, 2023.
2. That Council confirm acceptance of the proposed changes to the Lot Maintenance By-law 2017-008, dealing with Fighting Kite String on Private Property, included in a separate report on the June 19, 2023 Council agenda.

The whole objective of the "game," is to cut the kite strings of another participant's kite? I have seen many of these kites, with their strings attached, continuing to fly through the air untethered on a windy day! The kites are not precious; they are disposable. No one is holding onto the kite string; it runs loose, freed by the objective which is to cut or be cut! The fields behind the Oakville Trafalgar Hospital are filled with these long lengths of string. The kites routinely start their journey far north of the William Halton Parkway, and are left wafting through the air without concern for what, where or who they may encounter on their journey and eventual descent.

My husband and I have collected a lot of that string for disposal (which we sadly find regularly). We wear gloves to prevent injury and to protect ourselves from contamination; because we care about the deer and other wildlife that roam in the open fields there.

I am very confused and disappointed by this deliberated outcome. Can Council conscientiously believe a public education campaign will result in better safety from dangerous and hazardous materials? The physical nature of

this “pastime,” and the substances imbedded in these “strings,” is quite simply dangerous. Should a child play with this kite string? How could a child even understand what the string consisted of? I had never heard of fighting kites until Ms. Campbell informed me that there was such a thing. Perhaps public campaigns would serve residents better if they were PSA announcements on the need to be cautious of the dangers of fighting kites and their strings. You can’t hope to keep these kite strings on private property for "proper" disposal...they’re adrift.

I would like to know how the current recommendations hope to protect our citizens from future rogue kite string injuries? My injury could have been so much worse than the near loss of my finger (across my face, across my throat, my eyes...). The sheer nature of the string is fraught with the potential for injury and danger and is potentially poisonous! Surely this is not lost on council. Fighting Kites? The violence is literally spelt out in the name.

Best Regards,

Elise Box

**Excerpt from my Email to Marc Grant, Town Councillor - Ward 5: Dated November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

...I would like to talk to you about a **kite injury I sustained while taking photos from the Lions Valley Park Bridge**. The incident was reported to the police, but as I told them, I don’t believe it was the result of deliberate negligence or conscious malice of any kind; but a lack of awareness did result in my sustaining a fairly serious injury. I was hoping to discuss the event and what I hope are common sense safety ideas...

**Email excerpt from Marc Grant, Town Councillor - Ward 5: dated November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

...I have forwarded your email to our Parks and Open Spaces Staff and asked them to coordinate with our Enforcement Division in order to draft a Bylaw that would educate the public and **prevent any accidents such as the one you encountered**.

They will be reaching out to you in the upcoming weeks in order to further discuss your incident as a way to properly hone the wording of their directive.

Please keep me in the loop, and let me know when they reach out to you. In the same vein, please tell me if you don’t hear from them...to ensure your experiences are noted as we work to create a safer community for all.

**Communication received...after the issue had been concluded...Email from Selena Campbell, Manager Enforcement Services dated: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Good Afternoon Elise,

Thank you for your participation in the fighting kite review. The [report](#) will be presented at the Council meeting on June 19, 2023 in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is open to the public and live streaming video is available on <https://www.oakville.ca/town-hall/mayor-council-administration/agendas-meetings/delegations-presentations/> or at the town's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TownofOakvilleTV>. If you would like to register as a [delegation](#) or submit information for distribution to Council, contact the Clerk’s department at 905-815-6015 or [townclerk@oakville.ca](mailto:townclerk@oakville.ca).

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,  
Selena

**Selena Campbell, (She/Her/Hers)**  
**Manager - Enforcement Services**  
**Municipal Enforcement Services**

I requested a copy of the report as I was not invited to be an active participant, or consulted, as I thought was the original intent.

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**From:** Tyler Brown  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Fighting Kites Report - Council Meeting June 19, 2023

**SECURITY CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of The Town of Oakville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Selena,

Thank you for the work you're doing on this matter. For me, this going in front of council tonight couldn't have come at a worse time. I'm unable to attend as a delegate. I hope that council finds enough evidence that I've sent and from other parties to make a decision on kite fighting.

All the best  
Tyler Brown

On Fri, Jun 16, 2023 at 2:27 PM Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)> wrote:  
Hello Tyler,

Thank you for sharing the video, I was able to access it.

I appreciate your interest in supporting your community. I have forwarded this email to the Town Clerk, to request that the information be provide to Members of Council prior to the Fighting Kite report at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and that they confirm any required information to register as a delegate should you be available.

Regards,  
Selena

**From:** Tyler Brown  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 9:06 AM  
**To:** Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fighting Kites Report - Council Meeting June 19, 2023

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Hi Selena,

I've attached a photo I shot on Saturday, Sept 25, 2021, from half a kilometre away. I have circled in red the kite fights happening hundreds of feet in the air inside of an emergency helicopter zone.

I've edited the videos I took that day and put them into one clip. The video was too large to send as an attachment, so I have shared a link to download or view it. It starts with a kite cut loose in a fight and is careening into the wilds with hundreds of feet of glass shard razor line attached to it, endangering humans and wildlife. Then I show a dozen individuals with a dozen vehicles, each with at least ten fighter kites in its trunk and tens of thousands of feet of glass shard razor line. You can also see the practice of using power drills to reel the kites out hundreds of feet. It is not only the game that is dangerous but the scale of damage that can be done.

12 individuals x 10 kites x 400 ft of glass shard razor line = 48,000 ft of glass shard razor line potentially scattered in an afternoon.

There is no way for these individuals to collect all of their trashed kites and glass shard razor line, the scale is too immense. You don't have to be a kite fighter to know how far a runaway kite can go, and in this game, the purpose is to create runaway kites.

I want to register as a delegation, but I might not be able to attend; my schedule is overloaded right now. I'll know by the deadline whether or not I can make it there. I hope you can show the council why kite fighting is so dangerous with the information I've provided. If you need the full videos or any more information let me know.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Brown

[FighterKites09.25.21Glenorchy.mp4](#)Error! Filename not specified.

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 9:55 AM Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)> wrote:  
Hi Tyler,

I'll give them a call and let you know what they suggest.

Thanks,  
Selena

**From:** Tyler Brown  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:35 AM  
**To:** Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fighting Kites Report - Council Meeting June 19, 2023

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The files are pretty big, I don't think I'll be able to email them. Is there an email or phone number I can contact at the IT department? I can't find it on the town website.

On Thu, Jun 15, 2023 at 9:25 AM Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)> wrote:  
Hello Tyler,

I would be interested in seeing the video, can you please try to send it by email? If it doesn't work I'll reach out to our IT department for suggestions.

Thank you for considering The Ranch, notice of the report was provided to their email as well.

Regards,  
Selena

**From:** Tyler Brown  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:20 AM  
**To:** Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Fighting Kites Report - Council Meeting June 19, 2023

**SECURITY CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of The Town of Oakville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Selena

Thank you for letting me know it is being presented. I have additional video that I took on Saturday Sept 25th 2021 where there are tens of individuals each with around ten fighter kites and tens of thousand of feet of glass shard razor line that they use power drills to reel out. This was shot at Glenorchy Conservation Area within the helicopter flying zone of Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and close to the ETR 407. Can I send the videos to this email?

I have also spoken with The Ranch horse farm north the 407 who I believe have lost a horse to injuries sustained from the glass shard razor line that these kites fly on. You may want to reach out to them as well.

Sincerely  
Tyler Brown

On Mon, Jun 12, 2023 at 10:32 AM Selena Campbell <[selena.campbell@oakville.ca](mailto:selena.campbell@oakville.ca)> wrote:  
Good Afternoon Tyler,

Thank you for your participation in the fighting kite review. The [report](#) will be presented at the Council meeting on June 19, 2023 in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is open to the public and live streaming video is available on <https://www.oakville.ca/town-hall/mayor-council-administration/agendas-meetings/delegations-presentations/> or at the town's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TownofOakvilleTV>. If you would like to register as a [delegation](#) or submit information for distribution to Council, contact the Clerk's department at 905-815-6015 or [townclerk@oakville.ca](mailto:townclerk@oakville.ca).

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,  
Selena

**Selena Campbell, (She/Her/Hers)**  
**Manager - Enforcement Services**