

Vehicle Noise Control

Orangeville Town Council Delegation

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Consider ...

- Official Plan refers to "natural" ~50x, "natural environment" ~10x
"protection of ... natural environments "
- Sustainable Orangeville emphasizes biking, walking, public transportation, *safety*
- Orangeville's tourism plan (focus on natural heritage, natural surroundings)
- Island Lake plan (quality of experience, enhance biodiversity)
- Climate Action on emissions
- Peel Police just restarted "Noisemaker Project" targeting vehicle noise

Vehicle Noise – Context

- Not natural, harmful to animals and humans
- Mostly gratuitous (source of entertainment or image/ego)
- Enjoyed by 1-2 (driver/passenger) but impacts many
- Impedes public, social interactions especially outdoors
- Sub-bass (stereos) travels through building structures
- Generally illegal + correlated with other illegal behaviour
- Nearly always associated with excessive emissions, pollution

Health impacts of noise

- “Fight or flight” from sudden blasts of noise, rumblings
- Less extreme noise still invokes “heightened” state
- Impedes health benefits of enjoying natural sounds (birds, etc.)
- Interferes with enjoyment of property, parks, etc.
- More people working at home, less insulated from outside noise
- <https://www.brainfacts.org/thinking-sensing-and-behaving/diet-and-lifestyle/2018/noise-pollution-isnt-just-annoying-its-bad-for-your-health-062718>

Vehicle Noise – Sources/Causes

- Modified vehicles (many/most illegal ?)
- Accelerating is often the main driver of engine noise
- Motorcycles (Harleys -loud rumbling even idling, sport motorcycles)
- Trucks (rumbling), cars (muscle, modified, etc. "blaat", "rocket")
- Stereos - loud, repetitive thumping, bass/subwoofer wash (vibrating)
- Stereos cranked above loud Harleys
- Gratuitous noise (not sources from construction, performance)

Enforcement

- Easy to catch compared to speeding (risky, time consuming)
- Noise is evident at or departing from stop sign/light
 - easy to enforce at key intersections
- Acceleration / stereos
- Correlation between noise and aggressive driving/speeding/other
 - Indirectly targeting more dangerous behaviour
- Mississauga/Peel asked province to increase fines 110 -> 500
 - low fines not much of a detraction

Key Locations

- Highway 10
- Downtown/Broadway (affects patio dining, shopping, etc.)
- Island Lake
- Everywhere

Other Municipalities (2020)

- Caledon recent bylaw amendment
<http://caledoncitizen.com/?p=33795>
- Toronto (2019)
- Hamilton "Project Drag Strip 8"
- Windsor recently amended noise bylaw

Other Municipalities (Peel)

- Peel Police Noisemaker Project (2020, 2021 on now till fall)
- Mississauga bylaw
<https://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/noiseupdate.pdf>
- \$110 standard traffic offence (can be doubled if modified, i.e. noise+modified)
- \$305 for Mississauga bylaw (misses noise from acceleration)
- <https://www.insauga.com/mississauga-prohibits-noisy-cars-after-police-issue-hundreds-of-tickets>

Personal Observations

- Enjoyment of patio dining - and downtown generally - impeded
 - sometimes no other choice during restrictions
- Rustik 1st / Broadway - often startled, drowned out
 - servers indicate noise is excessive, difficult to communicate
- TapHouse
 - 4 Harleys idling several minutes
 - start loud stereo above loud engine
 - cannot have a conversation

Personal Observations

- Enjoyment of natural areas, home impeded
- must close window at night on weekends, nice summer evenings
 - objects in house rattle from vibration from Harleys.
- weekends, holidays, evenings, nice weather are the worst
- Island Lake, especially West End next to Hwy 10 is horrible
- Amelia/Credit Creek Blvd. stop sign, regularly accelerating vehicles, stereos
 - rush hour is bad, even 6 in the morning from accelerating trucks
- Lower Monora Creek, south branch west of Blind Line
 - will soon vanish as quiet area due to Hansen St. bridge.
 - currently used as area of exploration, hiking, by many families

Requests/Suggestions

- Review other bylaws, collaborate with other municipalities
 - especially Caledon (somewhat similar issues)
 - additional enforcement in other locations may be pushing drivers here
- Add voice (to Peel/Mississauga) requesting increase to Traffic Act fines (\$110 not enough of deterrent)
- Enhance noise bylaw to prohibit gratuitous vehicle noise at any time, increase max fine

Requests/Suggestions

- Enforce in downtown/Broadway to maintain/improve quality of downtown experience
 - at dinner/rush hour to improve quality of patio dining experience
- Reduce speed on Highway 10 and enforce to improve Island Lake experience.
 - 60 ? Within town limits – already 60 north of First Street (Mono)
- Ask OPP eg. to replicate Noisemaker Project around Orangeville/Dufferin

Requests

- Consider noise (and light) pollution in plans/strategies
 - Tourism
 - Official plan
 - Climate
 - Business (downtown)
 - Sustainability (can't feel safe biking with aggressive/loud drivers)
 - Health