

Town officials hearing complaints about noisy motorcycles

By David Lea
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

The distinct roar of the engine may be what makes a motorcycle, a motorcycle, but it is also a noise some Oakville residents cannot stand, especially in the middle of the night.

In late June, Town council approved a motion, from Ward 2 Councillors Cathy Duddeck and Pam Damoff, directing staff to develop a bylaw intended to quiet the choppers around town.

"We have had concerns from people complaining about the noise of motorcycles going along the Lakeshore, gunning it, and one thing or another. The problem seems to be these after-market mufflers they are using," said Duddeck.

"The minute they purchase a bike, some of these guys go and redo them with a louder muffler, to try and make it sound macho."

The bylaw council is advocating would require motorcycles operating in Oakville to stick with their factory-issued muffler.

Details still need to be ironed out as to who exactly will enforce this bylaw should it be passed.

The Halton Regional Police Service has said it does not have the budgeted dollars in the 2011 budget for the purchase of equipment or the training of officers to support this initiative.

One suggestion was for Halton police to work with Town of Oakville bylaw enforcement officers in a partnership where Halton police stop

suspect motorcycles and call bylaw officers to attend and perform noise testing.

Town staff said this solution was impractical, as bylaw officers would have to be available immediately to attend the location.

Another suggestion would see police simply refer suspect motorcycles for testing at a certain time and place.

Under this scenario the failure to attend the noise testing would constitute an offence under the bylaw.

If the owner/operator modified or fixed the motorcycle before attending the predetermined appointment for testing and the motorcycle passes, the Town would consider the objective of the bylaw achieved, as the motorcycle would

now be in compliance.

Town staff also considered this idea impractical as there would be nothing to stop the owner/operator from simply putting the louder muffler back on their motorcycle after the noise testing.

Halton police have also suggested the Town may want to wait and judge the effectiveness of similar bylaws in Edmonton and Caledon before coming up with its own.

The Town also has the option of asking the Province of Ontario to amend the Highway Traffic Act to include specific and measurable thresholds for motorcycle noise.

Town staff said development of any bylaw, local or regional, will require full stakeholder and public engagement.

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Zoning by-law passing

Zoning By-law Amendment
North of Dundas Street West
Ontario Realty Corporation and Town of Oakville/
Region of Halton
File: Z.1326.02

On July 11, 2011, Oakville Council passed Zoning By-law Amendment 2011-073 as amended under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

The purpose and effect of Zoning By-law Amendment 2011-073 is to permit a sanitary trunk sewer from Dundas Street/Third Line to Highway 407. In addition to this application, a general amendment to the north Oakville zoning by-law will be considered to permit regional infrastructure projects.

The sanitary sewer lands are located on the north side of Dundas Street West, west of Third Line. The general amendment applies to lands within the north Oakville zoning by-law area.

The overall lands of north Oakville are also subject to the following planning applications:

Town of Oakville file numbers: 42.03.80, 42.03.83, Z.1320.04 & 24T-05016; Z.1316.02 & 24T-05025; Z.1317.02 & 24T-05012; and, Z.1318.02 & 24T-05013.

OMB case numbers:
 PL050908; PL051163; PL051164; PL051165; PL051166;
 PL051167; PL051168; PL051169; PL051170; PL051171;
 PL051172; PL051173; PL051174; PL051175; PL051176;
 PL051177; PL051178; PL051185; PL051186; PL051187;
 PL051188; PL051189; PL051243; PL090414; PL100041;
 PL100509 and, PL090614.

Any appeals of the zoning by-law amendment must be filed with Cathie Best, Town Clerk, 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3, setting out the reasons for the appeal together with a certified cheque or money order for \$125 payable to the minister of finance. A copy of the appeal form is available from the Ontario Municipal Board website at www.omb.gov.on.ca.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Town of Oakville Council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board,

there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A copy of the zoning by-law amendment is available for review at the Town of Oakville, Planning Services department, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Inquiries may be directed to Brenda Stan, planner, current planning - west district, Planning Services department at 905-845-6601, ext. 3034 or bstan@oakville.ca.

The personal information accompanying your submission is collected under the authority of the Planning Act and may form part of the public record, which may be released to the public. Questions about this collection should be directed to the records and freedom of information officer at 905-815-6053.

Last date for appeal is August 9, 2011.

