

Noise By-law Review

Municipal By-law Compliance

December 3, 2024



How does this align with the Strategic Plan?



Background

- Current Noise By-law was passed in 2004
- Current by-law is outdated, vulnerable to legal challenges and does not address our current community expectations or standards
- By-law Review began in 2017
 - Staff Report – April 3, 2018
 - Staff Report – April 17, 2018
 - Staff Report – June 12, 2018

Background – Complaints

Year	# of Complaints
2017	555
2018	639
2019	534
2020	358
2021	301
2022	584
2023	661
2024*	705

Public Engagement

- Online Survey November 1 – December 15, 2023
 - Advertised through: Engage Cambridge, Service Cambridge Counters, Digital ads, Social Media accounts, Email signature links, Physical post cards
- 1,235 responses
- Theme of a need for increased regulations and more enforcement.
- Construction and Vehicle noise identified as most common kind of noise impacting residents

Jurisdictional Scan

Eight (8) municipalities were reviewed

- Brantford
- Burlington
- Guelph
- Hamilton
- Kitchener
- London
- Oakville
- Waterloo

Proposed Key Changes – Amplified Sound

	Prohibited Time Period
Cambridge (proposed)	9:00pm – 7:00am Sunday to Thursday and 11:00pm – 7:00am Friday and Saturday
Waterloo	7:00pm – 7:00am everyday (9:00am on Sundays)
Kitchener	In such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet, comfort or response of any person
Hamilton	If clearly audible at a point of reception. Prohibited at all times.
Guelph	At all times in a residential area and 11:00pm – 9:00am in “other” area
Brantford	Prohibited at all times, if in a manner that unreasonably disturbs the peace, comfort or repose of any person
Oakville	5:00pm – 7:00am everyday (9:00am on Sundays)
Burlington	11:00pm-7:00am everyday (9:00am on Sundays)
London	If clearly audible at a point of reception. Prohibited at all times.

Proposed Key Changes – Unnecessary Vehicle Noise

	Prohibited Time Period
Cambridge (proposed)	Prohibited at all times if unnecessary tire Squealing, loud speakers, use of horn when not required, Ineffective Muffler, prohibited at all times.
Waterloo	Not regulated
Kitchener	Ineffective Muffler, speakers/radio if audible at 8 m from vehicle
Hamilton	Ineffective Muffler, speakers/radio if audible at 8 m from vehicle
Guelph	At all times - Tire Squeal, racing, Use of horn when not required. Motorcycle exhaust outlet sound exceeding criteria set out in the Society of Automotive Engineers test procedure SAE J2825.
Brantford	Tire Squeal, racing, loudspeakers, use of horn when not required, prohibited at all times.
Oakville	Motorcycle exhaust outlet sound exceeding 92dBA
Burlington	Ineffective Muffler, Tire Squeal, racing, Use of horn when not required (prohibited)
London	Ineffective Muffler, Speakers

Proposed Key Changes – Construction Noise

	Prohibited Time Period
Cambridge (proposed)	7:00pm – 7:00am Monday – Saturday and all day on Sundays and Statutory Holidays
Waterloo	7:00pm – 7:00am Monday – Saturday and all day on Sundays and Statutory Holidays
Kitchener	7:00pm – 7:00am, seven days a week
Hamilton	10:00pm – 7:00am, seven days a week
Guelph	7:00pm – 7:00am Monday – Saturday (9:00am on Saturday and Sundays and Statutory Holidays)
Brantford	9:00pm – 7:00am, everyday
Oakville	7:00pm – 7:00am Monday – Saturday and all-day Sunday and Statutory Holidays
Burlington	9:00pm – 7:00am everyday (12:00pm on Sundays)
London	6:00pm – 7:00am everyday (9:00am on Sundays)

Proposed Key Changes

Other proposed regulations include

- Use of Domestic Tools
- Persistent animal noises
- Operation of solid waste bulk lift or compacting equipment
- Operation of an air conditioner or heat pump not in good working order

Noise Exemptions

- Required for residents or organizations that plan to make noise outside of the permitted periods listed in the by-law.
- Applicant is required to notify all properties within a 120-metre radius
- Applicant will provide details of the event and why the exemption should be granted
- City Clerk provided delegated authority for small events such as weddings/parties
- Council will be responsible for approving Municipally Significant events

Recommendation

- That Council approve:
 - The Noise By-law attached to the staff report as Appendix A
 - The Administrative Penalty By-law Amendment attached as Appendix B
 - The Site Alteration By-law amendment attached as Appendix C
 - The Corridor Management By-law amendment attached as Appendix D
 - The Noise Exemption Policy attached as Appendix G

Thank you

Questions?

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