

TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

BY-LAW NUMBER 19-2002

**A BY-LAW TO CONTROL NOISE
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH**

WHEREAS Section 210, Paragraph 138 of the Municipal Act, R.S.O 1990, Ch. M.45. as amended, authorizes the council of the local municipality to pass by-laws for the regulating of noise (prohibiting or regulating, within the municipality or within any defined area or areas thereof, the ringing of bells, the blowing of horns, shouting and unusual noises, or noises likely to disturb the inhabitants);

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Woolwich deems it desirable to regulate noise (to prohibit or regulate the ringing of bells, the blowing of horns, shouting and unusual noises, or noises likely to disturb the inhabitants);

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich enacts as follows:

1. Interpretation

In this by-law,

- (a) **By-law Enforcement Officer**
"By-law Enforcement Officer" means a person designated by Council as responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Township of Woolwich by-laws;
- (b) **Construction**
"construction" includes erection, alteration, repair, dismantling, demolition, structural maintenance, painting, moving, land clearing, earth moving, grading, excavating, the laying of pipe and conduit whether above or below ground level, street and highway building, concreting, equipment installation and alteration and the structural installation of construction components and materials in any form or for any purpose, and includes any work in connection therewith;
- (c) **Construction Equipment**
"construction equipment" means any equipment or device designed and intended for use in construction, or material handling, including but not limited to, air compressors, pile drivers, pneumatic or hydraulic tools, bulldozers; excavators, trenchers, cranes, derricks, loaders, scrapers, pavers, generators, off-highway haulers or trucks, ditchers, compactors and rollers, pumps, concrete mixers, graders, or other material handling equipment;
- (d) **Conveyance**
"conveyance" includes a vehicle and any other device employed to transport a person or persons or goods from place to place but does not

include any such device or vehicle if operated only within the premises of a person;

- (e) **Council**
"Council" means the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich;
- (f) **Highway**
"highway" includes a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle designed and intended for, or used by, the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof;
- (g) **Holiday**
"holiday" means any day within the definition of "holiday" in the Retail Business Holidays Act R.S.O. 1990, Ch. R.30, as amended, or any successor thereof;
- (h) **Implements of Husbandry**
Implements of husbandry means any self-propelled vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement as defined in the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ch. H.8, as amended;
- (i) **Minister**
"Minister" means the Minister of the Environment;
- (j) **Ministry**
"Ministry" means the Ministry of the Environment;
- (k) **Motor Vehicle**
"motor vehicle" includes an automobile, motorcycle, or any vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular power; but does not include the cars or electric or steam railways, or other motor vehicles running only upon rails or a motorized snow vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, self-propelled implement of husbandry or road-building machine within the meaning of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ch. H.8, as amended;
- (l) **Motorized Conveyance**
"motorized conveyance" means a conveyance propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular, gravitational or wind power;
- (m) **Municipality**
"municipality" means the land within the geographic limit of the Township of Woolwich;
- (n) **Noise**
"noise" means any sound that is of such a volume or nature that it is likely to disturb the inhabitants of the Township of Woolwich;
- (o) **Point of Reception**
"point of reception" means any point on the premises of a person where sound or vibration originating from other than those premises is received;

- (p) **Public Utility**
"public utility" means those in the employment of Ontario Hydro, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Union Gas and Bell Canada;
- (q) **Township**
"Township" means the Corporation for the Township of Woolwich;
- (r) **Waterloo Regional Police Officer**
"Waterloo Regional Police Service" means any officer or constable of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

2. General Exemptions

- (1) This By-law does not apply:
 - (a) to the emission of sound or vibration during an emergency, in connection with emergency measures:
 - (i) for the immediate health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants or any of them;
 - (ii) for the preservation or restoration of property.
unless such sound or vibration is clearly of a longer duration or nature more disturbing, than is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of such emergency purpose;
 - (b) where the Township of Woolwich, it's employees, contractors or agents, including general public utilities, are carrying out Township operations or operating, maintaining or installing municipally-owned infrastructure, facilities or the like, except for the detonation of explosives;
 - (c) to noise created by the activity of snow removal;
 - (d) to road or bicycle races, parades, circuses, entertainment activities in public parks or neighbourhood social activities when such events are approved by Council and such activity or event is in compliance with the conditions set by Council in approving such activity or event;
 - (e) to sport or recreational events in public parks where a permit has been issued by the Council of the Township of Woolwich authorizing such event and the event complies with all of the conditions of such permit;
 - (f) to the use of implements of husbandry in the operation of agricultural endeavors; or
 - (g) to the operation of excavation equipment when used in a cemetery in conjunction with interment services.

3. Exemptions by Council

- (1) Any person may, upon the payment of a permit fee in accordance with the current Fees and Charges By-law of the Township of Woolwich, apply to Council for an exemption to any provision of this By-law to allow such person to emit, cause to be emitted, or permit the emission of the noise as specified in the application for the period of time as set out in the application, and Council may grant such exemption, grant such exemption subject to conditions as specified by Council, grant an alternative exemption, grant an alternative exemption subject to conditions as specified by Council, or refuse to grant the exemption.
- (2) Where an exemption is granted by Council, breach of any of the terms or conditions of the exemption shall render the exemption null and void.
- (3) Every person applying for an exemption under subsection (1) shall, at least 21 clear business days prior to the Council meeting at which the request for exemption is to be heard by Council, provide the Clerk of the Township with a complete and accurate written request in writing, and in duplicate, setting out the particulars respecting the exemption requested including:
 - (i) the name and address of the applicant;
 - (ii) a description of the source of sound in respect of which exemption is sought;
 - (iii) a statement of the particular provision or provisions of the By-law from which exemption is sought;
 - (iv) the period of time, of a duration not in excess of six months, for which the exemption is sought;
 - (v) the reasons to be relied upon by Council in granting the exemption; and
 - (vi) a statement of the steps, if any, planned or presently being taken to bring about compliance with the By-law.

4. General Prohibitions

- (1) No person shall emit or cause to be emitted, or permit to be emitted, any sound resulting from an act specified herein, which is clearly audible at a point of reception, at any time, including;
 - (a) the persistent barking, calling or whining of any domestic pet or any animal, except an animal used for and located on the property of an agricultural livestock- based use as set out in the Township of Woolwich Zoning By-law, as amended;
 - (b) the operation of a motor vehicle in such a way that the tires squeal is prohibited;
 - (c) the use of a horn, whistle, alarm, bell, gong or the like, except for an auditory safety or warning device or chimes used in association with a religious establishment, or where required or authorized by law;
 - (d) the detonation of explosives;
 - (e) the operation of an air conditioner, pool pump or filter, heat pump or the like that is not in proper working order;

- (f) the operation of an engine or motor in, or on, any motor vehicle or item of attached auxiliary equipment for a continuous period exceeding ten minutes, unless;
 - (i) the vehicle is in an enclosed structure constructed so as to effectively prevent excessive noise emission; or
 - (ii) the original equipment manufacturer specifically recommends a longer idling period for normal and efficient operation of the motor vehicle or equipment, in which case such recommended period shall not be exceeded; or
 - (iii) operation of such engine or motor is essential to a basic function of the vehicle or equipment, including, but not limited to, operation of ready-mix concrete trucks, lift platforms or refuse compactors and heat exchange systems; or
 - (iv) weather conditions justify the use of heating or refrigerating systems powered by the motor or engine for the safety and welfare of the operator, passengers or animals, or the preservation of perishable cargo; or
 - (v) prevailing low temperatures make longer idling periods necessary, immediately after starting the motor vehicle or engine; or
 - (vi) the idling is for the purpose of cleaning and flushing the radiator and associated circulation system for seasonal change of antifreeze, cleaning of the fuel system, carburetor or the like, when such work is performed other than for profit.
- (g) the operation of a combustion engine without an effective exhaust muffling device in proper working order; or
- (h) the operation of a vehicle radio, stereo or the like.

5. Prohibitions by Time and Place

No person shall, at any location within the Municipality, emit, cause to be emitted, or permit the emission of sound resulting from any act listed in Schedule "A", attached to this by-law, if clearly audible at a point of reception located in any area of the municipality, within a prohibited time as indicated in Schedule "A", attached to this by-law.

6. Severability

If a court of competent jurisdiction should declare any section or part of a section of this by-law to be invalid, such section or part of a section shall not be construed as having persuaded or influenced Council to pass the remainder of the by-law and it is hereby declared that the remainder of the by-law shall be valid and remain in force.

7. Enforcement

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law:

- (a) is guilty of an offence; and

- (b) upon conviction is liable to a set fine or penalty in accordance with the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990. Ch. P.33. as amended.

8. Prior By-laws Repealed

The Township of Woolwich By-law number 25-77 is hereby repealed as of the date and the time of this By-law coming into effect.

10. Effective Date of this By-law

This by-law shall come into effect upon approval of the set fines by the Chief Judge of the Ontario Court (Provincial Division).

Passed this 25th day of March, 2002.

Wm. L. Strauss
Mayor

Christine Broughton
Clerk