

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features several green elements: a large light green circle at the top left, a smaller medium green circle at the top center, and four leaf-shaped segments arranged in a circular pattern below them. The leaves are filled with a close-up photograph of green grass blades.

# By-law R700-30-1

- a proposed amendment

Riverview Town Council  
August 13, 2018  
Sean Rollo



# Why An Amendment?

- Language is vague as a whole
- Covers the hours between 10pm and 7am; but is vague about daytime noise
- Heat pumps / AC Units are significant sources of noise

*“No person shall make, continue cause or allow to be made, continued or caused any noise likely to cause a public nuisance or otherwise disturb the inhabitants of the Town between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.”*



# The Decibel Scale

- Is logarithmic; meaning each increase in 10dB is the equivalent of 10 times power

*Ex: 60dB is 10x as loud as 50dB*

*70dB is 100x as loud as 50dB*

*80dB is 1000x as loud as 50dB*

Painful Acoustic Trauma	140	Shotgun blast
	130	Jet engine 100 feet away
	120	Rock concert
Extremely Loud	110	Car horn, snowblower
	100	Blow dryer, subway, helicopter, chainsaw
	90	Motorcycle, lawn mower, convertible ride on highway
Very Loud	80	Factory, noisy restaurant, vacuum, screaming child
Loud	70	Car, alarm clock, city traffic
	60	Conversation, dishwasher
Moderate	50	Moderate rainfall
Faint	40	Refrigerator
	30	Whisper, library
	20	Watch ticking
	dB levels	

## Decibel Examples

40 Quiet Office

50 Window Air Conditioner

50-60 Average Heat Pump

60 Moderate Conversation

70 Heavy City Traffic

\*Measured from within 1-2ft



# Health Effects of Excessive Noise

- This is a very real concern;
  - Tinnitus
  - Hypertension
  - Stress
  - Heart Disease
  - Immune Deficiencies
  - Birth defects
  - Mental Health Effects
  - Etc.



As Residents  
We Deserve  
The Quiet Enjoyment  
Of Our Home

The current by-law does not have provisions to ensure this



# Recent Situation

- Our neighbour's heat pump was producing between 70-85 dB of sound at our property line
- We tried to work with the neighbour's to address it
- Neighbour's cited that the heat pump was working within spec; and it was ...



# Recent Situation (cont.)

- My 10 y.o. daughter was waking up dead tired
- My wife works from home and had to alter her hours to coincide with when the heat pump might be off
- We could not watch TV as the sound from the heat pump would drown it out





# Recent Situation (cont.)

- We finally contacted the Town
- They could only issue a cease order for the hours between 10pm and 7am; which the neighbour's did respect
- There was nothing to protect us during the day ...
- Hence the need for an amendment to the by-law

# The Good News

- The neighbour's finally hired a company to quiet the heat pump
- It now produces about 55db compared to the original 70-85dB
- There are solutions ...





# Proposal

- Adopt language to cover noise during the daytime
- Adopt language specifically for heat pumps / AC units
- Adopt language for other persistent sources of noise



# Precedence

● Plenty of Cities / Towns across Canada have bylaws with specific language for heat pumps:

- Sussex
- Ottawa
- Victoria
- Torbay
- Halifax
- St. Laurent (Montreal)
- Etc, etc ...



“Ten people who speak  
make more noise than ten  
thousand who are silent.”

*-Napoleon*





# Thank You

## Questions ?

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