

From: "Leigh Ann Milman"

Date: August 30, 2018 at 12:05:00 PM PDT

To: <howard.houle@rdn.bc.ca>

Cc: <bill.veenhof@shaw.ca>, <hosullivan@islandstrust.bc.ca>, <mmamoser@islandstrust.bc.ca>

Subject: Updating and Improving Gabriola's Noise Control Bylaw.

Howard
Houle

RDN Director
Electoral Area B
Gabriola Island
August 30, 2018

Director Howard Houle,

We are asking the Regional District to upgrade Gabriola's noise bylaw to better meet current needs. We have been unable to resolve the issue of construction related noise with our neighbors directly. We are now addressing the issue more globally.

For the last two and a half years, we have experienced intense, regular noise while our neighbors build their own home and site. For all intents and purposes, we expect this disruption to our peace, quiet, and well-being to continue indefinitely. We had hoped at the very least that they would limit their noise to conventional working hours, giving us some peace and quiet during the evenings and on weekends and holidays. Unfortunately we have no redress under our current noise bylaw.

We have been profoundly affected by loud percussive and high pitched sounds at any time between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week. These intense and acute noises include loading and unloading heavy equipment and materials, the use of jack hammers, planers, nail guns, impact drivers, power saws, chainsaws, bob-cat, and excavators. And although there may be periods of quiet, we have no way of knowing, or anticipating when the noise will end or resume. A better noise bylaw will give us and all Islanders the assurance of peace and quiet, and a way to work around the noise.

As a licensed builder, I understand the impact of noise on surrounding neighbors. I have always been very strict about starting no earlier than 8am and stopping work by 4:30pm Monday through Friday, and only rarely working on Saturdays. I try to build efficiently, completing projects as quickly as possible, which minimizes the noise and other impacts on neighbors.

Times have changed since our noise bylaw was amended over 20 years ago. The Island has grown considerably. Increased population has brought with it an increase in noise. Wide spread use and increased availability of power equipment and heavy machinery has also made our residential neighborhoods noisier.

Many Islanders have expressed their distress with the increase in noise levels. The current minimal restrictions around the use of power tools, heavy machinery, and construction noise, are no longer

appropriate. Introducing reasonable restrictions which we outline below, would ensure we can enjoy quiet, peace and rest in and around our homes.

West Vancouver has done an excellent, comprehensive job with their noise bylaw. We suggest you use their bylaw as a model for an improved Gabriola noise control bylaw.

Please find attached a summary of West Vancouver's noise bylaw.

Here is a link to the regulations of West Vancouver's noise bylaws relating to construction noise:

<https://westvancouver.ca/home-building-property/construction-renovating/noise-regulations>

The following highlights West Vancouver's noise bylaw as it relates to construction noise and noise from power equipment in general:

Construction creates noise, and to ensure that residents are able to enjoy some peace and rest,

there are regulations in place outlining when construction activities are permitted.

Construction noise is permitted:

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Construction noise is prohibited:

Sundays and holidays

Monday–Friday, before 7:30 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

Power Equipment is prohibited:

Sundays and holidays

During the Night (6:00pm to 7:00am Monday to Saturday)

We have lived on this Island almost thirty years, and we care deeply about this community. An improved noise bylaw would give all Islanders more peace where we live, rest and work.

Thank you for your attention,
Sincerely,

Leigh Ann Milman and Timothy Maika
2550 Coho Dr.
Gabriola Island, BC



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Noise Control Bylaw 4404, 2005 Summary

Updated: May 9, 2005

Burglar alarm or security system

(Continuous or
non-continuous for 15
minutes or more)

Prohibited

Construction Noise

Prohibited:

- Sunday and holidays
- Before 8:00am or after 5:00pm
Saturday
- Before 7:30am or after 5:30pm Monday
to Friday

Dog, bird or any other animal

(Continuous or
non-continuous for
15 minutes or more)

Prohibited

Lawnmowers

Prohibited:

- Before 11:00am or after 4:00pm
Sunday and holidays
- Before 8:00am or after 8:00pm Monday
to Saturday

Motor Vehicles

Prohibited

- Loud, roaring or explosive engine or exhaust
- Horn or warning device not authorized by law
- Tire squeal
- Banging, clanking or squealing of a load or tow due to improperly secured load/equipment or inadequate maintenance
- Easily heard sound playback device, amplification equipment or musical instrument

Power Equipment

Prohibited:

- Sunday and holidays
- During the Night (6:00pm to 7:00am Monday to Saturday)

Public Address System
(outside)

Prohibited

Radio, record, tape or disc player, television set, or other

Prohibited

(Continuous or non-continuous for 15 minutes or more)

Exemptions:

- Police, Fire or other emergency personnel vehicles and equipment in relation to an emergency.
- Vehicles and equipment used to make emergency repairs to public utilities and services.
- Transit buses operated by a public authority
- Work carried out by officers, employees or agents of the District.