

To the members of Regina City Council and Mayor Sandra Masters

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the negative impact of vehicle related noise levels residential properties who back onto the Ring Road contend with.

My residential property is located on Grosvenor Street. My property not only backs onto the Ring Road, it backs onto the Dewdney Avenue Ring Road north ramp. The vehicle related noises include tire, exhaust, transmission, and engine noises. These noise components are forever changing in intensity, fluctuating up and down as vehicles come and go or as gears shift up or down and at times the muffler noises are terrible.

Vehicle related noise has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of citizens of Regina. Vehicle related noise levels are often an interference with relaxing on the back deck, gardening, visiting with family and friends, and is also a sleep disturbance at times. Noise pollution often affects both health and behavior. Unwanted sound (noise) can damage physiological health. Noise pollution can cause annoyance and aggression, hypertension, high stress levels, tinnitus, hearing loss, sleep disturbances and other harmful effects. We also deal with an abundance of dust and exhaust from Ring Road.

About 23 years ago city council members promised that trees would be planted to help reduce noise levels. To date a few trees have been planted but not nearly enough to reduce noise levels. No trees grew behind me nor to the south which is wide open.

Residential properties in the newer areas with a rear or side lot adjacent to high traffic roadways are having sound attenuation walls installed. Why are existing properties not being taken into consideration?

As the City of Regina grows, traffic volumes and noise levels also increase. I recommend that city staff monitor, measure, and evaluate the traffic noise on Ring Road as well as on the ramps. This evaluation may help the city design a noise attenuation program for those residential areas affected by high vehicle related noise levels. A noise attenuation program may consist of built up earth mounds or concrete walls or fences, with or without landscaping. Barriers may reduce roadway traffic noise levels by up to 10-15 DBA immediately behind the barrier.

I urge the City of Regina to be supportive in reducing the negative impact of vehicle related noise residential properties backing onto the Ring Road contend with.

I look forward to a response from the City of Regina regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne Erhardt