

July 30, 2020

Dear Councillors,

I am writing today to share the impact the street racing and noise in the Greens on Gardiner had on my family and I.

We lived in the Greens for 9.5 years, from January 2011 until July 2020. We were on one of the first two blocks in the neighborhood and what quickly became one of the busiest streets (Green Bank Road). During that time, as with any developing area, the traffic increased proportionally to the amount of people living there. As we lived on a main artery we were acutely aware of changes and volume to vehicular traffic.

In the past two years there was undoubtedly a large increase in the number of vehicles driving on Green Bank Road. Because it is a long, uninterrupted stretch of road, we also noticed that a large selection of these vehicles chose drive at high speeds as well. It reached the point that I no longer allowed my 10 year old son to cross the road on his own as it was unsafe to do so. There was a point a few months ago where I myself was nearly hit walking across the street in front of my house. The driver never stopped.

During the pandemic, the racing and street noise worsened. Most nights (if not every single night) extremely loud cars could be heard racing on Green Bank Road despite my use of a noisemaker and ear plugs. I work as a Registered Nurse here in Regina and the nightly sleep disruption was getting so bad I'd feel as though I'd worked a night shift from the lack of sleep. I would feel sick during the day. Being a healthcare worker during a pandemic brings about an increased level of stress that is extremely difficult to cope with while also being continually sleep deprived.

It escalated to the point where we decided to sell our house to improve our quality of life. The traffic was affecting my son's ability to go out and explore safely, and our ability to achieve restful sleep night after night. We needed to move from the house my son grew up in and where we had wonderful neighbours. We had not been intending to move but felt we had no other choice.

The Greens on Gardiner is a residential area. It contains two schools and many young families and children. It is not acceptable or safe for drivers to race down the streets making an abundance of noise. There IS going to be an adverse outcome if something does not change immediately- I was almost that statistic when I was nearly hit crossing the street. Thankfully for my family we had the resources to get out and relocate to a safer and quieter neighborhood but that is not possible for everyone. I implore you to consider passing Councillor Bresciani and Councillor Stevens' motion for the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

Erin Chard