

I echo the comments received so far from my fellow neighbours Paul and Cheryl Viala, Wendy and Laurie Walter and Grant Wasnik. Rest assured that there are many, many frustrated residents who have either approached me on the street or commented on my Facebook posts - this is a major issue that will not go away until addressed to the satisfaction of our neighbourhood.

We moved to the Westhill area five years ago from Lakeridge, and one of the most attractive features was how quiet and peaceful the neighbourhood was. As the Bypass was being built, we had to endure many trucks using 9th Avenue North, especially those delivering water to the construction sites. We also had to endure the sound of heavy equipment during the construction phase. We were willing to tolerate this as we knew that the Bypass would be a great asset for the City of Regina and was definitely needed to move truck traffic off of city streets. However, since the 9th Avenue North interchange was opened last Fall, transport truck, pickup truck, car and motorcycle traffic has increased exponentially (I believe that councillor Mancinelli says that it has increased 70% in the past year).

Removing the truck route designation is imperative and can be easily accomplished. Not only is 9th Avenue North west of Courtney not designed for large truck traffic, nor is the road east of Courtney. Yes, it is two lanes wide in each direction, but the shoulders of the eastbound lanes are non-existent and prone for any vehicle to drop a wheel off of the paved surface, lose control and roll. In addition, our homes are located very close to the road and there is not sufficient space for a tractor trailer to stop, according to trucking industry guidelines. Most recently we have seen an increase in many single and double-length dump trucks, which as it turns out, are being used in the Dewdney Avenue West widening - so effectively the City is compounding the problem by making us suffer while appeasing the new residents of Westerra.

Speeding and excessive vehicle motor/exhaust noise is unbearable and must be addressed, both with bylaw enactment and police enforcement. Although it is constant throughout the day, the issue ramps up at the supper hour, as many loud cars and motorcycles rev up from Pinkie Road or Courtney Street. It is so bad that I am forced to close my windows during the day because I am unable to communicate on the telephone with my business clients. In addition, my wife has an acute hearing sensitivity and is compounding her health issues. Neither one of us can enjoy the use of our newly renovated backyard as the noise is constant, with only a few seconds of peace between vehicles.

With respect to bylaw changes, something must be done about the enhanced aftermarket exhaust systems that are so prevalent, not only on sportscars (I've lost track of how many Mustangs race behind our house) but also on pickup trucks. I notice that the proposed bylaw by councillors Bresciani and Stevens calls for increased fines during the hours of 10 pm to 7 am, but I would suggest that it cover an earlier period, such as 7 pm. As for enforcement, Regina Police Services are rarely seen on 9th Avenue North - although I saw a policewoman stationed in the clump of trees behind our house one day last week for 10 minutes mid-morning. She tried the radar gun on a few vehicles, didn't catch anyone, appeared to shrug her shoulders, and left.

My last question concerns the speed limit of 70 kmh. It makes sense to me on the two-lane road between McCarthy and Courtney where the houses are well set back from the roadway. It doesn't make sense to me on the single lane road between Courtney and Pinkie, especially with how close our backyards are to the roadway. Our layout doesn't appear to be all that different from the residents living on the east side of Courtney north of 9th Avenue North, but the speed limit there is 50 kmh.

We would be pleased to speak with you further if desired.

Thank you.

Dave & Janice Sinclair