

Municipality of Lakeshore

Noise Bylaw Community Engagement

SUMMARY REPORT

October 2023

Summarizing results from
Lakeshore's Noise By-law Review
online survey and open house.



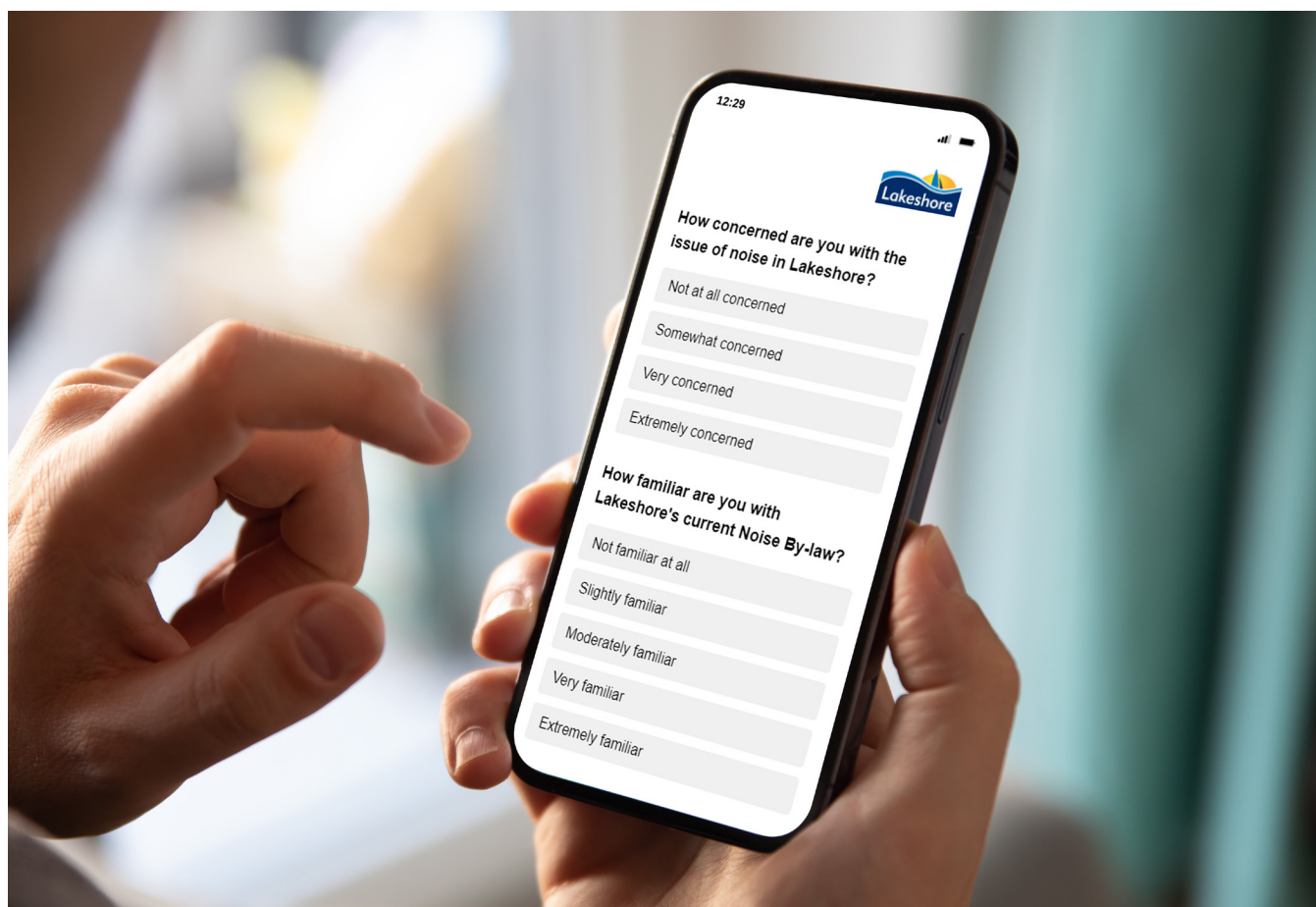
Background

Residents and local stakeholders were asked to provide their feedback on the Noise By-law Review Community Survey hosted online through the Qualtrics platform and open from mid-July to the end of August, 2023, as well as during an Open House hosted at the Atlas Tube Recreation Centre on August 17, 2023.

Survey Design

The online community survey provided respondents the opportunity to give feedback on their concerns related to noise, current regulations, as well as options for temporary exemptions. The questions were both quantitative and qualitative in nature. Lakeshore also provided a phone-in option through the Public Service Unit for residents who do not have access to the Internet, or a computer/smart device. The Public Service Unit assisted several callers with finding the survey online and a few with filling out the survey itself.

While the survey saw significant interest from residents and stakeholders, it should be noted that online surveys have their limitations and do not necessarily capture an accurate representation of the entire population.



Promotions and Marketing

The community engagement portion of the Noise By-law was communicated to residents and stakeholders through a number of channels, including:



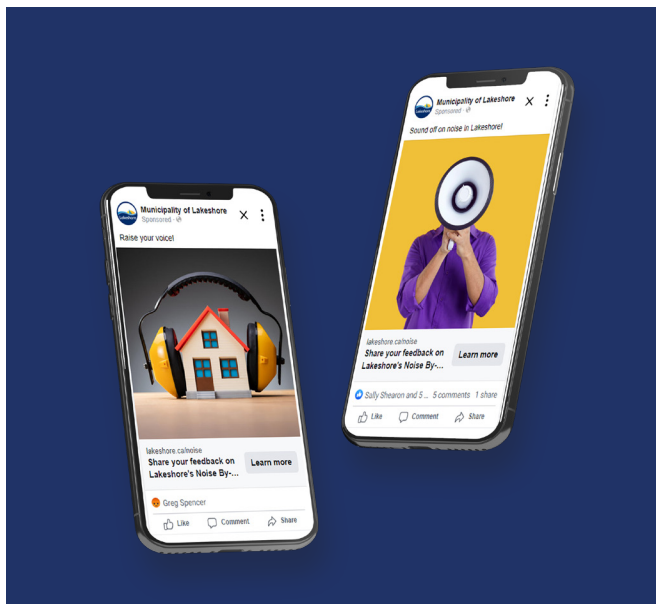
The July/August Lakeshore Waves newsletter, which was delivered along with residential water bills.



The half-page Lakeshore Splash advertisement published in the July and August editions of the The Lakeshore News Reporter newspaper.



Roadside signage placed on County Road 22 from mid-July to the end of August.



Organic and paid social media posts on Lakeshore's Twitter and Facebook pages.



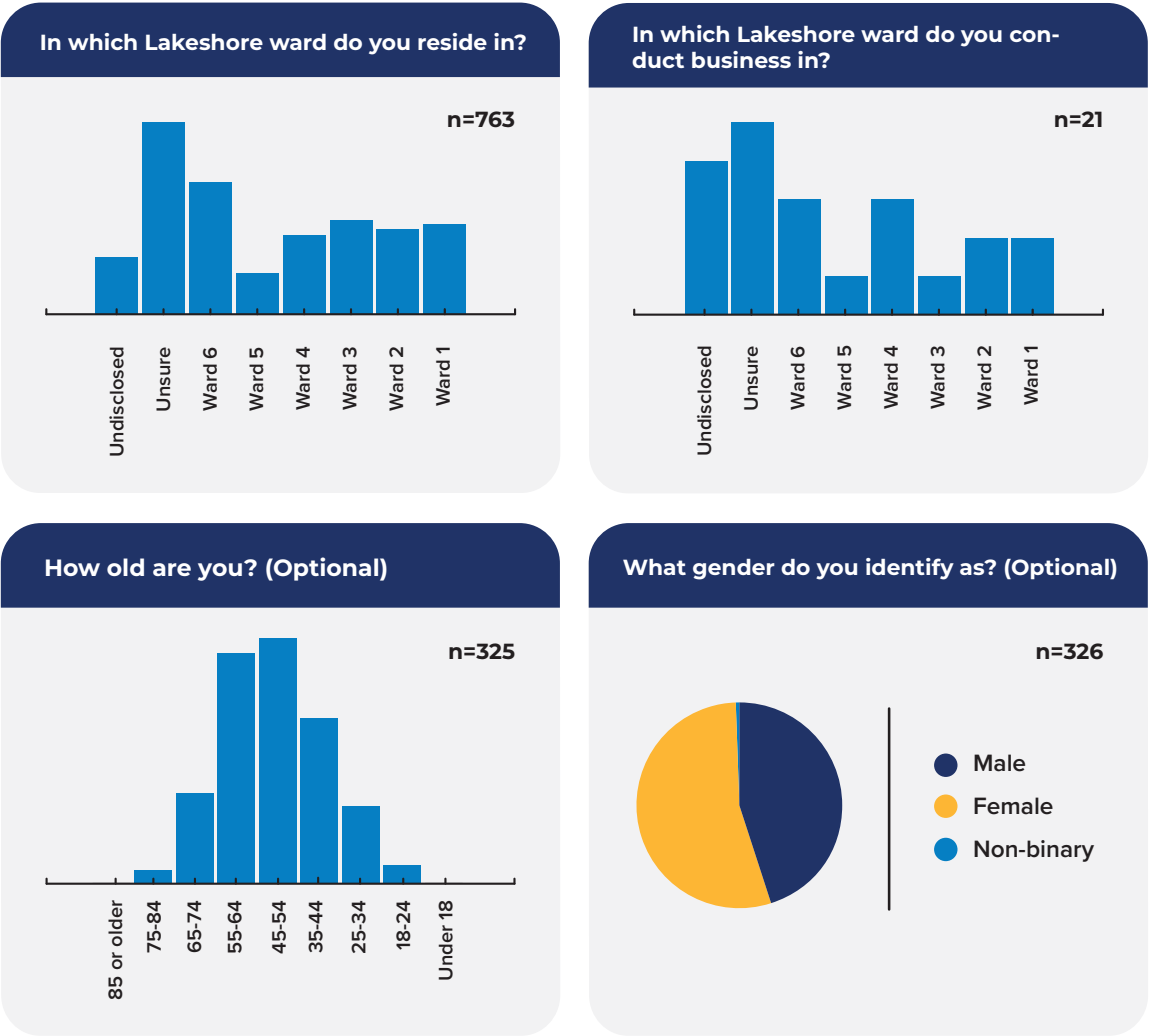
Digital posters hosted at the Atlas Tube Recreation Centre.

Survey Response and Demographic Breakdown

The survey saw significant interest, with 827 responses received from residents and stakeholders throughout Lakeshore. Ward 6 represented a sizable portion of responses, with over 17 per cent of the total, while 25 per cent of respondents were unsure of the ward they resided in. Wards 1 to 4 represented between 10 to 12 per cent each, while Ward 5 represented over 5 per cent of responses. 7.5 per cent of responses preferred not to indicate the ward they live in.

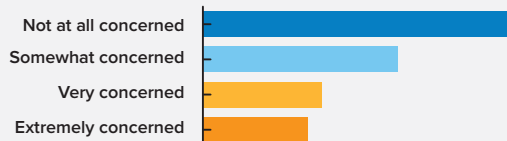
Respondents said they were residents of Lakeshore, with 93 per cent total. 3.8 percent of respondents did not disclose, while 2.6 per cent indicated they were an owner or representative of a business in Lakeshore. The remaining respondents indicated they were landowners, frequent visitors, or boaters who access local marinas.

An additional breakdown of response demographics, including age and gender identity (which were provided voluntarily), can be found in the attached graphs.



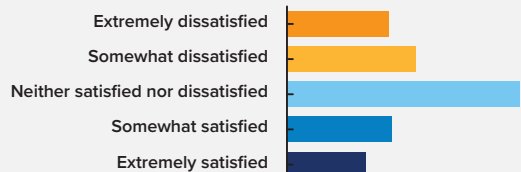
Response Summaries

Level of Concern with Current Noise By-Law



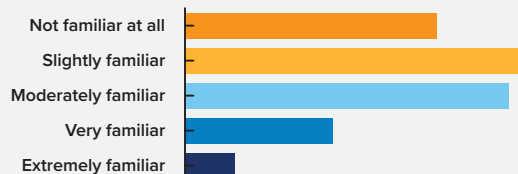
When asked, **“How concerned are you with the issue of noise in Lakeshore?”** a plurality of responses (346) indicated they were “not at all concerned.” 222 respondents were “somewhat concerned,” 135 were “very concerned” and 119 were “extremely concerned.”

Level of Satisfaction with Current Noise By-law



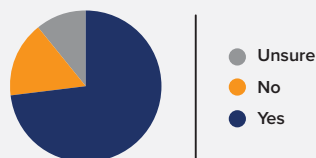
In terms of **community satisfaction with the current Noise By-law**, a plurality (294) of respondents indicated they were “neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.” 292 respondents were either “extremely” or “somewhat dissatisfied” while 231 were “somewhat” or “extremely satisfied.”

Familiarity with Current Noise By-law



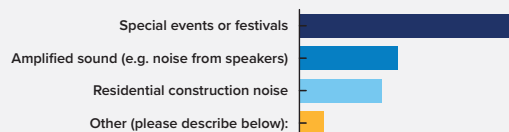
In terms of **familiarity with the Noise By-law**, a large majority of respondents (248 and 241 respectively) were either “slightly” or “moderately familiar.” 187 respondents indicated they were “not familiar at all,” 110 were “very familiar,” and 37 were “extremely familiar.”

Approval for Temporary Noise Restrictions



Survey respondents were in favour of a **process for temporary Noise By-law exemptions for specific events or activities**. 602 respondents said “yes” to such a process, 131 said “no,” and 88 were “unsure.”

Support for Exemption Categories

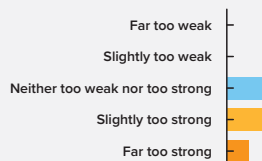


Of those who said “yes” or “unsure” to temporary Noise By-law exemptions, 633 supported exemptions for “special events or festivals,” 296 for “amplified sound, e.g., noise from speakers,” and 248 for “residential construction noise.”

Response Summaries Continued

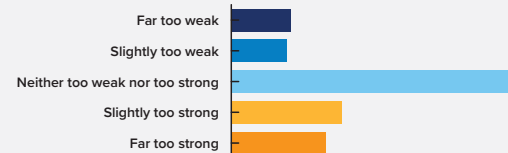
Respondents were then asked to **reflect on the current restrictions** in Lakeshore's Noise By-law. Responses were gathered using a five-point Likert scale which ranged from "far too weak" (e.g., not restrictive enough) to "far too strong" (e.g., too restrictive.) The following is a brief summary highlighting notable response differences in each category:

Persistent animal noise



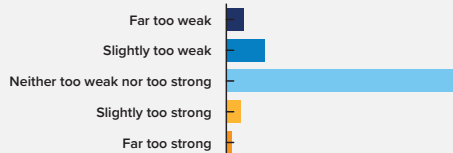
625 noted the current restrictions are "neither too weak nor too strong." 113 indicated they were "slightly too strong" while 68 said they were "far too strong." Note the "weak" options were not available as animal noise is currently restricted at all times.

Amplified Sound



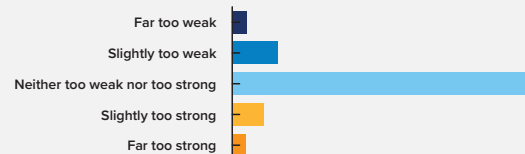
378 chose the neutral option, while 150 and 128 responded with "slightly too strong" and "far too strong" respectively.

Construction noise



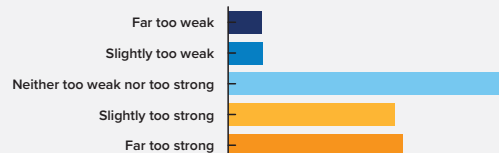
621 chose the neutral option ("neither too weak nor too strong"). There were more respondents who indicated these restrictions were "slightly too weak" and "far too weak" (101 and 45 respectively) than "slightly too strong" and "far too strong" (36 and 13 respectively).

Power tools for domestic purposes



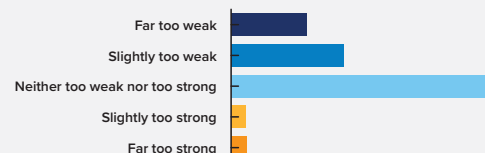
600 chose the neutral option, with a small edge for responses in the "slightly too weak" and "far too weak" (92 and 30 respectively) compared to "slightly too strong" and "far too strong" categories.

Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, and singing



Again, this category saw a plurality (325) respond to the neutral option. However, 198 and 208 respondents indicated these restrictions were "slightly too strong" or "far too strong" respectively.

Amplified sound for the purpose of advertising



441 chose the neutral option, while 129 and 191 respondents indicated these restrictions were "far too weak" or "slightly too weak" respectively.

Text Responses & Themes

The survey also gave respondents the opportunity to describe issues and concerns related to noise in response to open-ended questions. The following section describes some of the most consistent themes identified in answers to the open-ended questions. Comments were analyzed using Lakeshore's survey platform and reviewed by staff for accuracy. While the themes were identified, they do not necessarily indicate the respondent's sentiment, either positive or negative, related to the topic. Some topics may overlap with others.

In response to the question, **“What are your most significant concerns related to noise in Lakeshore?”** the following notable themes and topics were identified in 447 comments:

- **Motor vehicles.** 196 comments were related to issues with noise created by cars, trucks, and motorcycles. In a similar vein, 17 comments were made about ATVs, OHVs, and dirt bikes, while 11 comments were made about boats.
- **Music/entertainment.** 113 respondents identified noise issues with music and entertainment. Many respondents related the issues of noise to live music venues, events (10) and event venues, as well as other commercial operations (26 specific to Lighthouse Cove), while a smaller number identified issues with music coming from neighbours or homes in their neighbourhood.
- **Residential.** 108 respondents identified the issue of noise happening from nearby homes or in their neighbourhoods. There was some overlap with other themes noted in this analysis, including music, barking dogs (53), trains (44) and fireworks (56).
- **Fireworks.** 56 respondents noted the issue of noise related to fireworks.
- **Barking dogs.** 53 respondents noted the issue of noise related to barking dogs.
- **Trains.** 44 respondents indicated the sound of trains and train horns was a noise issue in their neighbourhood.
- **Enforcement.** 42 respondents noted the issue of enforcement related to the noise by-law. These comments largely identified the need for additional enforcement of the by-law.
- **Construction.** 28 comments identified the issue of noise related to construction.

Text Responses & Themes Continued

In response to the question “**What additional categories should be considered?**” the following notable themes and topics were identified in 237 comments.

- **Motor vehicles.** Cars, trucks, and motorcycles again topped the list of concerns, with 64 comments related to the issue. ATVs/OHVs/dirt bikes were identified in 7 comments while 5 noted noise from boats.
- **Music/entertainment.** 49 comments were made about music stemming from neighbours or nearby commercial establishments.
- **Commercial.** 40 comments were related to noise from local businesses, restaurants, and event venues. Some supported local businesses hosting live music, while others were more critical.

Other topics include:

- **Fireworks** drew 19 comments.
- **Trains** were brought up in 20 comments.
- **Events** were brought up 15 times.
- Issues in **residential** areas were identified in 16 comments.
- 12 comments noted the need for permitted **times or an exemption process** for the noise by-law.

In response to the question “**Please provide any additional comments/concerns/questions**” several notable themes emerged over 327 comments that were consistent with the other qualitative responses.

- **Live music**, particularly in relation to **Lighthouse Cove**.
- The **enforcement** of the noise by-law continued to be a notable issue for respondents.
- **Cars/trucks/motorcycles, trains, ATVs/dirt bikes** were noted in several responses.
- Several other responses ranged in sentiment, with some noting the need to strengthen regulations, others to relax regulations, while others promoting a “common sense” approach to noise. A more accurate picture of these sentiments was captured in the quantitative section of the survey.

Open House

The Open House hosted on August 17, 2023, drew strong attention from residents and stakeholders, with about 75 people attending. The themes, which were identified and summarized by Lakeshore staff immediately after the event, are as follows:

- **Lighthouse Cove and live music.** There was strong representation from Lighthouse Cove, with many noting that strict restrictions to noise could jeopardize the commercial success of the local restaurant. Many noted that live music was a plus for the area, as it acted as a tourist attraction and economic driver, however concern regarding live music was also expressed.
- **Vehicles.** Many attendees noted the issue of vehicle noise, particularly late-night street racing and modified mufflers.
- **Trains and train noise** was noted as a significant issue, particularly in the west part of Lakeshore adjacent to the VIA rail tracks. Residents noted the length of train horns as a particular issue.
- Lack of **enforcement** of the noise by-law was also identified by several attendees. Some noted support of the use of devices designed to measure decibels as a method for improving enforcement.
- Issues with event and wedding **venues** were also discussed during the meeting.

