

Town looks at patio noise complaints

The Town may crack down on late-night noise made bar/restaurant patrons after repeated complaints from neighbours, including those living near Tanners Pub and Grill, which is managed by Regional Ward 1/2 Councillor Clark Somerville.

"It (patio noise) is not covered now, but we are going to add it to the by-law," Debbie Edmonds, the Town's Manager of Standards and Licencing

said on Friday when asked about the complaints about excessive late-night noise at Tanners on Eastern Avenue.

"That file is open, so I can't say much – it's an active investigation," Edmonds said, adding they would not treat the case any differently because of Councillor Somerville's connection.

Edmonds said they are also investigating "several" noise complaints from

restaurant/bar patios in Georgetown, adding the bylaw prohibits the use of devices that will amplify sound, except if there are no residential properties within 100-metres (328-feet), or on Friday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Noise worse after 11

One Tanners neighbour who did not want to be identified said the noise gets worse after 11 p.m.

"Once the music stops, well then the crowd gets into it – it was twenty after one last Sunday morning I heard an awful yell and I thought 'My god, what's that?' so I jumped out of bed. It's disgusting," she said, adding after several weekends of being kept up at night by the noise, she

asked for a meeting with the neighbours and Tanners in late June.

"Clark (Somerville) said they'd turn the speakers away from our homes and have security men check the noise, but it's worse now, I think," the neighbour said, adding she can't leave her windows open or have company over on weekends.

Neighbour Penny McCabe said she can still hear the noise in her old, Victorian semi-detached house with the windows closed.

"I get disturbed quite a bit by the music, but if the music is nice, it's okay, but it's not always nice – like last Saturday night it sounded like cats screaming, and I also get some of the loud talking that goes on after

the music ends," McCabe said on Friday, noting that things have been better since the new owners took over several months ago.

"I've sat in one of my neighbour's sunroom and tried to have a conversation when the music was going on and couldn't do that, and then there are the behavior problems," McCabe said, recalling one recent incident when a patron left the bar and was repeatedly vomited all the way along the street.

McCabe said since Manny's Roadhouse closed on Mill Street, there have been more incidents of screaming and yelling at Tanners.

"Not fit use"

"It's like having a noisy neighbour who has a party in their backyard every Friday and Saturday night. Even if the music ends at 11 (p.m.) the party goes on, and it's just not a use for a residential area," McCabe said.

She said a number of seniors from the apartment buildings at the corner of Church Street and Maria Street who were at the meeting with Tanners of-

ficials also feel, like she does, that there have not been any improvements and the next step may be to circulate a petition and look into the LLBO regulations.

Town has by-law

The Town's noise by-law does have a general prohibition that says no person "shall make, cause or permit noise, vibration and any time which is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the Town."

Edmonds said the neighbours of any patio that is causing problems should keep a log of the times and dates and should call the Town to make a formal complaint and a Property Standards Officer would make a site visit.

Reid Frank, one of the principles of Tanners said they truly want to live within the bylaw and be good neighbours.

He said following the meeting with neighbours they hired a professional sound technician to redirect the speakers, they perform nightly sound checks of the neighbourhood and remind bands they are in a residential neighbourhood and "not to crank the music up."

As to the behavior complaints – the drunken party noise that continues into the wee morning hours – Reid said, "that's the business we're in. Unfortunately, it's not a library or a funeral home. It is what it is, and we're trying very diligently to stay within the bylaw," he said on Tuesday.

Reid said they have two bouncers – local firefighters – on hand each Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights as security.

He said Tanners would comply with whatever noise bylaw is enacted by the Town, but had no suggestions for changes at this time.



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