



October 5, 2012

Lord Mayor Ekes
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
Virgil, Ontario

Re: Noise from Ravine Winery.

Dear Lord Mayor

What Noise? I live at 1376 York Rd., St. Davids and am one of the closest houses to the property; in fact I back onto it. It surprises me to hear that someone is actually complaining about this topic.

I will not go into what Ravine Winery has done for St. Davids, because if left to the planning department of the town all St. Davids would be is a housing development. Ravine has helped bring some charm to the village. Nor will I talk about the jobs that this company has brought to the village as that is not what is being questioned. It is supposed to be about the noise.

I run my house as a Bed and breakfast and I have yet to have a guest complain about the noise from Ravine. Guests have complained about the bird bangers, the numerous trucks on York Road, and the windmills but not the music from Ravine. Of course the response will be that the guests are probably at the wedding or event at Ravine but that is actually not the case. Only about 15% of my business is based on events at Ravine, a number I do hope will increase as they explore other options.

When Ravine first started to hold events 3 years ago, yes I did hear the music and the laughter, but at 11pm it would stop and then I would feel (hear) the base. Since they have put up the tent, I no longer hear the base. Nor do I hear the laughter, which is too bad as I like to hear laughter.

I am surprised the person complaining is not also complaining about the schoolchildren's laughter. It never seems to surprise me what people will complain about. I hope that you and the councillors will see this as what it is, someone needing to complain about something. It reminds me of the person who I listened to at a council meeting complain about people feeding the birds.

If you have any questions concerning the above, I can be reached at 905-262-1876 or trish@greenoaksinn.ca

Sincerely

Trish Badham
Resident, St. Davids



Re: Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery proposal 
Aaron Butler to: Sandra McPherson

30/04/2013 01:46 PM

Sandra,

The new noise by-law prohibits amplified music/sound between 11:00pm and 7:00am, and between 11:00pm and 9:00am on Sundays/Statutory Holidays.

The existing zoning by-law for Ravine specifically prohibits all amplified music or public address systems. The request at this point is to permit amplified music or public address systems, within the requirements of the noise by-law.

Aaron

Aaron Butler, BES
Planner II
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

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"Sandra McPherson" Good Afternoon Aaron,

26/04/2013 03:18:32 PM

From: "Sandra McPherson" <Sandra@stdavidshydroponics.com>
To: <AButler@notl.org>
Date: 26/04/2013 03:18 PM
Subject: Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery proposal

Good Afternoon Aaron,

Thank you taking the time to speak with me this morning regarding the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery proposal.

I do have a question for you regarding the outdoor address systems or amplified music.

Can you please tell me what the new noise by law states. I would be concerned if an outdoor system or amplified music were to be placed next to my property line.

Thank you,

Sandra McPherson



Office: 905 988 5636 Ext#221
sandra@stdavidshydroponics.com

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April 28, 2013

The Lord Mayor,

This letter is in response to the 1360-1366 York Road - Technical Zoning Amendment to Ravine Wineries outdoor functions.

Two years ago Ravine began their outdoor summer activities (weddings, etc.) in the tent. There were fewer than twelve events in 2011...two of which got out of hand. Loud music and speeches continued after 2:00 am. making it difficult to sleep with the windows closed and air conditioning running. On both occasions the police were contacted about the noise. They were aware of the problem but unfortunately were too busy to respond to the issues at Ravine. They instruct you to contact the town to let them know the by-laws are being ignored. That being done nothing happened.

During the summer of 2012 the permanent outdoor tent was erected and the violations to the noise and hour of operation by-laws increased. Ravine was allowed to have twelve events in the tent but by the end of the season had in excess of twenty one. Elevated noise levels and extended hours became the norm, as well as event attendees wandering through the backyards of the neighboring homes around the winery. Some individuals, not capable of driving after attending an evening event at the winery chose to do so anyway.

Again last year I contacted the town with my concerns. I was directed to Mr. Wiens. Five e-mails later, his response to the noise, the number of extended events, and the late hours of operation was that he was aware of the situation and would look into it. He suggested I call the police or speak to the owners of the winery myself if I had an issue.

I became frustrated by Mr. Wiens lack of concern over the problems at Ravine, so I ended my conversations with him as he offered no resolution to the situation.

My concern over the amendment to the site specific zoning-law change for Ravine Winery is that even though the by-laws are in place, with limited monitoring, enforcement and consequences to breaking them, they may be ignored. As you increase the number of outdoor evening activities at Ravine you increase the opportunity to ignore the by-laws. They have already demonstrated this as 2011-2012 saw an increase in the number of infractions.

Unless the town is planning on monitoring every extended outdoor event at Ravine I would not recommend adopting the change.

I would prefer to see a moratorium on events at Ravine Winery this summer, until the town can properly address the issues so far ignored. A team of enforcement officers needs to be in place and consequences for breaking the bylaws enforced. It is the only way to ensure Ravine Winery will act responsibly and respectfully to their surrounding neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Herman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Herman
formerly of 298 Creek Road.

Adam Cole
1357 York Rd
PO Box 293
St Davids ON L0S 1P0

Town Council Members
c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd
PO Box 100
Virgil ON L0S 1T0



6 May 2013

Town Council Members,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed amendment to the site-specific zoning-law for 1360-1366 York Road.

I understand that this is a change specifically for that property. Unfortunately, the impact is not limited to their property lines, and will certainly have a negative impact on the quality of life for their neighbours. Since the conversion of the property from residential/farm to a commercial winery, loud, pounding music in the late hours of the night has become a regular occurrence.

As it is, I am not privy to information on how often bylaw enforcement officers have issued warnings or fines, if at all. I can say, however, that there has been no change in the attitude of the winery. On nights when I can feel the vibrations in my home from the music over 300m away, it becomes clear that either no action has been taken, or that any fines have simply become part of the winery's operating costs.

This winery is part of a residential neighbourhood, in the village of St. Davids — a place chosen by its residents as a quiet and safe place to live, in contrast to large cities. This is simply the wrong site for such activity, and I urge you to consider this before permitting anyone such special treatment that would openly enable them to disrupt and disturb the community. Otherwise, what is left to entice new families to settle down in the newer homes in the area? How can a Bed and Breakfast owner sustain a business where the guests can hardly get to sleep? Please, consider the community as a whole.

Thank you,
Adam Cole