



# Environmental Services

MOE Certified and Qualified Acoustical Consultants

**"Our Business is Best Kept Quiet"**

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May 28, 2013

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
1593 Four Mile Creek Road  
P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario  
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Attn: Aaron Butler, BES, Planner II

Re: Peer-Review Noise Study for Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, Noise  
Investigation

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As per your request dBA Environmental Services Inc. has conducted a peer-review of the above noted noise investigation and we were required to address the following items in the noise report.

- 1) Study methodology including type of monitoring, duration, and location.
- 2) Measurement results.
- 3) Study observations.
- 4) Compliance with Town noise by-law.

In review of the noise report we noted the following comments:

Page 1, Paragraph 1

HGC Engineering Inc. noise report dated December 19, 2012, noted that "recorded music was played through the sound system."

Response

Nowhere in the report does it mention that the sound system was at full volume during any noise monitoring.

Page 1, Paragraph 2

It is also noted that in comparing the sound level of the music to the background noise level the sound was at times occasionally audible at the receptor locations during low periods of traffic background noise.

## Response

The report suggests the music is occasionally audible which only confirms a concern as “likely to disturb” relating to non-compliance of the current Towns noise by-law.

## Site Description and Noise Sources

Page 2, Paragraph 2, it is mentioned a typical outdoor wedding event occurs during the summer months and the DJ makes announcements, plays music, and is able to control the sound level but not allowed to exceed the noise levels established by management.

## Response

It is not noted in the report what the maximum noise levels are established by management or by what methods they determine an exceedance of established maximum levels set.

## Criteria

Page 3, Paragraph 2, we agree that the amplified music is covered by the new Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake noise by-law 4588-12.

## Conclusion

Page 11, Paragraph 1, indicate that volume levels from the wedding event are in the range of 3-4 dBA above the background noise level and that noise levels would not be exceeded if windows are kept closed during the events. It is noted in the report if the windows are open then there may be momentary intrusions.

## Response

Our concern is that the noise monitoring reflects only the rear yard and calculations did not address the second floor of the homes. Nighttime hours from 11:00 pm – 7:00 am of the following day represent bedroom or noise sensitive areas. The home owner should not be restricted to keep windows closed at all times during each event.

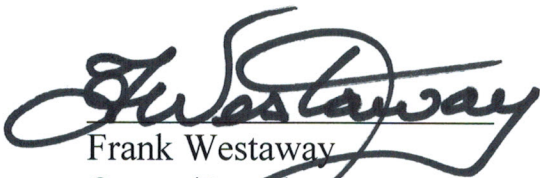
## Recommendations

In review of the HGC Engineering noise study we have no concerns with the noise levels applying to the present noise by-law. For future events as noted in the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery report dated February 2013 submitted by Quartek Group Inc. we would recommend the following:

- 1) Additional noise monitoring is conducted by dBA Environmental Services Inc. once the events have commenced. This will ensure that the maximum volume of the sound system and position of the sound system speakers have been identified and addressed.

- 2) Noise monitoring at the source (sound system) and receptor locations be conducted and recorded to establish noise criteria. Sound system speakers not to be changed or replaced unless noise monitoring levels have been confirmed.
- 3) Permission by the homeowners to conduct noise monitoring in the second floor of the noise sensitive area so to confirm noise levels inside home.
- 4) To work with event organizers and public to ensure noise levels are maintained and satisfactory to all parties involved.

Respectfully submitted,  
dBA Environmental Services Inc.

  
Frank Westaway  
Owner/President

