

Infrastructure and Environment

From: Thomas V Cohen <tcohen@yorku.ca>
Sent: September 8, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Infrastructure and Environment; Councillor Colle8; Councillor Matlow
Cc: Shari Lash; Carla Lutchman; Betsy Kikuchi; Seboua March; Elizabeth S. Cohen; Lancelyn Rayman-Watters; markw@web.ca; Thomas V Cohen
Subject: Two-stroke engines and their regulation
Categories: Communication

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: Two-stroke engines, lawn care, and noise
From: Eglinton Park Residents' Association
Date: Sept. 8, 2020

Dear Committee members and councillors,

Eglinton Park Residents' Association has been following the discussion of the control of two-stroke engines for some months.

Our own catchment is the southeast corner of Ward 8, the nine square blocks between Eglinton Park and Yonge Street.

Lawns up here are small, but two-stroke engines do show up, and, as anywhere, they make noise and omit microparticles in notorious abundance. The noise is aggravating. Meanwhile, as science has known for a long time, these micro-particles particles are a menace, entering the lungs and even circulating in the body, and this age of Covid argues that air pollution is a driver of the severity of response, so curbing these machines would do two goods at once.

As for noise, we often belittle it as "mere noise!" But, more and more, science is showing that noise is seldom mere. It is a stressor, often a major one, and stress, we now know, damages both minds and bodies in complex ways. So noise itself is a serious public health concern.

We urge you to take energetic measures to find a way to regulate these machines.

We are aware that there is a social justice and equity angle here: the companies that do lawn care are often small operations, and they employ Torontonians who need the income that comes with the work. So any discussion should have an eye to alternatives that allow gardeners and lawn-care operations to do their job in a way both environmentally friendly and economically viable.

Best wishes,

Tom Cohen
Chair, EPRA
Cc the EPRA board