

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE ACTIVITY
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
1977-78
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The Noise Pollution Control Section of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment received 368 new noise complaints in 1977-78 from all areas of the province excluding the City of Toronto who independently report receiving 778 noise complaints for the same period. No new prosecutions were initiated in the past year by the Ministry pursuant to provisions of The Environmental Protection Act. One conviction for excessive noise from a building central air conditioning system is being appealed before the Courts and an appeal against one Control Order was withdrawn by the appellant and the case closed.

Five municipalities have now adopted qualitative noise control by-laws which, pursuant to the legislation, have been approved by the Minister of the Environment. Of these, the by-laws of North Bay, Barrie and Guelph have been printed for general distribution and information. In addition, the City of Hamilton has adopted a more comprehensive by-law including many quantitative noise control limits.

The third year of the Environmental Acoustics Technology training program has been completed; more than 100 additional candidates received instruction in noise control and in noise abatement techniques in land use planning. Four of the Ministry training manuals in the series were revised and reprinted to meet public demand.

During the year, the Noise Pollution Control Section provided technical analysis and comment on 410 new land use projects including changes in Official Plan and new subdivisions. It also analysed potential noise impacts from 40 new industrial projects submitted to the Ministry for approval.

A railway noise symposium co-sponsored by CP Rail and the Ministry was held in Toronto in May to discuss the environmental land use problems arising from noisy railway activities. Most Federal agencies and concerned Provincial agencies attended and contributed to the symposium. A comprehensive report on the symposium and background documents was later circulated to all participants.

Two noise related projects were funded by the Ministry under the Ontario Experience '77 program and considerable data was gathered by students working under professional supervision. In addition, work continued on four major in-house projects related to aircraft noise, freeway noise, impulsive noise and truck noise. Interim reports on aspects of the research are being prepared for distribution and comment.

To date, only one research project application has been received for funding under the Ontario Provincial Lottery program. This application concerns the effect of traffic noise on health. In contrast, three research projects on occupational noise research have already been approved by the Ontario Ministry of Labour and funded.

In conclusion, it is estimated that developers of new subdivisions in Ontario have invested between \$300,000 of \$400,000 in impact studies during the past year in support of development applications in potentially noisy areas. However, the actual investment in physical noise control measures on site and in construction is an intangible. Another statistic of interest is the fact that over the past three years, 486 man-weeks of training in acoustics theory, instrumentation and noise abatement techniques has been provided. Many trainees have had a total of three weeks of training while others only have had one or two weeks of training. Since certificates of competency issued by the Ministry are valid for three years only, Noise Control Officers trained in the first year of the Ministry educational program must return in 1978/79 for retaining and recertification.