

RE: LETTER DATED JULY 12, 1975 FROM MR. D.Y. STEVENSON  
7036 HILLVIEW STREET, AND OTHERS  
NOISE FROM RADIO-CONTROLLED MODEL AIRCRAFT

ITEM 47 (SUPPLEMENTARY)  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 49  
COUNCIL MEETING July 21/75

Appearing on the Agenda for the July 12, 1975 meeting of Council is a letter from Mr. D.Y. Stevenson and others protesting against the noise from radio-controlled model aircraft in use at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex, and petitioning that steps be taken to "withdraw the privileges of those individuals or club members who use the facilities" for such purposes.

The following is the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, which includes the recommendation that the flying of radio-controlled aircraft at the Complex be prohibited. The Parks & Recreation Administrator advises that clubs or individuals wishing to use Parks' facilities for flying purposes are required to first obtain approval from the Parks and Recreation Department. The Administrator also advises that the matter of model aircraft flying, including consideration of control measures over use of such aircraft at Parks' sites, and consideration of sites other than the Sports Complex, is under current examination by his Department, with a report expected to be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for its meeting of August 6, 1975.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT this matter be tabled pending receipt of a report from the Parks and Recreation Commission; and
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for its information, and to Mr. D.Y. Stevenson and others protesting the flying of radio-controlled aircraft at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex.

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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DEPARTMENT:

DATE: July 18/75

FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR

DEPARTMENT:

OUR FILE # 17-9-75

SUBJECT:

OPERATION OF MODEL AIRCRAFT - BURNABY LAKE SPORTS COMPLEX

YOUR FILE #

Further to the above-noted petition received July 16th, 1975, we would advise the noise producing hobby use of the Burnaby Lake Sports complex has been a source of concern to this Department for some considerable length of time.

On July 2nd, 1975, we received a complaint from a resident on Cardinal Drive regarding noise from model aircraft flying. On Saturday, July 5th, 1975, we visited the complex and ascertained that there was no model aircraft flying at that time. We did monitor the ambient or background noise at three points on the perimeter of the complex and established an average level of 50 dBA. On Sunday, July 6th, 1975, we again visited the complex and observed three model aircraft, which were flying singly. The level of noise emission was as follows:

SITE #1 - South Perimeter of Park (Thomas Street)

Average - 60 dBA Peak - 66 dBA

SITE #2 - Car Park on Sperling (Approximately 100 yards North of Changing Rooms)

Average - 52 dBA Peak - 54 dBA

SITE #2 - Repeat of Measurements (40 minutes later)

Average - 55 dBA Peak - 61 dBA

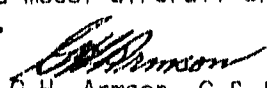
SITE #3 - 3375 Cardinal Drive (Elevated Sundeck facing Park Site)

Ambient or Background - 46 dBA

Average - 48 dBA Peak - 51 dBA

At the time of monitoring the perimeter levels of noise emission exceeded the standards as set forth in the Noise By-law by 6 dBA. One cannot place too much importance on this fact as flight height, type of manoeuvre, type of plane (radio controlled), mufflers, number of planes and perimeter of flying area could have an effect on the level of noise emission. If, as alleged by the complaints, flying takes place on summer weekday evenings as well as daylight hours on weekends, a further factor of annoyance to nearby residents is introduced. Coupled with the foregoing, is the very important factor of safety to persons using the park site, i.e., inexperienced operator, loss of plane control, careless operation.

We are of the opinion that the complaints of noise as received from affected citizens and relating to the flying of radio controlled model aircraft flying on or from the Burnaby Lake Sports complex are warranted and as such, we would recommend that the flying of radio controlled model aircraft on or from the Burnaby Lake Sports complex be prohibited.

  
G.H. Armson, C.S.I. (C)  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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