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Motorcycle speed and noise a problem in Shelburne and Mulmur

Dear editor:

For many years I have spoken to Mulmur council about the ?tyranny of motorcycles' on our local roads'. I have been met with pleasant smiles and insipid responses. Councillors claim they can do nothing as it is a police matter. The local OPP leader claims to have his ?hand bound' and appears to be content to record accidents, wary of court convictions in other jurisdictions. How long will Mulmur taxpayers be required to endure the speed, noise and abuse of hundreds of ?crotch rockets' and ?hogs' (Harleys) disrespecting our community? Cars must have effective mufflers and emission tests before they use the roads. Why not motorcycles? The latest hazards are ?rocketeers' leaning over the yellow line ? just like the racers at Mosport. So far this year, my wife and I have twice been forced to hit the road shoulder to avoid crashes. How many more bodies will our emergency responders have to pick up from ditches? Our Councils have choices: to continue to ignore the problem, to insist that our roads are continually patrolled by police (not only as pay duty officers), to post signs warning motorcyclists that their speed and mufflers will be checked, to put speed bumps on the straightaways. Local residents, especially cyclists, horse riders, walkers and families with children ? are prevented from enjoying their surroundings. And, Dufferin County risks losing visitors to cultural events if weekends are not safe on our roads. Council must stand up for their citizens! Otherwise, citizens may have to act on their own with blockades, signs, etc.

P.S. ? On the May 24 week-end, hordes of motorcycles used 20 S.R./River Road in one hour, I counted 127 bikers, ? more than half speeders ? and just as many with loud noises ?blowing out their pipes'.

Dick Byford, Mulmur