

Halifax Regional Police

1975 Gottingen St.
Halifax, NS B3J 2H1

To Report an Emergency or
Crime-in-Progress
911

Non-Emergency
490-5020

General Inquiries
490-5016

Community Offices

Central Division
(Peninsular Halifax)
490-5686

East Division
(Dartmouth)
490-5171

West Division
(Mainland Halifax & Bedford)
490-5200

Halifax Regional Municipality
By-Law

490-4000



*Leading and Partnering
in our Community to
Serve and Protect*

Quality of Life Concerns

For more information contact:

Halifax Regional Police
Central Community Office
(Peninsular Halifax)
490-5686

www.police.halifax.ns.ca

Background

In September, Halifax Regional Municipality becomes the home for approximately 30,000 students, 25,000 of whom attend Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University and King's College.

Every year there is an increase of complaints that are related to the actions of students who reside both on and off campus. The major concern is noise but there are also complaints of liquor offences, property damage and by-law offences such as unsightly premises. The complaints come from not only long-term residents but from other students as well. In many cases, the offenders are unaware how their actions are affecting their neighbours or the other members of the community.

The number of noise by-law tickets increased significantly in 2005/06, as did the number of Liquor Control Act tickets and criminal charges, resulting in significant fines for the offenders.

The communities around the universities are made up of a mixture of single family houses and rental properties primarily utilized by students; **there is no student ghetto**. In an attempt to reduce the inconvenience to the community and to save the offenders the cost of the fines, this pamphlet has been created to explain the common issues and the repercussions for violating them.

Noise

HRM Noise By-law N200

Sec 3(1): Engaging in activity that unreasonably disturbs neighbourhood

- 1st offence \$445.00
- 2nd offence \$905.00
- 3rd offence \$1250.00

This by-law is intended to allow residents to enjoy their properties. This by-law is in effect 24 hours-a-day and if the noise is unreasonable, tickets will be issued. This section is used for, but is not limited to, the following cases:

- loud parties
- music which can include the volume and/or bass level
- loud televisions
- loud voices, yelling/screaming from a house or pedestrians

The residents are responsible for their own behaviour as well as that of their roommates and guests. Any action that unreasonably disturbs the neighbourhood will result in charges. **Warnings do not have to be given prior to a ticket being issued.** Severe incidents may result in criminal charges being laid. For more information on the Noise By-Law you can contact Halifax Regional Police or visit:

www.halifax.ca/legislation/bylaws/hrm/index.html

Liquor Offences

Liquor Control Act

The following sections can be used separately or together.

Sec 78(2): Illegally possessing liquor. (Possessing it underage or having open liquor in public. This includes going next door/across the street).
\$445.00

Sec 78(3): Underage drinking.
\$445.00

Sec 87(1): Being intoxicated in a public place.
\$111.50

Sec 95(a): Permitting drunkenness to take place in any house or any premises of which he/she is the owner, tenant or occupant.
NIL Fine (must attend court)

You do not have to be intoxicated to be charged for illegally possessing liquor or underage drinking. **If you are intoxicated, you can be charged and/or held until sober.**

Actions such as tipping over mailboxes/garbage cans, urinating in public, ripping out plants, yelling and screaming and/or running in and out of traffic increase the chances of being arrested and being held and/or charged.

Mischief/Property Damage

430. (1) Every one commits mischief who wilfully

(a) destroys or damages property;

(b) renders property dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective;

(c) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property; or

(d) obstructs, interrupts or interferes with any person in the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property.

This section is usually used in cases where things are broken or damaged (windows, railings, gardens) under sub-section (c) and (b). It can also be used in cases where someone's actions obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property.

(4) Every one who commits mischief in relation to property

(a) is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or

(b) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Disturbances

175(1) Every one who

(a) not being in a dwelling-house, causes a disturbance in or near a public place,

(i) by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting or obscene language,

(ii) by being drunk, or

(iii) by impeding or molesting other persons,

(b) openly exposes or exhibits an indecent exhibition in a public place,

(c) loiters in a public place and in any way obstructs persons who are in that place,

is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.



Suggestions

- Upon moving in, introduce yourself to your neighbours and provide them with contact information.
- Get to know your neighbours. (Are they a young family? Do they have to get up early?)
- Take pride in your community by keeping your property clean. While the landlord may be responsible for cutting the grass and removing snow, it is the people living there who are responsible for garbage and other quality of life issues that may make it unsightly.
- Be aware of garbage collection and the regulations for putting out garbage (see By-law website).
- Be aware of how your actions may affect your neighbours or the community.
- If you live off campus, you are part of the community and a representative of your university/college.