

HALIFAX HOMECOMING

A call for municipal action

ISSUE

Since 2017, an unsanctioned homecoming street party has been permitted to occur *year-over-year* in the Jennings St., Larch St., and Preston St. area. Due to inaction, the annual party has increased in size and severity, resulting in stabbings, injured officers, street fires, property damage, illegal and under-aged drinking, and an inability for emergency responders to service the area.

This not acceptable!

PRESTON ST.

JENNINGS ST.

LARCH ST.

JENNINGS ST.
PRESTON ST.
LARCH ST.

HALIFAX HOMECOMING (2017-2022)

OCT. 2017

Nova Scotia

Students fined, community outreach planned after Dalhousie street party

Halifax police say they arrested 23 students after homecoming celebrations spilled into streets

Elizabeth McMillan - CBC News | Posted: Oct 16, 2017 6:20 PM AT | Last Updated: October 17, 2017



SEPT. 2018

CANADA

No arrests at off-campus Dalhousie homecoming bash

By Graeme Benjamin - Global News | Posted September 29, 2018 3:28 pm



SEPT. 2021

Nova Scotia

Search for solutions begins after huge Dal student party overwhelms neighbourhood

Thousands gathered in the streets to celebrate Dalhousie University homecoming

Nicola Seguin - CBC News | Posted: Sep 27, 2021 5:05 PM AT | Last Updated: September 27, 2021



OCT. 2022

Nova Scotia

Arrests made after police respond to massive student street parties in Halifax

Police estimate that as many as 4,000 people took part in the gatherings

CBC News | Posted: Oct 02, 2022 2:46 PM AT | Last Updated: October 2, 2022



Halifax Homecoming (2022) – an immersive video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aluTDEdx4oA>.

HALIFAX HOMECOMING: A MUNICIPAL ISSUE



CAUSE

It is unclear to community residents what the cause of this recurrent, riotous event may be; perhaps:

1. HRM silence has led to endorsement
2. Ineffective HRM by-laws
3. Lack of 'ownership'/finger-pointing
4. Lack of HRP preparedness/resourcing

Regardless of the cause, this is a municipal issue that requires a municipal solution.

IMPACT

Aside from an unsafe and uncontrolled environment for local residents, this event has an impact on our health care system, emergency response services, policing, and clean-up, to name a few; all of which comes at a significant cost to the municipal budget.

PRESTON ST.

JENNINGS ST.

LARCH ST.

OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Other jurisdictions across Canada have observed municipal leadership on this issue, putting more robust ‘nuisance’ by-laws in place:

1. Kingston (**Queens**) <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/bylaws/nuisance-party-by-law>
See: explanation and legal critique: <https://certificate.queenslaw.ca/blog/keep-calm-and-party-on-or-stop-municipal-nuisance-party-by-laws-explained>
2. Hamilton (**McMaster**) <https://hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-09/22-235.pdf>
See: dedicated municipal website: <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/house-home/property/university-district-safety-initiative>
1. Wolfville (**Acadia**) <https://wolfville.ca/sites/default/files/2022-07/Wolfville%27s%20Nuisance%20Party%20By-law.pdf>
2. Waterloo (**Wilfrid Laurier, UWaterloo**) <https://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/nuisance-by-law.aspx>

A CALL FOR MUNICIPAL ACTION



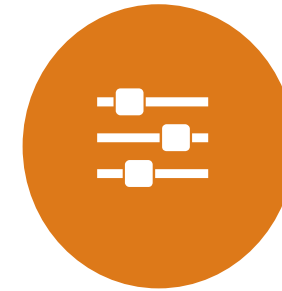
Stop Finger-pointing & Start Analyzing



Coordinate Actions Across Accountable Stakeholders



Strengthen By-laws: Increased Fines / Cost-recovery



Early-intervention & Preventative Enforcement

CONCLUSION

The Jennings St., Larch St., and Preston St. area is a diverse and dynamic community. Students are a positive element, but large, dangerous, and unsanctioned street parties are not appropriate.

Our community is **calling on HRM Council to action a modernized 'nuisance' by-law** similar to bylaws adopted elsewhere.

A bylaw that has increased fines and greater legal authority to prevent, manage, and cost-recover from those who illegally organize and participate in unsanctioned street parties.

