



Task Force on Street Parties Report

Fall 2023

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Executive Summary

The Task Force on Street Parties met a total of five times with meetings ranging from 30 minutes to one hour from June 2022 to March 2023. The five working groups met separately between two and six times from July 2022 to March 2023. The dedication of these task force and working group members is demonstrated in the recommendations presented in this report.

The recommendations presented, are based upon careful consideration, research, and discussion. It is recognized that, although far from normal or acceptable, this current trend of street parties is a reality. Recommendations were formulated after also considering previous efforts taken, and the concerns of all community partners. The task force and working groups understand that

Members of Task Force on Street Parties

- Principal and Vice-Chancellor – Chair
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- Vice Principal, University Relations
- Queen's Senate/Orientation Review Member
- University Council Member
- University Rector
- The Alma Mater Society (AMS) President, or designate
- Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) President, or designate
- Vice-Dfcj cghUbX`8YUb`cZGh`XYbh5`U]fg
- Associate Vice Principal (Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion)
- Director Campus Security and Emergency Services
- 7]hmcZ??]b[ghcb`@UXYfg\]d`FYdfYgYbHh]j`Y`fA`Umc`f`g`8Yg][`bUH`Y`
- City of Kingston By-@Jk`FYdfYgYbHh]j`Y`
- City of Kingston Police Representative
- Frontenac Paramedics Representative
- KGH/Hotel Dieu Hospital Representative
- University Health Representative
- ? : @`5`Di`V`]Wk`YU`h`Representative
- Gh`@Jk`fYbW`7c``Y[Y`FYdfYgYbHh]j`Y`
- Royal Military College Representative
- Sydenham District (Neighbourhood) Association Representative
- Portsmouth District Community (Neighbourhood) Association Representative
-

Working Groups

expected, Campus Security takes proactive measures by patrolling the neighborhood and works with the Niagara Regional Police. Additionally, Brock University provides financial support for several "Special Duty Officer" positions within the NRP during peak times, further reinforcing security efforts.

Brock Homecoming, scheduled for September 23-25, 2022, coincided with the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival and its associated parade. To offer students an alternative activity, Brock University actively participates in the parade with a float. Brock University invested in a community outreach model. This initiative involves door knocking, student engagement and outreach, as well as educational programs conducted in partnership with municipalities and enforcement agencies. The university aims to build a safer and more harmonious community for everyone involved.

Guelph's Homecoming occurred on September 24, 2022. A major unsanctioned gathering took place on Chancellor's Way, which is within university property. This location choice helps reduce disruptions to off-campus neighborhoods. In response to egregious behavior, individuals may receive Provincial offences tickets, but generally, no additional measures under the Guelph Student Code of Conduct are followed up. To engage students and promote responsible behavior, Guelph conducts a September door knock campaign. Officers participate, distributing magnets featuring both the city and university logos along with a QR code linking to their Off-7Ua di g@j]b['k YVg]hY"

Western University's Homecoming was held on September 24, 2022, featuring a student-focused event called "Fan Festival" at the football stadium. Approximately 10-12K students attended the festival, which included a street party with 6K students. The highlight of the event was the presence of 24 food trucks both inside and outside the stadium, offering unlimited food access to students between 11 am and 5 pm.

In addition to the food festival, students received free tickets to the football game and enjoyed various activities. Campus partners actively participated in organizing and hosting the event, while around 200 faculty and staff volunteers assisted throughout the day. Despite a smaller police presence as compared to previous years there were no major issues reported. This year's street party saw a significant shift from previous years, with attendance decreasing to 6K and the event taking place in the evening. After the food festival, more students attended smaller house parties. The event's anticipated cost was approximately \$100K. Overall, the Fan Festival had a better outcome than past concerts organized by the Student Union. Instead of sending a warning email to students, which was perceived to escalate retaliatory responses, the University President chose not to issue such messages this time.

Waterloo is actively addressing the issue of unsanctioned gatherings through collaborative efforts. The City of Kitchener co-chairs the Town and Gown Committee, which involves local post-secondary institutions, students, and law enforcement. One successful measure implemented is the use of fences on Ezra St, which has proven effective in controlling the crowd and improving community safety during such gatherings. The cost of these fences is shared among private landlords, the city, and the university. To further enhance their approach, Waterloo is considering the implementation of a UDSI (University District Safety Initiative)/nuisance party regime. As part of their communication strategy, the city has paused door knocking activities and is now focusing

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Psycho-Social Analysis, including Historical/Cultural Context

What Are the Risks of Large Street Gatherings?

- Growth of the University District in quite a few years - sense of Aberdeen Street being student owned. This changes the dynamic of community partnerships and students "living within" neighbourhoods. It can and may drive a culture of separation and lack of feelings of responsibility and connection to the rest of the city or surrounding neighbourhoods.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a public database.
 - a. Historical and future data should be collected on the number of arrests, charges and prosecutions, Queen's internal discipline proceedings, and any other pertinent information. A public database should be established. Relevant community partners to provide data statistics will be identified and Queen's University should be the primary maintainer of the database confidentially.
2. Acknowledge that party phenomenon is an evolution of current cultural context and the way it is perceived.
 - a. Historical data should be collected on party phenomenon.

Aberdeen 2020

Enforcement/Policing Issues

The Enforcement/Policing Issues working group met six times from July 2022 to March 2023 ranging from 45 to 90 minutes for each meeting. A range of topics were discussed regarding enforcement and policing issues around street parties. As indicated below this working group did not come to a consensus and additional recommendations were put forward by members of the community.

Throughout discussions with the task force, and in previous discussion with partners, Kingston Police has been engaged and receptive. They are clear that their focus is on the safety of Kingston's students, community, and visitors. The Kingston Police have been explicit in stating that they do not want to prevent students from celebrating, however, they must intervene in the interest of safety when crowds become too large to manage. It is against this backdrop, that the Enforcement and Policing working group has formed its recommendations.

These recommendations were taken to the task force for final review and approval in March 2023 and were posted for public consultation in March 2023.

Members:

- Bcfa U'6UffYHzGh XYbh5 UJfg, Queen's University
- Justin Connidis, Sydenham District Association
- ; Yc '8Ya dgHyfz?]b[gfc b'Dc`]W
- Bittu George, University Council
- John Grenville, Williamsville District Association
- Zaid Kasim, Student Community Outreach Coordinator
- GUa UfU'@]Ua zQueen's Student Alumni Association President
- Dean Popov, Frontenac Paramedics
- ; fUW N\Ub[zDf]bV]dU'gC W'Gh XYbh bhYfb

Pertinent Meeting Discussions:

- **What are some of the issues surrounding street parties from an enforcement and policing perspective?**
 - May be perceived as over policed when disproportionate amount of resources are

- One significant

Communications

The Communications working group met twice over the summer of 2022 for at least 90 minutes each meeting. At these meetings discussions around evidence-informed health promotion as well as ensuring all community members are engaged occurred. It was determined that there are many good communication tactics already happening at Queen's University in the forms of monthly and weekly meetings with communications, enforcement, health, and Queen's community members. The tactic of building a community within the university as well as the city is very important to the working group.

The communications working group aimed to determine effective methods for spreading unified messaging prior to street parties. By learning from past approaches and collaborating openly, the group identified ways to ensure all community members are involved

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- Kate A WłbbY`žDf]bVdU`g`C` W`Gh XYbh bhYfb
- Matt Mills, Frontenac Paramedics
- Sgt. Clem Nesanayagam, Kingston Police
- Brenda Paul, Communications, Queen's University
- Ellie GUX]b_gnžGh XYbh5 U]fgžE i YYb g'l b]j Yfg]m

Recommendations:

1. Increase funding for evidence-informed health promotion campaigns and market research to inform and implement communications that would resonate with Queen's students.
 - a. This would include focus groups.
2. Engage with neighbourhood associations by including them in conversations surrounding street parties, enforcement, and sharing of resources.
3. Begin communications regarding street parties/getting through the cultural shift of parties as soon as students arrive in Kingston (inherently including all community partners).
 - a. Overall message about building community together - create a sense of expectations, togetherness, and responsibility.
4. Provide police and campus security with more facetime with students during orientation week and/or orientation training.

Public Health and Safety/Harm Reduction Education

The Public Health and Safety/Harm Reduction Education working group met twice over the summer of 2022 for at least 90 minutes each meeting. They discussed and researched a range of public health and harm reduction topics to get a better understanding of the culture of street parties. The focus, as noted below in the final recommendations, is to support harm reduction campaigns by expanding reach and facilitating harm reduction measures.

These recommendations were taken to the task force for final review and approval in September 2022 and were posted for public consultation in October 2022.

Members:

- 7Uħ m9Xk UfXg:F"B "ž?: @ 5`Di V`JW< YU`ħ
- Marc Goudie, Frontenac Paramedics
- Kate Humphrys, Student Wellness Services, Queen's University
- Zaid Kasim, Student Community Outreach Coordinator, Queen's University
- @n`GW`Y`ž?: @ 5`Di V`JW< YU`ħ
- Tara Sharkey, Sydenham District Association
- Purity Shem K Uħk UħžDf]bVdU`gC W`Gh XYbhIntern
- Chloe Stone, VP Professional, SGPS

Recommendations:

1. Use the Postsecondary Education Partnership-Alcohol Harms Framework ([PEP-AH Framework](#)) more broadly and incorporate community actions and interventions to reduce alcohol harm.
2. Support alcohol harm reduction campaigns (e.g. Before the Floor) by funding targeted messaging to Queen's community.
 - a. Queen's University to help expand the reach of these campaigns.
3. Facilitate access to harm reduction measures.
 - a. When street parties are expected to take place, Queen's University should facilitate access to food trucks, water trucks, washroom facilities, triage, and the Campus Observation Room (COR), alongside any additional harm reduction measures.
4. Increase the funding for health promotion video production.

Appendix

Queen's University Task Force on Street Parties Terms of Reference

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Street Parties – @Jf[Yzi bgUbV]cbYX'gfYYh[UH.Yf]b[g'UbX#cf'dUfh]Yg'hd]W'm]b'cf'Ufci bX'h.Y'
University District

The University – Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario

Students – Students attending Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario

AMS – Alma Mater Society of Queen's University

SGPS – Society of Graduate and Professional Students

II. Background

Situated in Kingston, Ontario, Queen's University is home to over 24,000 students. Apart from engaging with the University campus, students live in the broader Kingston community as residents and occupy collective spaces with community members.

Historically, Kingston has stBDC 0.0]P #MCID 29 es.

- a. Review laws, regulations, and policies used in other jurisdictions and make recommendations outlining strategies to address large street parties;
- b. Consult with Queen's students, community members, and other interested and affected parties in the Queen's and/or Kingston community regarding the issue of street parties and potential approaches to address the issue; and
- c. Report back to the Queen's and Kingston community in the fall of 2022 with recommendations and an implementation strategy.

IV. Principles

The Task Force on Street Parties shall keep in mind the following principles:

- a. Street parties pose a safety detriment to the Queen's and Kingston community;
- b. Street parties place a disproportionate strain on local enforcement and healthcare partners;
- c. Street parties in the University District during Orientation Week, Homecoming, and St. Patrick's Day are embedded in the Queen's student culture;
- d.

