

THE OC LINK

OFF CAMPUS LIVING NEWS FOR FANSHAWE COLLEGE STUDENTS
MARCH 2021

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St. Patrick's Day Tips

With St. Patrick's Day approaching, here are some safety tips to keep in mind while having a sham'rocking day celebrating with members of your household.

1. Household Only: Limit your festive guest list to only the people who live in your household.
2. Follow Current Health and Safety Guidelines: Keep yourself and your community safe this year. Follow the current guidelines provided by Middlesex-London Health Unit: <https://www.healthunit.com/novel-coronavirus>
3. London Bylaws: Property standards must be maintained, such as keeping properties litter-free, 24/7 noise bylaw and only using patio furniture when outdoors.
4. Liquor Laws: The Liquor License Act prohibits consumption of alcohol anywhere other than a residential or licensed area.

Away for the Summer: Subletting

By Lindsay

Are you living away from your rental this summer? If you do not share a kitchen and/or bathroom with your landlord or a member of their immediate family, then you are covered under the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA), and have the right to sublet your rental unit as long as you don't profit from your sub-tenant. Your landlord cannot deny you permission to sublet under the RTA without good reason (e.g. your sub-tenant has poor tenant history).

If you are not covered under the RTA, then you are not guaranteed the right to sublet, and will have to check your lease and discuss with your landlord.

Subletting involves a non-RTA relationship between you and your sub-tenant, which means you are ultimately responsible for any damages, disturbances and rent payments to the landlord. We suggest that you keep this in mind when searching for prospective sub-tenants, and complete a sublet agreement with your sub-tenants found on our website: https://www.fanshawec.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/housing/sublet_agreement.pdf

Home Safety Tips

By: Haleh

Planning to leave London for an extended period of time, or just looking for extra measures to secure your home? Read on for some important home safety tips!

Always lock your door before leaving the house: Even if you're only stepping out for a few minutes or planning to be home for the whole day, leaving your door unlocked is the perfect chance for an opportunistic intruder. Make sure to discuss this with your roommates to make sure that everyone locks the door whenever they enter or leave the house.

Make sure your home does not look empty: By regularly emptying your mailbox, shoveling your driveway, mowing the grass, or leaving an exterior light on, you can make sure it always seems like someone is home and deter potential intruders. If you are leaving for an extended period of time, have someone you trust collect your mail and shovel your driveway when you are gone.

Make sure that your windows are locked: If your house is on the ground or basement floor, windows are very easy access for burglars to enter. If you have a sliding window that doesn't lock, you can stick a metal or wooden bar in between the window and the wall to ensure that it stays closed.

I hope you can use these tips to ensure that you and your home stay safe!

Move Out Tips and Reminders

By: Haleh

Will you be moving out this April or later in the summer? Here are some things to remember to do before you leave your current rental!

Give your notice: Tenants must give written notice called an N9 form to their landlord to notify them that they will be leaving the property when the lease ends. If you are protected

by the Residential Tenancies Act (you do not share a kitchen and/or bathroom with the landlord or a member of their immediate family), you must give 60 days' written notice to move out at the end of the lease term or for a monthly tenancy. If you don't do this, your landlord could hold you accountable for rent until proper written notice is submitted.

If you are planning on hiring movers, make sure to contact companies early and get several quotes before you decide to book with any of them: Rates around April are quite competitive and if you check several different companies, you have a better chance of obtaining a lower rate. Be sure to mention you're a student to see if a discount rate is available.

Cancel any utility and internet accounts linked to your address: Remind your roommates of this too so that none of you continue to receive bills after you have moved out.

Divert your waste from a landfill: If you have a lot of items that you no longer need, and they are in good condition, consider donating or selling them! There are many Goodwill locations in London that have donation centres to drop off your items.

Contact the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore to see if they are accepting donations for furniture you no longer need. Upholstered furniture in good condition is typically in high demand. Depending on availability, they might be able to pick up your larger donation items.

Tips for Staying Flame-Free

By Preya

As the weather warms up and we use our fireplace less frequently or light those cozy scented candles less, it's easy to forget that fire risks are still very real. It is important to be constantly aware and proactive to minimize fire hazards in your rental and to save yourself from a potentially dangerous situation. Here are some tips to reduce the risk of fire in your home:

1. It is your landlord's responsibility to ensure there are working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor in the house. Test these detectors monthly and report any issues to your landlord.
2. Never run electrical cords under rugs or furniture.
3. Do not leave the stove unattended while cooking.
4. Plug all major appliances directly into a wall outlet and not extension cords. Also, avoid overloading electrical outlets with extension cords.

To be prepared for a fire emergency, map out all possible exits in your rental unit and talk about a fire escape plan with your roommates. Practice this plan!

COVID-19 Assessment Centres

If you feel you may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or meet any of the requirements for needing a COVID-19 test, please visit one of London's local test centres, get tested and then immediately self-isolate while you wait for the results.

Fanshawe College students can schedule a COVID-19 test on campus. Visit the Health Services website for more information: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/health-services>.

Assessment Centres in London

Book an appointment online: <https://covidtestinglm.ca/>

Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre

656 Elizabeth St., London

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Oakridge Arena

825 Valetta St., London

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Reporting a COVID-19 Order Violation

If you have concerns about COVID-19 order violations in the City of London, please email the City at COVIDOrderConcerns@london.ca (email monitored 24/7) or call 519-661-4660 (phone line monitored Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

COVID-19 Hot Line: 519-663-5317 and press "1"

(Monday to Sunday from 8:30AM to 7:00PM)

Email: covid@mlhu.on.ca

Fanshawe College Housing Mediation Service-Counselling and Accessibility Services

Office: Room F2010

Phone: 519-452-4282

Email: housing.mediation@fanshawec.ca

Website: www.fanshawec.ca/housing

OR

Monday to Friday: 519-661-3787