

THE OC LINK

OFF-CAMPUS LIVING NEWS FOR FANSHAWE COLLEGE STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 2018

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Be Aware, Be Safe, Be Kind

Welcome back, students! September is a month of settling back into academic routines, but also to reconnect with friends you may have not seen for four months. If you are hosting or attending an event off-campus, make sure to keep this article in mind.

Be aware that Project LEARN is in effect. This means there will be increased enforcement of by-laws related to parties, parking, and other violations in the city.

Be safe and know who you are inviting into your home. There have been recent incidents of uninvited guests attending student parties where theft and illegal weapons were involved.

Be kind. Be kind to your roommates, landlord, and your neighbours. Consider your actions and how they may impact others when living off-campus. Here is a brief crash course of by-laws that may be important for you to know:

- Noise: London has a 24/7 noise by-law. Think twice before throwing that party as tenants can be fined individually between \$200 and \$2000—even if you weren't home while your roommates were hosting that fiasco!
- Mischief: Mischief is defined as purposely causing trouble; for example, stealing road signs. An infraction could lead to a court appearance, a fine up to \$5000, and jail time.
- Nuisance: Nuisance refers to a social gathering that causes disruption to the public. Examples of nuisance are public intoxication, outdoor public urination, disorderly conduct, and damage/destruction to public property. Fines can be between \$500 and \$10,000.
- Property Maintenance: Indoor furniture cannot be kept outside. That includes the front lawn and porch! Grass must be kept less than eight inches and the lawn kept free of junk and litter.

- Parking: You can only park a vehicle in a designated space or driveway. Parking over the lawn, sidewalk, curb, or on the street between 3-5 a.m. are all illegal!

Utility Autonomy

Paying for your own utilities can save you money if you can manage your usage and payments well. It is recommended you share the responsibility of utilities and assign each roommate to one utility, then agree upon a date each month when you and your roommates will all give your portion of the payment to that roommate. This will help avoid confusion or conflicts over utilities payments.

If you do accidentally miss a payment, call your utilities provider as soon as possible, take responsibility for your mistake, make it clear that you're prepared to pay, and then of course, follow through. Late payment charges do not begin until 16 days after your bill was issued, and electricity providers must give 10 days' notice before cutting off service, so you will have time to pay before facing any serious consequences.

Finally, whether your utilities are included in your rent or paid for separately, you can stay under your utilities cap or keep your costs down by avoiding electricity usage during the more expensive "on-peak" hours. Throughout the entire year, weekends and statutory holidays are considered off-peak times.

Students are also encouraged to apply to the Ontario Electricity Support Program. You may qualify for monthly credits that can be applied to your electricity bill to help keep your utilities costs lower!

Be a Part of the Solution, Not the Pollution

London operates on an 8-day garbage schedule meaning your garbage collection day will be on a different day each week. Be sure to check your address and corresponding Zone (A-F) on the MyWaste Smartphone App or on the City of London's website. Note that there is a 3-bag/container limit for garbage per residential property unless there are multiple units at the same house (in which case 3 bags/containers are permitted per unit).

As the schedule is different for every zone, you can refer to the calendar in the app and also set notifications to ensure that you never miss a pickup date. This app proves very helpful as stat holidays can alter the rotation and there may be change that can affect your projected pickup days. In addition to the schedule, there is information about how to sort your garbage and recycling properly and how to deal with certain materials that you may have questions about (ie. glass, needles, electronics).

In London, it is important to separate your paper and plastics when recycling. In order to properly sort your recycling, two blue bins are necessary. When recycling cardboard, be sure to break boxes down, flatten, and tie it in bundles to ensure that the City picks it up with your regular recycling collection!

In accordance with City by-laws, you are only permitted to put your garbage and recycling at the curbside between 6 pm the night before and 7 am on the morning of your pickup. Be sure to take out your garbage within this time window in order to avoid fines.

If You Can't Handle the Heat, Practice Fire Safety in the Kitchen

For many students, living off-campus means cooking for yourself, and that includes knowing how to prevent and manage kitchen fires. You may have heard the usual advice to keep your cooking area clear of flammable objects and to be mindful of loose clothing while cooking, but do you know how to control a grease fire?

To prevent grease fires in the first place, clean your stovetop, microwave, and oven regularly, as built up grease is a common cause of kitchen fires. If a grease fire does occur, do not pour water on it. Turn off the heat and put a lid on the pot or keep your oven or microwave closed, and the fire should extinguish itself. If the fire is small, you can also pour baking soda on it. As a last resort, spray the fire with a Class B Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher, and if the fire is uncontrollable, get out of the house and call 911.

Don't Want to Receive a Fine? Follow These Guidelines

Maintaining the appearance of your home is important to the London community as well as your individual neighbourhood. To find out if it is the landlord's or tenant's responsibility for the following tasks, check your lease or speak to your landlord about them. If any of the following situations occur, all tenants in your home could be subject to a ticket from a By-law Enforcement Officer. We recommend if any of these apply to you and your home, that you make the necessary changes as soon as possible:

1. Grass on your property must be kept below 8 inches.
2. Litter on your front lawn must be cleaned up in a timely manner, regardless of who the garbage belongs to; all the tenants of said property may be subject to fines.
3. Indoor furniture is not to be displayed anywhere outside – that means not on your porch or front lawn, even if you and your landlord agree to keep it there.
4. City of London prohibits vehicles from being parked anywhere other than a designated parking space or driveway. Avoid parking over the sidewalk or on the lawn. It is also illegal to park on the street between the hours of 3-5 a.m.
5. Leaving garbage or recycling at your curb outside of the appropriate window before your scheduled pickup date may subject you to a fine.

The Do's and Don'ts of Grocery Shopping

Picture this: It's 11 pm the night before your midterm. You are frantically trying to cram as much knowledge into your head as possible, but you're not succeeding. You give up for the

moment and decide to head to the kitchen for a snack (because let's face it, stress eating happens) only to find out there's nothing in your fridge!

Does this sound like it might be you? If so, take a second to check out the tips below and see how you can be grocery shopping savvy.

DO plan ahead: Decide how much you want to spend on food every month, and then how often you will go shopping. Think about the dishes you plan to make that week, and what you'll need for them. Definitely make a grocery list before you hit the store.

DO look for sales: Weekly flyers are a great source of information, and many stores often price match if you find the same item cheaper somewhere else. Some grocery stores also offer discounts on certain days provided you bring your student I.D.

DON'T buy more than you need: It can be easy to get carried away at the store and overestimate how much food you'll need. When you buy too much, your food may expire and your money will be wasted. Instead, buy non-perishable groceries in bulk, and limit the amount of perishable food you buy.

DON'T shop when you're hungry: When you're hungry at the grocery store, everything looks good. In that situation, it is much easier to impulsively buy food that wasn't part of your list. Go shopping after a meal to save money!

Looking for Furniture? Things to Know Before Opening Your Wallet

Buying new furniture is very exciting, but also a lot of work. Looking for different styles on different websites with a wide range of prices and discounts can take a lot of time and energy. Here are a few tips to consider before you commit to a purchase:

- Establish a budget before shopping for furniture. Visit a few websites and stores to get an idea of the price range before making a decision. If your budget is limited, consider second hand furniture or go to stores that have payment plans.
- See it before you buy it. If you are purchasing used furniture, either ask for multiple pictures or see it in person. Ask about the material and the company they originally bought it from. If you are purchasing it online, look at the items in store before ordering them online.
- Know your environment. Make sure the furniture you buy fit inside your room the way you want it to. Think about the style of each item and how they go together. Know the return and warranty policies in case of defects.

Fanshawe College Housing Mediation Service-Counselling and Accessibility Services

Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Room F2010

519-452-4282

www.fanshawec.ca/housing

OR

Monday – Friday: 519-661-3787