



Kingston Police

Public Agenda Information Report

To: Kingston Police Service Board
From: Scott Fraser, Chief of Police
Subject: Homecoming & “Faux” Homecoming 2025
Date: November 19, 2025

Strategic Priority Alignment:

Administrative/Procedural

Recommendation:

That the Homecoming & “Faux” Homecoming 2025 Report, Report Number 25-77, is for information only.

Background/Analysis:

Queen’s University’s Homecoming celebrations began nearly 100 years ago as an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with and support the school’s football team. Over the years, this event has evolved into large parties for enrolled students and their out-of-town friends. In the last few years, and in addition to Homecoming, students and their associates have also taken it upon themselves, through the influence of social media, to organize large unsanctioned parties in what is now known as “Fauxcoming.”

Intelligence information suggests that the implementation of “Fauxcoming” is largely because Homecoming was scheduled by Queen’s University on the weekend following its fall semester Reading Week. Most students typically do not return from home in time to participate. Both Homecoming and “Fauxcoming” events have historically yielded student-led parties that have swelled to large numbers and poured into the streets surrounding the campus.

While events have varied in length and severity from year to year, an organized response from the Kingston Police Service is required to mitigate these issues and concerns for the safety of the public and the police. Evidence gathered from past

events is continually examined to gauge the needs and scope of the response required each year. In 2025, the Kingston Police committed to reducing our footprint in the University District and our mission statement guided our response:

“Using an integrated response, the Kingston Police along with policing and city partners will keep the peace, enforce legislation and maintain public safety for the duration of the 2025 Queen’s Homecoming event with the utmost respect to the individuals Charter of Rights and Freedoms with priority on community and emergency services personnel safety and wellbeing.”

It was recognized that for this mission to be accomplished, pre-emptive measures were required at the onset of the Queen’s move-in weekend and subsequent weekends leading up to Queen’s Homecoming.

Six (6) Deployment Pre-emptive Strategies were identified and employed:

1. Corporate Communication and Media Messaging Strategy

Messaging was broadcasted via social media prior to and during the Homecoming event in support of the mission statement to discourage illegal behaviour and unsanctioned gatherings; and to educate on the negative impacts these behaviours have on the Kingston Community.

2. Police Liaison Team Outreach Strategy

Police Liaison Teams (PLT) are a key part of police planning and response to major events. The teams are focused on proactive relationship building to assist in resolving issues to help facilitate peaceful events. PLT members work to establish and maintain open and transparent lines of communication with all stakeholders who might be affected, directly or indirectly, by major events. By using effective negotiation and mediation techniques, PLT intervention is a useful way to communicate and avoid conflict.

Members of PLT, (which was comprised of the Ontario Provincial Police and Kingston Police Community Oriented Response and Enforcement Unit), engaged with students and community members in the University District, in cooperation with Queen’s University, to provide consistent education and messaging as per the corporate communication and media messaging strategy.

3. Intelligence and Open-Source Strategy

Kingston Police monitored online activity before and during the event to assist with intelligence gathering and evidence collection.

4. Collective Proactive Presence Strategy

A unified proactive presence through the area of operation was provided by utilizing PLT, traffic officers, uniformed police officers, Rapid Response Teams (Tactical), Queen's University Security, specialized response and engagement by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, and other City/Municipal Services such as Bylaw officers.

5. Enforcement Strategy

Early and continuous alcohol interdiction, and firm enforcement of municipal, provincial, and federal statutes by police and City partners were utilized to manage any illegal activities.

6. De-escalation / Interdiction Strategy

Police presence, PLT, and enforcement measures were utilized to maintain safety.

Previous Events

An examination of previous Homecoming and Fauxcoming events and gathered intelligence assisted in the development of our operational plans for Queen's Move-In weekend, orientation week and subsequent weekends leading up to and including Queen's Homecoming and Fauxcoming.

2024 Homecoming & Fauxcoming Charge Summary

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	64
Public Intoxication contrary to <i>LLCA</i>	2
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	7
Total	73

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Yelling & Shouting	3
Hosting Nuisance Party	10
Amplified Sound	29
Total	42

Move-in Weekend 2025

Queen's University delegated Friday, August 29 to Sunday, August 31, 2025, as "move-in" weekend for students attending residence. Considering events over September of 2024, the Kingston Police deployed 7 additional officers to bolster support for patrol and Kingston City Bylaw within the University District.

Friday was quieter than anticipated, however there was still an increase in pedestrian traffic as well alcohol-fueled behaviour that resulted in several nuisance calls for service within the University District.

Saturday was significantly busier with students (approximately 3,000-3,500) ultimately taking over University Avenue at 10:30 p.m. Officers were unable to maintain crowd and traffic control, and ultimately declared the street a Nuisance Party between Union Street and William Street. In the interest of public safety, City Yard also brought in barricades to assist with traffic control. The Nuisance Party declaration was lifted at 1:15 a.m.

The move-in weekend and orientation week charges for Kingston Police were as follows:

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	93
Person under 19 consume alcohol contrary to <i>LLCA</i>	2
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	8
Total	103

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Failure to abide by signage (Gord Downy Pier)	37
Amplified Sound	11
Total	48

Homecoming and Fauxcoming 2025

The great work done by our Police Liaison Teams, in advance of the Homecoming and Fauxcoming events, coupled with a strong enforcement initiative and partnership with city Bylaw, has shifted Homecoming and Fauxcoming from a Public Order event, to a safer, and more manageable, event for all.

No Public Order units were brought to Kingston this year and the students/attendees encountered were polite, cooperative, and respectful.

Homecoming

This year's Homecoming was scheduled for October 17 and 18, 2025, the end of "Reading Week."

Police Liaison teams indicated there were fewer students to speak with, and information received through various sources indicated most students were not planning to return for the sanctioned Homecoming event. Instead, the students

planned a Fake Homecoming, also known as “Fauxcoming,” for the following weekend (October 25, 2024).

Police prepared for Homecoming through our integrated response involving our community partners and neighbouring agencies. October 17 and 18 saw no significant events. The football game was very well attended with no police related issues.

Overall, Homecoming was very quiet throughout the University District, and most officers were relieved of duty by late afternoon.

Charges for the weekend of October 18 were as follows:

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	11
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	17
Total	28

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties	0
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Fauxcoming

Police once again prepared for the fake Homecoming (Fauxcoming) using the same integrated approach. Fauxcoming occurred on October 25, 2025, and the day saw much more pedestrian traffic in the University District. There were several house/backyard parties, however it is noted that students and attendees were polite and cooperative. Most backyard parties were not an issue for the community; however, police did close Garrett Street for approximately one hour due to a large crowd on the street.

The university district was busy until 5:00 p.m. when most foot traffic dispersed. As such, police operations officially ended at 9:00 p.m. A small team of 14 officers remained in the area to assist patrol in the entertainment district.

At 11:00 p.m., approximately 3,000-6,000 students congregated on University Avenue, following the Blue Jays game. Although the crowd was celebratory, officers were unable to maintain crowd and traffic control. University Avenue from Earl Street to Johnson Street was closed to traffic until 1:00 a.m. when the crowd dispersed.

Charges for the weekend of October 24 & 25 were as follows:

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	17
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	1

<i>Criminal Code charges (Impaired Operation & Dangerous Driving)</i>	2
Total	18

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Hosting	3
Amplified Sound	10
Total	13

Although we saw much quieter events this year, providing a measured police response continues to put a strain on our members. Our sworn personnel worked many additional hours, with two of our patrol platoons working both weekends on overtime. All of our members – sworn and civilian – should be commended for their hard work and professionalism over the multi-weekend events.

We are very fortunate to have strong community partners including Queen's University, Frontenac Paramedics, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, Kingston Fire & Rescue, neighbouring police services, and City of Kingston Bylaw and other City services who worked with us in the preceding weeks and over the weekend to ensure safety for the entire community.

The Kingston Police will continue collaborating with Queen's University administration and student representatives throughout the year, in anticipation of future events.

Financial Considerations:

Total costs for policing both gatherings were \$190K, a reduction from last year's total of \$253K (total costs decreased by \$63K). Several cost-management measures were implemented, including shift changes to minimize overtime expenses, limiting hours worked, and the reduction of additional staffing support from other police agencies. This outcome reflects a careful balance between maintaining public safety and effectively controlling costs.

- Total Policing Costs (2025): \$190K
- Total Policing Costs (2024): \$253K
- Reduction in Costs: -\$63K (decrease of 25%)

Additionally, total costs incurred to date in 2025 to police the university district show a 32% reduction compared to the prior year:

Year	Total Policing Costs	Year-Over-Year Change
2025	\$309,136	-32%
2024	\$452,225	-22%
2023	\$581,426	-56%
2022	\$1,328,170	34%
2021	\$994,497	

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Exhibits Attached:

None