



Oak Bay Police Department

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News Release

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While the Oak Bay Police Department was kept busy with 111 calls for service this past week, we remained diligent in patrolling at night for thefts from, and damage to, vehicles. As a result, these types of occurrences have decreased of late. We ask residents to be diligent in locking their vehicles and not leaving valuables in them.

With the onset of warmer weather finally upon us The Oak Bay Police Department has seen an increase in incidents usually associated with the summer months and the end of the school year – more publicly consumed liquor and loud parties.

Of particular concern however is the amount of underage drinking we are seeing. Our officers have attended several parties of late where sometimes several dozen youth are drinking in a home owned by one of the youths' parents. Often times we have found the parents home, believing that it's better to oversee the drinking than have their sons and daughters out with their friends in unknown locations. But both adult and youth hosts of parties where persons under 19 year of age are consuming alcohol should be aware that this practice is illegal under the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Act. Section 33(1) states:

A person must not

- (a) sell, give or otherwise supply liquor to a minor,*
- (b) have liquor in his or her possession for the purpose of selling, giving or otherwise supplying it to a minor, or*
- (c) in or at a place under his or her control, permit a minor to consume liquor.*

Therefore, it is not only illegal to give alcohol to youth (other than your own children in moderation and in your own residence), just being the person in control of a place where youth are drinking creates the offence which requires a court appearance and carries a minimum penalty of \$500.

And of course, in our ever more litigious society, should an intoxicated youth be injured either at the home or after leaving it, you, as the host of the party, could potentially face a civil injury suit that may not be covered by your home insurance policy.

And youth found in possession of alcohol face a \$230 ticket. So please be aware of the laws regulating alcohol consumption and don't be surprised when the Oak Bay Police find it necessary to enforce them.

Traffic Tip:

We have found that many people are not aware of what is required when the green traffic light in front of them turns yellow. Section 128(1)(a) of the Motor Vehicle Act states:

When a yellow light alone is exhibited at an intersection by a traffic control signal, following the exhibition of a green light, the driver of a vehicle approaching the intersection and facing the yellow light must cause it to stop before entering the marked crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if there is no marked crosswalk, before entering the intersection, unless the stop cannot be made in safety,

So contrary to what some drivers think, yellow, in the vast majority of cases, means stop. The rare exception is when an unsafe condition exists or would be created by attempting to stop. Anticipate a green light changing to yellow and don't try to beat it. The ticket will cost you \$167 and 3 demerit points. Let's all get through our intersections safely.

Noise By-Law:

With the warm weather comes outdoor projects and open windows. The Oak Bay Anti-Noise Bylaw says: "No person shall make or cause to be made any noise or sound within the geographical limits of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay which is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public." Note that there are no time limits for general noise. Construction noise is permitted 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday to Saturday. So let's be mindful of our neighbours regarding noise.