Presidential Page

The McMaster Students Union

President’s Page

Ryan Deshpande
Vice President (Education)

vped@msumcmaster.ca
905.525.9140 x24017

Although the crux of our federal advocacy happened last week, other aspects of my portfolio, such as provincial and municipal advocacy, happen on a more ongoing basis. It is important that students are aware of pertinent developments in the city of Hamilton and the services designed to offer community-related support to students.

Most pressing is the bus cancellation crisis in the city right now. Nearly every HSR rider is familiar with checking the bus schedule and waiting at a stop, only to have no bus arrive until the next scheduled time, if at all. The Sil reported last week that the next scheduled time, if at all. The Sil reported last week that the next scheduled time, if at all. While this is a difficult situation for students, especially those living off-campus, there are resources on campus designed to help. The Student Community Support Network (SCSN) aims to support off-campus students and foster a sense of community in the West Hamilton area. From November 20 to 24, SCSN is hosting the Student Housing Awareness Week, a campaign designed to inform and educate students about relevant housing information. Throughout the week, students can learn about finding a home to rent, provide their student housing related experiences, and familiarize themselves with relevant city by-laws. Visit facebook.com/msu.scsn to view the week’s events.

You might have seen news articles concerning increased by-law enforcement in the city of Hamilton, or received a fine for not cutting your grass after coming home from fall break. Recently, there was a motion passed by City Council approving the expansion of a by-law enforcement program specifically for McMaster neighborhoods. This motion was moved by our own Ward 1 Councillor Aidan Johnson, involving two Mohawk co-op students acting as by-law officers who will hand out tickets for infractions. Although the program is designed to target landlords who are not properly doing maintenance on properties, student testimonies have shown that city staff are dealing with tenants directly and expecting payment from students when the landlord should be paying. We expressed these concerns to Councillor Johnson both at City Hall and at the SRA meeting he attended two weeks ago.

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