

# Searching for shelter in the storm ?

by M. J. Hamilton

A good (and reasonably-priced) home is hard to find. You should keep a few things in mind when considering moving out on your own, like:

- can you afford a place on your own/with other people (remember, you may need to sign a year's lease)?
- can you handle living with other people?
- do you have any furniture/kitchen supplies?
- are you responsible enough to look after yourself?

Getting into a bad apartment can be a costly mistake. It can make school just all that more unbearable if you do not even feel like you can go home.

## Places to look for accommodation:

1. check the newspapers
2. tell everyone that you are looking for a place
3. advertise in the newspaper and/or off-campus housing in the Dalhousie Student Union Building (SUB) that you are looking for a place
4. check out the off-campus housing office in the SUB.
5. look for a list of commercial apartment agents in the Yellow Pages.

When considering a place, find out from the landlady/lord:

1. the rent
2. whether or not utilities are included (electricity, heat, and hot water)
3. whether or not a security deposit is needed, and if so, how much
4. method of payment and due dates
5. whether or not you must sign a lease (or pay month to month).

Do not sign a lease until you have checked things out thoroughly. You may wish to take the lease home and read it over carefully. Make sure you understand what the lease contains. You should visit the place and check the following:

1. do the appliances work?
2. do all the faucets and toilets work?
3. what kinds of locks are on the doors and windows?
4. are there fire extinguishers/fire alarms (if in an apartment building)?
5. are there at least two exits?
6. are there smoke detectors?
7. do you see any bugs or rodent droppings?
8. are there enough plug outlets?
9. do the light fixtures work?
10. is there a bathtub and/or shower?
11. do the windows open and close properly?
12. is there storage space?
13. how soundproof is it?
14. is there parking?
15. are there laundry facilities?
16. how "safe" is the building and the neighbourhood?
17. is there a grocery store nearby?
18. is there a bus stop nearby?
19. is the landlady/lord willing to fix the inadequacies before you move in?
20. can you live with it?

You really should go around the apartment with your landlady/lord with a checklist confirming the condition of the place before you move in.

## Other things to consider are:

1. can you have pets?
2. what are your neighbours like?
3. can you have guests (especially if you are renting a room in a house)?
4. your roommate(s) - remember, you have to live with this person(s) for a year
5. do you want insurance (your landlady/lord is not responsible for fire, flood, robbery, etc.)
6. rental increases (your landlady/lord can only increase your rent once within a twelve-month period the amount as specified by the Tenancy Board)
7. notice to leave (you must give written notice of the termination of your lease as specified in the lease or your lease may be automatically renewed)
8. the landlady/lord can request no more than one-half month's rent as a security deposit (the security deposit plus interest must be returned within ten days of the termination of the tenancy).

If you have any problems, you should contact:

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Rent Review Division  
424-4690

Next issue: Look for information about roommates - how to choose and live with 'em!

## STEPPIN' INTO THE SPOTLIGHT! ORIENTATION WEEK SCHEDULE

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

#### MOVE IN

Welcome to your new home away from home - be it your new apartment or room in a university residence.

#### 9 p.m. to ON-CAMPUS DANCE

1 a.m. Residence students kick off the week with a wild dance.

#### OFF-CAMPUS

Rest up, settle in, and get ready for the great week ahead.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### TICKETS FOR WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

On sale from 2 to 4 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the remainder of the week.

#### 10 a.m. ORIENTATION SIGN IN

Off campus Frosh meet in the SUB lobby. Buy your Frosh Pack and T-shirt and meet your group leader.

#### 12 noon DOWNTOWN DAL

to 4 p.m. See what Dal has to offer as all the different societies display their wares in the McInnes Room of the SUB.

#### 1 p.m. OPENING CEREMONIES IN MCINNES ROOM

An exciting, big screen sneak preview of the week's events.

#### 3 p.m. SCAVENGER HUNT

A campus-wide search for lots of weird things, all for some great prizes!

#### 4 p.m. FIRST-YEAR SCIENCE STUDENTS

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Why are you in first-year Science anyway? Can you succeed, and have fun too? An instructive but humorous presentation by Professor Dale Retalack, sponsored by the Dean's Office, Faculty of Science, and followed by refreshments Room 117, Dunn Building. All first-year students in the Faculty of Science are invited, but others are welcome, too.

#### 5:30 p.m. SCIENCE COHORT "DINNER ON THE LAWN"

to 7:30 p.m. All in-coming Science Cohort students are invited to an informal "Dinner on the Lawn" which will give you a chance to meet the other students in your Cohort, the professors teaching your Cohort classes and to delay those Kraft dinners by another day. This takes place at the Studley Quadrangle (in the event of inclement weather, go to the Great Hall, University Club).

#### 8 p.m. to PLAYFAIR

10 p.m. The ultimate icebreaker to meet other Frosh. Meet at Dalplex Fieldhouse.

#### 10:30 p.m. GRAWOOD GALA!!

The spotlight turns to the campus pub for an evening of dancing and entertainment. Come on down and enjoy some "nooktails" — and dance the night away.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

#### 10 a.m. WELCOME SHOW/FIRST-YEAR CONVOCATION

Your official welcome to Dalhousie including a welcoming address by university officials and a student musical review that takes a light-hearted look at university. See some important people who will be helping you through the years. See that being a Frosh is not terminal.

#### 12 noon LUNCH ON THE BOULEVARD

Hosted by Beaver Foods, the campus caterer.

#### 1:30 p.m. THE DAL-CATHLON

Over 1,000 students on Studley Field for 10 wild events that are sure to turn a few heads.

#### 9 p.m. to CONCERT

1 a.m. Dalhousie's amazing concert series kicks off in the McInnes Room (TICKET REQUIRED)



### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

#### All Day BEACH PARTY

Sure to be the biggest, craziest beach party of the year! Buses will shuttle people to and from the beach. Don't miss the volleyball tournament — great prizes and great fun. Buses leave the SUB at 10 a.m., sharp. (TICKET REQUIRED)

#### 9 p.m. MOVIE SLUMBER PARTY

Great movies in the SUB all night long. Come see some old favorites and new releases.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

#### 9:30 a.m. FLEA MARKET

The early bird gets the best deal here as you have a chance to pick up some odds and ends that you may have forgotten, or just some neat stuff.

#### 2 p.m. THE 1ST ANNUAL MISA/DAL-SMU PULL-OFF

All Frosh head down to Point Pleasant Park for a huge tug of war against SMU Frosh! Here's the first chance of the year to show off our school spirit!

#### 9 p.m. SUPER SUB

Three great bands in one great building! Who could ask for anything more? This traditional favorite of the week is not to be missed. (TICKET REQUIRED)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

#### 5:30 to FROSH TO FIRST-YEAR BANQUETS

7:30 p.m. On Campus: Banquet in Shirreff Hall  
Off Campus: Barbecue on Studley Field

#### Dusk CLOSING CEREMONIES

Studley Field is alight with a great fireworks display to help say goodbye to a great week that you'll never forget.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### 9 a.m. to SHINERAMA

4 p.m. Come help in the battle against Cystic Fibrosis. The day kicks off with a pancake breakfast with President Howard Clark and Dr. Joy Clark. Then all the Frosh and Frosh leaders hit the city streets to shine anything they can get their hands on. Great prizes for the top shiners.

#### 5:30 p.m. SEXUAL ORIENTATION BBQ

No shining here! Just come back to the amphitheatre behind the SUB for a great barbecue.

#### 9 p.m. ON CAMPUS

Residence students "wind down" after a long day of shining with a wild event in the McInnes Room. (TICKET REQUIRED)

#### 11 p.m. OFF CAMPUS

Get ready to hit the water in the ever popular boat cruise. (TICKET REQUIRED)