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GTA

Officers clear out 'disheartening' Brampton house party with 200 attendees

By The Canadian Press

Sun., July 26, 2020 | ⌚ 1 min. read

Police in Brampton say bylaw officers broke up a house party attended by as many as 200 people on Saturday night.

Peel Regional Police say the partygoers in Brampton were violating provincial emergency orders enacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peel Region remains in Stage 2 of the province's reopening plan, limiting gatherings to a maximum of 10 people with physical distancing in effect.

Police say nearby residents called in to report the party just before 10 p.m., and bylaw officers arrived on scene about an hour later. They say it took another hour to clear out the party.

Police say they didn't lay criminal charges, but a spokesperson for the City of Brampton says the organizer was issued a fine of \$880 and will also be charged under the public nuisance bylaw.

Const. Kyle Villers of Peel police called the incident "disheartening."

"It shows the complete disregard for the health and well being of everybody in Brampton," he said. "To have a party with this many people giving the state of the world with COVID-19 is a ripe opportunity for another outbreak."

Villers said it only takes one person to show symptoms to have hundreds of cases come out, which affects the greater community.

As of 5 p.m. Sunday, Ontario's regional health units reported a total of 40,723 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19, including 2,798 deaths, up 104 cases in 24 hours.

As has been the case in recent days, the new infections reported Sunday were predominantly among younger patients; the makeup of the province's epidemic has shifted since the spring.

In mid-April, during the province's first peak in daily infections, most reported cases were among patients over 60, a spike that coincided with a series of devastating outbreaks in Ontario nursing homes. But relatively fewer seniors have been infected since, and in July the majority of new infections have been reported among patients under age 40.

With files from Ed Tubb

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