

# More frustration than parking for UPEI students

by Jessica Boohe

UPEI parking lots are getting tight for space.

Students are parking anywhere they can. With the use of parking permits, several are wondering why parking lots are overflowing

Margaret Doyle, student, has great difficulty trying to find a parking spot.

"On most days, I have to come as early as one hour before my class starts in order for me to get a spot," said Doyle. "Finding the spot is not the only problem, It's getting out afterwards that can be the real problem." Doyle explained that cars are often parked alongside the driveways which makes exiting the parking lot difficult.

Doyle also fears the winter.

"If it's this bad now, think how dangerous it will be once the parking lot is ice and snow," she said.

Carley Rayner, student, is also annoyed with UPEI parking.

"Most of the time I have to park in the Farmers market parking lot because the University parking lot is full," says Rayner.

She added, "it sucks because we had to pay a lot for the parking passes and I still have to park so far away!"

Students are not the only ones who have something to say about the parking situation. Dr. Richard Lemm, English Professor, believes that because of the increase in enrollment, the parking problem has never been this bad. "Over the past 12 years I've been teaching here, this is the most crowded it has ever been!"

He also feels that more support should be given to Security.

"I support strict rules that security is enforcing," remarks Lemm. "It's frustrating to see stu-

dents and staff ignoring tickets and getting upset with Security, they're just doing their job."

He added, "It's also very frustrating to see cars parked in places where they shouldn't be

## Parking has always been a problem.

-Neil Henry

when in most cases, there's spaces further down!"

Neil Henry, Vice-President of Finance and Facilities, discussed the procedures that are involved to maintain an organized parking system.

"We try to keep it in balance," explains Henry. "There are more parking permits issued out than there are actual spaces, that's the way we've always done it. Last year the total permits issued was 1,501 [for staff and students] although there is only 1,177 spaces. This is because there are both part-time and full-time students, therefore they all park at different times."

He feels that once the first month is through, parking will be more under control. "September is a very busy month," said Henry. "We are trying to get everything organized and the students are getting themselves settled for the year. By October, we should have everything under control."

"No parking enforcements are being made yet but in the case someone has parked where they shouldn't have," Henry said.

Henry continued, "security has been placing pink 'Polite Notices' on their windows. These notices explain that enforcement will begin in October. As for right now, only illegal parking, such as parking in front of a fire hydrant,

has been dealt with."

"Starting October 2, Security will be writing up parking reports four times during the day," he added. "This will help us see such things like when the parking lot is the fullest and to ensure that everyone is parked orderly. This is also when towing will begin and tickets will be issued."

There is also talk of expansion to allow for more space.

"Parking has always been a problem," said Henry. "A couple of years ago, the C parking lot was expanded and we are discussing the need to make another expansion."

"It's hard because there are so many other expenses right now and it takes a lot of planning," added Henry. "It's a very big decision but because of the increase in enrollment, it's definitely needed.

By October 16, we will determine if parking needs to be extended this fall or next summer."

Henry concluded by saying, "There is no form of public transportation on the island, therefore many of the students have no alternative but to drive a car to university. We run a 'roadway' in effect and it can get pretty dangerous at 8:30 in the morning. We are working hard to organize the parking system so that it is systematic for everyone."

To help staff and students understand the rules and regulations of the parking system, yellow 'Traffic & Parking information' brochures were given out with the issued parking permits. These handouts include all the information needed to park at UPEI. Such details as regulations, enforcement, and overnight parking. □

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