

Researcher wants to probe air quality

By **JOHN MCPHEE**
Environment Reporter

Like every city, Halifax has its share of air pollution and noise.

But exactly what kinds of contaminants foul the air in different parts of the city? What types of noise at what levels assault the ears of downtown residents, as opposed to folks in Bedford?

Halifax researcher Daniel Rainham wants to find the answers to those questions.

There is too much we don't know, particularly in relation to how air pollution and noise affect our health, said Rainham, who holds the chair in sustainability and environmental health at Dalhousie University.

There are only two air quality monitors in the municipality — one in downtown Halifax and one in Dartmouth. They measure the level of certain pollutants as part of an air quality advisory program.

But overall, "we have a very limited understanding about the distribution of air quality in the city," Rainham said in an interview Tuesday.

In a proposal to Health Canada, Rainham recommends that about 50 air pollution monitors be placed in urban areas of Halifax Regional Municipality.

The monitors would run for two weeks in the early fall and in January. They would collect information on a slew of contaminants from the tiny particles and gases such as carbon monoxide spewed out in car exhaust to power plant emissions such as sulphur oxides.

Besides the amount and type of particular contaminants, information on the environment

surrounding the monitor would be noted, he said. This could include the amount of traffic, what kind of roads and industrial activity. All this information, in turn, would be related to the health situation in that area.

"We could say, well, the air quality is worse over here than over there, so what's the (level of) cardiovascular disease there like," Rainham said.

The monitors, which look like small briefcases, hold an array of sensors. They would be placed on poles or tripods near municipal or other public buildings, Rainham said.

He tendered his proposal to Health Canada in response to the federal department's call for the monitoring of air pollution and noise levels in the municipality. The estimated value of the work is between \$50,000 and \$100,000, according to the open tender, which was issued Aug. 11 and closes on Thursday, Aug. 11 and closes on Thursday.

Health Canada has undertaken a number of studies over the last few years to examine the impact of air pollution on health, department spokesman Gary Holub said in an email to The Chronicle Herald.

The link between noise levels and health will also be examined in the study in the Halifax region, Holub said.

Very little work has been performed in Canada on that relationship, said Rainham, who has taught at Dalhousie since 2001 and has held the chair in sustainability and environmental health for a year.

But there is evidence exposure to noise, particularly at night, can increase stress levels and ultimately increase the risk for problems such as cardio-

vascular disease, he said.

Under his plan, 50 sound-level meters would be deployed across the municipality.

Rainham's team would include a paid research assistant and a couple of student volun-

teers. They would assist Health Canada staff with decisions such as where to place monitors. But its role would be to analyze the information and come up with models that explain the link between noise and

air pollution to health, he said.

"We're on the receiving end of the data and we help out with the sampling as well. It would be a great opportunity for the students to be involved."

(jmcphree@herald.ca)

Concentrate on your business, leave your payment processing to us.



4-HOUR ON-SITE SERVICE PROMISE.

Payment processing from TD Merchant Services – ranked a leader in customer satisfaction according to an Ipsos Reid poll¹ – gives you the reliability and support your business needs to stay up and running smoothly.

Only TD offers a 4-hour on-site service promise, 7 days a week, in most major centres across Canada, including this local market.² This commitment is backed by a 24/7 customer support line.

We provide payment processing for **Visa***, **MasterCard***, **Amex*** and **Interac*** Direct Payment.



Contact your local representative for more information.

Scott Irwin
(902) 402-7286
scott.irwin@td.com



TD Merchant Services

¹ Conducted by telephone between September 15 and October 5, 2009, among a sample 556 Canadian merchants. ² Available seven days a week (except Christmas and New Year's Day) in most major centres if TD Merchant Services receives the telephone call for assistance by 4:00 p.m. ET on weekdays, and 2:00 p.m. ET on weekends. *The MasterCard Brand Mark is a registered Trade-mark of MasterCard International Incorporated. **Trade-mark of American Express Company. ***Trade-mark of Interac Inc., TD Canada Trust authorized user of the Trade-mark.

Teen accused of attempted murder released from jail

By **STEVE BRUCE**
Court Reporter

A 17-year-old Timberlea boy charged with attempted murder in connection with a violent assault and car theft in Halifax two weekends ago has been released from custody and placed in his mother's supervision.

The Crown consented to the teen's release Tuesday in Halifax youth court on a \$1,000 recognizance with conditions of house arrest.

Judge Pam Williams ordered the boy to live at his mother's apartment. He can only leave the residence for school activities, medical emergencies or if in the company of his mother, father or another adult designated by the court.

The boy can't consume alcohol or drugs, have any weapons or associate with anyone with a criminal record.

He's charged with attempted

murder, aggravated assault, theft and possession of stolen property, all stemming from an Aug. 15 attack on a 37-year-old man at an apartment on Willett Street in Clayton Park.

Todd MacMillan suffered serious head injuries after he was struck with an object from behind. He was discharged from hospital last week. The man's car was stolen after the attack. It was located in Montreal the next day.

The 17-year-old and a 16-year-old girl from the Lower Sackville area were apprehended last Wednesday in Truro.

The boy is also charged with possession of hashish, morphine, oxycodone and ecstasy, all allegedly found on him when he was arrested. He's scheduled to return to youth court Sept. 16 on all eight charges.

The girl is charged with theft and possession of stolen property.

(sbruce@herald.ca)

HMCS Fredericton brings navy to Canadians

A Halifax-based frigate is bringing the navy to Canadians.

HMCS Fredericton will hit seven ports along the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes as part of the Great Lakes Deployment to raise awareness about the naval service and to highlight navy career opportunities.

The tour is also the last major opportunity for Canadians in Ontario and Quebec to celebrate the naval centennial.

The ship's first stop is in Montreal from Friday through Tuesday, with stops in Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, Oshawa and Cornwall. The last port of call is Trois-Rivières, Que., from Sept. 18 to 21.

HMCS Fredericton recently returned from a seven-month counter-piracy and counter-terrorism mission in the North Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the waters around the Horn of Africa.

Halifax Water BlackBerry Sushi Nami Royale

Z103.5

SUMMER HEAT TOUR

WWW.Z103HALIFAX.COM

StealTheDeal

Metro MITSUBISHI

Admiral

Huntingbird Med SPA

Green DIAMOND EQUIPMENT

HYPE ENERGY

Music World