

Bar & Nightlife ID Scanning

How Bulldogs Saloon Keeps a Small-Town Bar Safe with Patronscan

Industry: Hospitality · Nightlife · Bars & Nightclubs

Client: Bulldogs Saloon · Olds, Alberta

Overview:

Bulldogs Saloon is a country and college-focused bar in Olds, Alberta, with "a little bit of everything," as owner Darren McDonald puts it. As a venue in a small town, keeping underage patrons away from consuming alcohol and troublemakers in check is what protects the liquor license the business depends on.

A longtime bar-industry veteran, Darren deployed Patronscan's Guard+ ID scanner at the door. The result: borrowed and fake IDs stopped before they get in, troublemakers flagged and turned away (even ones flagged at other venues), faster incident investigations using his cameras, and a stronger working relationship with the local RCMP, all adding up to a room where guests simply feel safe.

Darren McDonald owns Bulldogs Saloon and has worked in bars for years. He'd long wanted a tool that could give his door the security and accountability that manual ID checks never could.



The Problem:

For a popular nightlife bar, the stakes at the door are high. A single underage patron who slips through consuming alcohol can put the liquor license, and the whole business, at risk. And in a small college-town crowd, the hardest IDs to catch aren't crude fakes; they're real IDs borrowed from a sibling. The challenge centered on three fronts:

- Borrowed sibling IDs: a patron using a brother's or sister's real ID often knows the matching name, address, phone number, and postal code. These are details that make it nearly impossible for door staff to catch by eye.
- A liquor license on the line: Underage entry or alcohol consumption is the single biggest thing the team has to watch for.
- Troublemakers and fights: keeping out the small number of people who cause problems, whether they were flagged at Bulldogs or at another venue entirely, is key to keeping the peace.

The Solution:

Bulldogs Saloon put Patronscaan's Guard+ scanner at the front door. Every ID is forensically scanned and age-verified in seconds, catching fakes and the borrowed sibling IDs that pass a visual check. When someone causes trouble, staff can red flag them in the system and enforce a ban, and because Patronscaan's Flag Network is shared across venues, a person who got into trouble somewhere else shows up at the door too.

The scanner also became part of how Darren investigates incidents. When a car was vandalized in the parking lot, he used his cameras to get a timestamp of when the people involved came through the front doors, then went back to Patronscaan to identify exactly who they were.

The Patronscaan Toolset for the Rental Network:



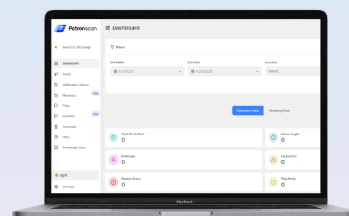
Guard+ ID Scanner

Forensically scans and age-verifies every ID at the door in seconds, catching fake IDs and the borrowed sibling IDs that match a real name, address, and postal code and slip past a visual check.



Flag Network

Lets staff red-flag troublemakers and enforce set flags. Because flags are shared across venues, someone who got in trouble elsewhere, even in Edmonton, is known at the Bulldogs door.



Investigations & Records

Timestamped entry records pair with the venue's cameras so incidents, like a vandalized car in the lot, can be traced back to exactly who came through the doors and when.

How Patronscaan Supports Daily Operations:

- Catches borrowed and fake IDs at the door, including sibling IDs that match a real name, phone number, address, and postal code.
- Deters underage attempts before they start: would-be patrons see the scanner and leave the line rather than risk it.
- Flags troublemakers for set periods, and word travels fast that the venue doesn't put up with anything.
- Speeds up investigations by pairing entry timestamps with camera footage to identify who was involved in an incident.
- Reinforces the RCMP relationship by giving the venue and local officers a shared, accountable record that helps keep the peace.

"I've always wanted something like this. I've worked in many bars over the years. I love the security and background checks that everything does. If you get in trouble somewhere for doing something really bad, this keeps the troublemakers out."

— Darren McDonald, Owner, Bulldogs Saloon

The Results:

Bulldogs Saloon hasn't just caught more bad IDs, **it has changed behavior at the door.** One of the clearest signs came the very first week.



Reduction

in underage troublemakers



Partnership

between Bulldogs Saloon and the RCMP



Clear Communication

with Bulldogs Saloon bouncers and staff



Beyond the numbers, the impact shows up in three areas that matter most to a small-town, age-restricted venue:

Underage & Borrowed IDs Stopped at the Door

The deterrent effect was immediate. As Darren recalls, during a busy college rodeo weekend, people in line would reach the front, spot the scanner, say "Oh, we left something in our car," and disappear, never even attempting it. Just having Guard+ at the door changed who tried to get in.

A Safer Room With Fewer Problems

Running a "really tight ship" is easier when troublemakers can be flagged and banned, and when the word gets around that the venue doesn't put up with anything. Would-be fighters and repeat offenders, including people flagged at other venues, are turned away, and guests feel like there are no problems.

A Trusted Partner to Local Law Enforcement

Darren works hand-in-hand with the RCMP, who were excited about the system from day one because it helps keep the peace. Officers stop by on busy nights and patrol the lot, part of a shared focus on preventing impaired driving and making sure everyone gets home safe.

In a small town, the word gets around fast, and at Bulldogs Saloon, the word is that trouble doesn't get in.



Collaboration and a Modern Safety Stack:

- Works alongside cameras: entry timestamps plus camera footage let staff trace incidents like a vandalized car in the parking lot, back to exactly who came through the doors.
- Connected across venues: the shared Flag Network means someone who got into trouble at another bar, even in Edmonton, is recognized at the Bulldogs door.
- Hand-in-hand with the RCMP: local officers welcomed the system, visit on busy nights, and patrol the lot, helping keep the peace and deter impaired driving.
- Built for a small community: in a town where no one has far to go, the team focuses on making sure every guest gets home safe, whether walking or taking a cab.

"I work hand-in-hand with the RCMP, and the fact that they know we have this, they really love it. It just helps keep the peace.

We always try to make sure everybody gets home safe, whether they're walking or taking a cab. Especially being a small town, that's a big thing for us."

— Darren McDonald, Owner, Bulldogs Saloon

Conclusion:

For small-town and college-town bars, Bulldogs Saloon shows that ID scanning is about far more than checking a birthdate. PatronsCan's Guard+ stops the borrowed and fake IDs that fool the eye, keeps troublemakers out, even ones flagged at other venues, speeds up incident investigations, and strengthens the venue's partnership with local law enforcement.

The result is exactly what Darren always wanted: a bar where the crowd can focus on the party, because safety is handled at the door.

**Schedule a free demo with our team. Call
1-877-778-9798 or email sales@patronscan.com.
Learn more at patronscan.com.**