

WE HAVE YOU COVERED:

- Auto
- Home
- Business
- Trailers
- Motorcycles
- Boats
- Cabins
- Secondary Residences
- Condos
- Tenants
- Personal Umbrella
- Rental Properties
- Travel
- Vintage Cars
- Life Insurance

V O L . 1 8

Let our family take care of yours

Featured Claim...

The claim in this issue is one we featured back in Volume 2 of our newsletter, but it ties in with the new Alberta distracted driver law that went into effect on Sept 1, 2011.

The person responsible for this accident was charged with careless driving and was on his cell phone at the time. Please do not use your cell phone while driving!

One of our clients was crossing 14th Street leaving the Rockyview Hospital when a vehicle ran a red light at a high rate of speed and collided into her van and then careened into another. Our client's vehicle was totaled and thanks to the area where the vehicle was hit and the deployment of the airbags, she sustained only cracked ribs and bruising.



Because our client carried collision and SEF 20 loss of use (rental car) coverage, she was able to settle the claim for the damage to her car with her own insurance company who then recovered the funds they paid out from the insurance company of the person who caused the accident. This amounted to \$36,000 for the write-off of the vehicle and \$1,500 for the rental car.

The bodily injury claim was \$25,000 which was settled and paid by the insurance company of the person who caused the accident.

We don't have access to the amount paid to the second party hit. It was a vehicle with young parents and a child and there were injuries to them as well.

What if you were hit in the same circumstances and the person who ran the red light didn't have any insurance?

- If you have the SEF 44 Family Protection Endorsement your policy would pay the bodily injury settlement in excess of the governments portion of \$200,000 up to your own policy limit.
- Your own policy always pays for medical treatments under the accident benefits.
- Your own policy would pay to replace or repair your vehicle **provided** you carry collision coverage. It would be subject to a deductible.
- Your own policy would pay for a rental car **provided** you purchased the SEF 20 Loss of use endorsement, but only to the limits you purchased.

Learn more about the new distracted driving law in Alberta on page 2 of our newsletter.

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Distracted Driving 101

The distracted driving law is now in full effect as of September 1, 2011. The new law restricts drivers from:

- Using hand-held cell phones (including Smart phones, PDA's and Tablets)
- Texting or Emailing
- Using electronic devices like Laptop computers, video games, cameras, video entertainment displays and portable audio players (e.g. MP3 players / iPods)
- Entering information on GPS units
- Reading printed materials in the vehicle
- Writing, printing or sketching
- Personal grooming
- Compliments the current driving without due care & attention legislation
- Applies to all vehicles as defined by the Traffic Safety Act, including bicycles
- Applies to all roads in both urban and rural areas of the province
- The fine for any infraction is \$172.



The Law also includes pets. In situations where the driver becomes too involved with their pet, police could reasonably argue that the distraction is comparable to the specifically banned activities of reading, writing and grooming and lay a charge.

So there you have it. Leave the distractions aside and we'll all be safer on the road. Less accidents means less insurance claims which keeps all our rates under control.

Life Insurance

Life insurance is a simple concept -- you buy a policy that pays to your beneficiary or beneficiaries when you die -- but the decisions of what kind life insurance to purchase can be extremely complex.

Life insurance is far more than just a decision of how much to buy. Depending on your financial situation, life insurance can be used for a variety of purposes, such as:

- Estate planning
- Accumulating cash
- Transferring wealth
- Achieving estate tax liquidity

So how much life insurance do you need? It depends. One common benchmark says your death benefit should be about six to eight times your annual earnings, but there are a variety of factors to consider:

- Other income sources
- The size of your family
- Whether your spouse works and his or her earning capacity now and in the future
- The number of people who are financially dependent on you and for how long
- The death benefits your family will receive from Social Security and any life insurance plan through your employer and any special needs such as mortgages, college education funds and estate planning

Term life policies provide coverage for specific periods of time, sometimes as little as one year. While you usually can renew term life policies for one or more terms even if your health has changed, there's potentially a big risk here if you get sick during the term.

Permanent / Cash-value life policies have premiums that are higher at the beginning than they would be for the same amount of term insurance. The part of the premium not used to cover the yearly cost for mortality and other expenses is invested by the company and builds up a cash value that you may use in a variety of ways.

In the end its best to have a trained insurance professional analyze your financial situation and determine what kind of policy, from which insurer, is best for you.

Every year approximately 17,000 babies are born in Calgary and a staggering number of those are not correctly buckled while riding in a motor vehicle.

In 2007 nearly 12,000 children were injured in motor vehicle collisions; 99 of those were killed. According to Transport Canada a correctly used child restraint will reduce the likelihood of a child being injured by 75%.



Mike Clark, CAIB



School is back in so make sure you obey the speed limit, and no passing in school zones. Safety of children is paramount, and any ticket in a school zone results in a surcharge on your insurance premiums.

Don't Forget, school zones go into effect at 7:30am!



Karrie Wright, CAIB



Have you recently moved personal belongings like furniture into an off-site storage facility, mini locker or POD?

If so you should let us know so that we can ensure your coverage is extended to include those items while in storage.



Sabrina Young—McIntyre, CAIB

Vacant Homes

A vacant home is one which you have moved out of and have no intention of returning to. For example you've moved into a new home and have your old home listed for sale. It's empty and has no one living in it. Or it could be a rental property you own and you haven't been able to find new tenants and it's now sitting empty. In these situations the insurance company must be informed so they can add a vacancy permit to your policy.

Failure to disclose a vacant dwelling could result in a claim not being paid.

The vacancy permit changes your policy from All Risk to Named Perils. The perils that the dwelling is insured against are as follows:

- Fire & lightning
- Explosion
- Smoke
- Falling object
- Impact by aircraft, spacecraft or land vehicle
- Riot
- Windstorm or hail
- Electricity – sudden and accidental damage from artificially generated electrical current

If your home is vacant, you **do not** have insurance against:

- Water damage
- Vandalism or malicious acts
- Burglary
- Glass breakage

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"A quick note to say thank you for all of the wonderful service and guidance you continue to give me with all of my insurance needs. Over the past many years I have dealt with numerous insurance companies on a variety of topics and the service you provide has surpassed all others I have dealt with.

You continue to assist me with my ever-expanding list of insurance needs, from auto, home, to my rental properties. Not only do you offer timely responses but you continue to impress me at how easy you make it for me to manage my affairs. Its fantastic that you continue to assist me by looking out for areas that may be in my blind spots with my business as well as saving me a considerable amount of time by dealing with me over the phone for most of my business.

Thank you very much for a job well done and your continued support with my personal affairs and my business"

Dennis Plintz
Century 21 Bamber Realty Ltd

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Spread The Word



Referral Program

And the winners are...

JUNE: Nick Swagor

JULY: Keith & Heather Thornton

AUGUST: Barb Johnson

Our lucky winners have already received their gift card for The Keg, and their names will be entered into our grand prize drawing December 2011 for a \$500 gift certificate for any Delta Lodge!

With every referral you send our way, your name will be entered into the following draws:

- Monthly draws for a \$150 The Keg gift card
- Annual draw for a \$500 gift certificate for any Delta Hotel

Please keep referring your friends & family to our office for a free no obligation quote, and YOU could win next month!

*The intent of this newsletter is to highlight certain areas of insurance.
It is important that you refer to your policy wordings for specific information regarding your limits and coverage.*

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