

LET OUR FAMILY TAKE CARE OF YOURS

# INSURANCE UPDATE

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Winter is fast approaching, and along with the cold and snow comes some important risks you should know about. Perhaps you are lucky enough to escape the cold for a few weeks to a warmer destination. Have you thought about whether you are covered for emergency medical expenses should the need arise?

As the flakes begin to fall, the task of keeping our sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice begins. Though it's a tedious job, it is an important step to preventing accidents from happening to your family and visitors to your home. As our feature claim points out, shoveling your sidewalk is a simple step that can save you—through your insurance company—thousands of dollars.

And let's not forget the festive season that's right around the corner. Inside this issue are a few tips and reminders for safe holiday decorating.

From our family to yours, we would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

## FEATURED CLAIM

A long time client of our office was sued one winter, when a person slipped and fell on the sidewalk outside of our client's home. This claim was small compared to some, but still resulted in the injured party receiving nearly \$75,000 for the injuries he sustained. Our client's homeowners policy covered the costs.

Most homeowners policies have a liability limit of \$1 million dollars. We strongly encourage our clients to carry a *minimum* of \$2 million dollars in liability coverage, or arrange for a separate personal umbrella policy to be put in place. As our society becomes more litigious, settlements are increasing dramatically.

Keep your walkways clear this winter to avoid having to submit a slip & fall claim. Call our office to confirm the limits and coverage's on your homeowner, condominium, and tenant policies.

## WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED :

- ◆ AUTO
- ◆ HOME
- ◆ BUSINESS
- ◆ TRAILERS
- ◆ MOTORCYCLES
- ◆ BOATS
- ◆ CABINS
- ◆ SECONDARY RESIDENCES
- ◆ CONDOS
- ◆ TENANTS
- ◆ PERSONAL UMBRELLAS

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.



## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU NEED FOR YOUR WINTER HOLIDAY **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

After you have checked that your passport is current and your sunscreen is packed along with all of your other holiday 'must haves', are you ready for your winter holiday???

**Did you call us to arrange for your travel insurance?**

Unexpected medical care can be the most expensive cost incurred when traveling and we want to make sure that you never find yourself away from home and unable to afford necessary health expenses for illness or injury. Young & Haggis Insurance can arrange your travel insurance policy through TIC travel insurance. TIC has over 50 years of experience in the Canadian health insurance market. TIC provides multiple options for travel insurance in Canada, USA and all Worldwide destinations.

The coverage is extensive. Here is a list of the main coverage's and the limits provided:

What Do They Cover?

- ⇒ Up to \$5 million for emergency hospitalization (semi-private) and emergency medical services in excess of your provincial or territorial plan.
- ⇒ Meals & Accommodation  
Insured family members or traveling companions who stay with you will be reimbursed up to \$3000 for reasonable living expenses.
- ⇒ Accidental Dental Emergencies  
Up to \$3000 for emergency repair and up to \$500 for the immediate relief of acute dental pain.

The above listed coverages apply to emergency hospital and medical travel insurance with the possibility to add optional coverage such as trip interruption and cancellation, rental car collision damage protection and baggage coverage. TIC offers other packages for International Students, Visitors to Canada, and Global Expatriates as well.

TIC offers emergency assistance and claims personnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will confirm coverage with the hospitals, coordinate payments and contact any family members or doctors. If you would like some more information on what TIC has to offer please call our office and we will be happy to assist you with this important insurance need.

*Please call our office for more information on travel insurance before you go away - even if it is a weekend trip.*

For direct access to TIC please call 1-800-491-0851 and give our broker code: 1098

## **TIPS FROM OUR CLIENT PROTECTION TEAM**

### Jewellery Protection

It is reported that over one billion dollars of jewellery disappears every year in North America. It is very important to ensure that your jewellery coverage is up-to-date. We recommend that you keep recent appraisals and photos of your items in a safe place outside of your home. Please give us a call to review your jewellery coverage on your policy.



Mike Clark

### In Case Of Emergency [ICE] Cell Phone Campaign

This campaign is promoting people to program an emergency contact into their cell phones with the letters ICE in front of the person's name so that if you were unable to contact someone due to injury or illness a paramedic/nurse could do it for you.



Karrie Wright

### Snow Removal

The snow is bound to arrive and we just want to remind you to keep your sidewalk and walkways clear for visitors. As our featured claim shows, a slip and fall incident can be a costly event. Slip and Fall lawsuits are becoming more common and we don't want you to experience that situation.



Amy Roe

### WHY DOES IT COST MORE TO REBUILD THAN IT DOES TO BUILD BRAND NEW?

- High Cost of Materials

In a new construction the homebuilder has access to discounted prices when ordering materials in bulk. When rebuilding or repairing a single property it may be difficult to find a specific match to replace the destroyed property. It is also not unusual for an older home to have unique and/or customized features which may be very difficult and perhaps even impossible to replace or duplicate.

- Starting From the Ground Up Versus Debris Removal

A newly built home starts from the foundation and moves up, making it far less costly and time consuming than having to remove sections of damaged property to repair an existing home. The cost for debris removal is far higher than it is when preparing a vacant lot for a new construction.

- Cost of Labour

Homebuilders usually have numerous properties being worked on at the same time making it very easy to schedule the different specialized crews. When only building one home the same scheduling efficiency is very difficult to achieve. Therefore resulting in a longer amount of time for the home to be rebuilt and increasing the overall cost significantly. Worksite access also impacts the cost of labour because if a home is in an existing neighborhood with established landscaping it will take extra time and effort to get all necessary materials onsite.

- Policyholder Expectations

There is a heightened urgency for homeowners to get back into their home as quickly as possible which is not there when building a new home and this adds to the increase in overall costs of a rebuild.

Other factors that influence the cost to rebuild or repair a damaged property include: inflation, building code changes, natural disasters and the protection of further damage to the home. Please remember that the cost to rebuild is totally separate from the market value of the home.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns about your homeowner policy limits and exclusions.



### Holiday Decorating Safety

Decorating your home during the holidays is a tradition for many families. Unfortunately, every year fires do occur during the holiday season. Here are a few tips to help you keep your house and family safe over the holidays:

1. Make sure the lights and extension cords you use outside are certified for outdoor use and are plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFI) outlet.
2. Outdoor lights should be used outside only, and indoor lights used for inside purposes only.
3. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.
4. Don't leave lights on while you're sleeping or away from the home. If you tend to forget, use a timer.
5. Be mindful of the proximity of your decorations to sources of heat such as furnaces, fireplaces and radiators.
6. Supervise small children around your home as there are many small decorations and ornaments which can be sharp, breakable and easily swallowed. Keep cords out of sight and reach. A cord as short as 12 inches can strangle a child.
7. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.
8. If you have a Christmas tree remember to keep it watered.

**We hope that you enjoy the holidays and that you and your family stay safe.**



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*Let Our Family Take Care of  
Yours*

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**Did You Know???**

Did you know that we can send you documents and pink cards by email??

Drop us an email @ [info@young-haggis.com](mailto:info@young-haggis.com) with your e-mail address.

**BIG NEWS!**

Our office is moving! We are excited to announce that we will be moving in the early winter to a new office in the southeast. Stay tuned for more details closer to our move.

 **WHAT IS MY CAR WORTH????** 

We receive calls from our clients who are trying to determine the value of their vehicles after they have been in an accident or have been stolen. Insurance companies are only required to pay the ACTUAL CASH VALUE (ACV) for a vehicle when it is considered a write-off. ACV is the amount you could have sold your vehicle for just prior to the write off or theft. The insurance company will determine the ACV by checking the sale value of vehicles of similar make and year. You may have a vehicle that is higher in value because of upgrades or customization. If that is the case, you need to have your vehicle appraised and insure it to that value.

For example: A 1989 GMC 1/2 Ton truck is worth between 0-\$800. You have put in \$4000 in upgrades. If the vehicle was stolen and you didn't have an appraisal done on it you would receive up to \$800.00 as maximum payout. The appraisal must be provided to the Insurance company before the event of a claim.

When you have purchased a brand new vehicle, there is an endorsement that can be added to your policy which provides coverage without depreciation.

It lasts for 24-30 months from the date of purchase. The cost of the damage would be covered on a replacement cost basis rather than the ACV at the time of the claim.

*Call us for more information*

**Spread The Word  
Referral Program**

Our business continues to grow and be successful because of our great clients like you. We really appreciate it when you refer your friends and family to us so that we can continue to grow and provide service to other families in Calgary. We have created a referral contest in an effort to thank you for helping us grow.

- With every referral you send to our office we will enter your name for the following draws:
- (1) Monthly Draws for a gift card for dinner for two at a local restaurant valued at \$150.00.
  - (2) Yearly draw for a Westjet gift certificate valued at \$500.00.

Along with your name being entered into the draw, for every referral we will donate \$25.00 to one of our charities. We hope that this contest results in thousands of dollars donated. The people you refer will receive a free no obligation quote and there is no limit to the amount of entries that can be put into the draws!

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about our referral contest and our sponsored charities please give us a call or drop us an email at [info@young-haggis.com](mailto:info@young-haggis.com).

**Our Clients Say It Best**

"I have been with Young & Haggis since it was Young Insurance Services. You have provided many years of efficient and competent service. I have enjoyed your pleasant and prompt responses to any questions I have had over the years. I strongly support your contributions to my insurance needs and to our community needs like the Food Bank. -Kudos for your team spirit!" Thanks, V. Payne, Calgary