

WE HAVE YOU COVERED:

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

VOL. 16

Let our family take care of yours

## Featured Claim... NO COVERAGE

## Personal Liability

We recently received a call from one of our clients who had just been served with a statement of claim. The law suit stated that our client had caused serious injury to a woman and she was seeking damages. According to our client, he was riding his bicycle along one of Calgary's bike paths a couple of months prior. He rounded a corner and came across a couple who were walking in the same direction ahead of him. Our client said he rang his bell several times to warn the pedestrians he was there but the lady didn't hear the bell. The lady's husband pushed his wife to the left but the lady, surprised and unsure of why she was pushed, went back on to the path and was then struck by our client.

The statement of claim was accompanied by a letter from the plaintiff's lawyer suggesting that he contact and report the claim to his insurance provider.

This would be standard procedure and the claim would have been sent to the insurance company had the client had an insurance policy that would have covered it. Unfortunately, the client had only insured his automobile which only covers your liability that stems from the use of the automobile. A claim such as this would be covered under the personal liability coverage which is provided in a home, tenant or condominium policy. Under the Personal liability coverage, your insurer

will pay for any sums that the court orders you to pay for injury or damage that result from your negligent actions. As importantly, the insurance company provides and pays for your legal defense. The coverage extends to your actions anywhere in the world. This client lived in an apartment and didn't want a tenant policy. Whether you own your house, own your condominium or rent an apartment, you need insurance for your personal liability.



The liability insurance in a home, tenant or condominium policy provides coverage for the following people:

- the person named on the policy and while living in the same household,
- his or her spouse,
- the relatives of either,
- any person under the age of 21 years in their care.

Also protected is a student who is enrolled in and actually attending a school, university or college and who is dependent on the "named insured" or his or her spouse even if they are temporarily living away

from the insured residence.

The truth is, things like this happen everyday. If you don't have personal liability coverage I encourage you to obtain it. Anyone who is no longer dependent on their parents and not living at home should have a tenant policy for the liability coverage alone. If you're young and moving out of your parent's house for the first time to share an apartment with someone, make sure you purchase a tenant policy. If you have just purchased a condominium you must know that the condominium corporation does not insure your contents or your liability for your personal acts.

The annual cost for a tenant policy starts at less than \$9 per month.

The individual in this case had to find a lawyer who would defend him, which was not an easy thing to do as most wanted a large retainer. He will be paying the legal bill and quite possibly a sum of money to the injured lady out of his own pocket.

### Other Liability Topics in this Newsletter:

- Rise of Dog Bite Incidences
- The Benefits and Facts of a Personal Umbrella Policy

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# Peat Moss - A Natural Fire Hazard



Over the last decade in Calgary, peat moss has contributed to a number of major residential fires. In the last 5 years alone, fires started as a result of the careless disposal of smoker's material in planters containing peat moss have totaled more than \$26,000,000 in damages.

## Estimated losses:

April 2005 Citadel Way NW - \$100,000 +  
 May 2005 Applebrook Circle - \$310,000 +  
 February 2006 Paliser Drive SW - \$910,000  
 March 2006 Inglewood Cove SE - \$225,000+  
 February 2007 Silver Spring Rd - \$210,000+  
 July 2007 66 Ave SW - \$11,000,000+  
 July 2008 Lysander Place SE - \$100,000+  
 March 2010 Millrise Dr- \$14,000,000+  
 April 2010 Bridlecrest Court - Unknown

All of these devastating fire losses were started by cigarettes being put out in planters containing peat moss. That, combined

with other factors such as proximity to dry plant matter, propane barbeques and wood siding or decking was a recipe for disaster.

**So what is it about peat moss that makes it so flammable?**

Peat has a high carbon content and can burn under low moisture conditions. Once ignited by the presence of a heat source it smolders rather than bursting into flame and can burn down to the base of a container with no more evidence than a thin smoke plume and pungent odor. These smoldering fires can burn undetected for very long periods of time.

Many potted plants that are purchased from stores or garden centers contain little to no actual dirt, and contain other flammable materials such as shredded wood or bark. Some potting soil mixtures may also contain fertilizers which can accelerate fires.

## Prevention

Smokers should discard smoking material such as matches and butts in appropriate disposal containers. Sounds pretty obvious but as the statistics above indicate, not everyone takes the time to think about where they are butting out.

Gardeners should keep planters well watered to reduce flammability, and remove dead plants to lessen the potential for a fire. Planters should not rest on or against flammable surfaces such as wooden decks or siding.

Stored peat moss should be protected from contact with heat sources.

## Did you Know?

Our website [www.young-haggis.com](http://www.young-haggis.com) features a special section called "Education Centre" where we feature real-life situations. As you go through the changes in life, such as graduating from college, getting married or retiring, your insurance needs change. If you don't adjust your insurance as your life changes, you might not be protected.

So we built a section on our web site to address these issues. If you're experiencing any of these "Real Life Situations", you can get instant access to insurance information.

[www.young-haggis.com](http://www.young-haggis.com)

## JEWELLERY APPRAISALS

You may or may not know that most property insurance policies - whether it be a homeowner, tenant or condo policy - limit the amount payable for jewellery items. The most common limit is \$6,000 in total coverage and is subject to your policy deductible. So, for example, if you lost your \$8,000 engagement ring, and the most your policy would cover is \$6,000 of that, factor in your deductible, and you would be out at least \$2,500.

The best way to cover your valuable jewellery items is by having them scheduled onto your policy. By doing this you have the full value of your item covered and no deductible would apply in the event that something happens. In order to do this the insurance company will require a recent appraisal of the item. The cost to schedule an item varies from company to company with the average being \$1.25 per \$100 of value.

With the steady rise in the value of gold, it is a good idea to have new appraisals done for items you might already have scheduled on your policy.

If you have questions or would like more information please give us a call.

We're here to help!



Carbon monoxide detectors

According to statistics Canada, 414 people have died as a result of Carbon Monoxide poisoning from 2000-2007. Hundreds are treated every year. It is a silent and deadly poison that is colorless, odourless and can inflict severe brain damage on those who survive.

A carbon monoxide detector can help prevent you and your family from being injured or killed from CO poisoning. They are fairly inexpensive and can be placed anywhere in your home to alert you to high levels of CO.

Be sure to get a CSA approved detector and replace the batteries often and replace the unit at minimum every 5 years.

Stay warm and breathe safely!



Mike Clark

BEWARE OF DOG... Bites!

According to the Canadian Safety Council a staggering 42 Canadians are bitten every hour. In the U.S., dog bites accounted for more than one-third of all homeowners insurance liability claims paid out in 2009 and they are on the rise in Canada too.

The number of dog bite incidents and claims have risen due to the increased costs in medical expenses and settlement amounts.

How can you protect yourself?

- Make sure that your pet(s) are trained and stressful situations are limited.
- Ensure that your children are aware of how to approach new dogs as children are most commonly bitten.
- Make sure that your liability limits are adequate to protect you should something like this occur.

Stay Safe!



Karrie Wright

Home Based Business & Liability

One of the fastest growing trends in Canada is the creation of home based businesses. It is imperative that you advise your insurance provider that you are running a home based business or office so that your homeowners policy can be extended to cover your business liability and contents or that a commercial policy is put in place. Your homeowner insurance policy only covers you for regular homeowners' activities and contents.

Please contact our office to see if your home based business is eligible for an extension or if you need a separate policy to protect you and your business.

Don't work hard on building a business that you could lose without the proper protection!



Pam Dacey Roach

## The Importance of a Personal Liability Umbrella Policy

Why do I need an umbrella?

Every day people are sued for many reasons including injuries occurring on their premises, their personal acts that result in injury or property damage and serious injuries resulting from catastrophic car accidents. If you have assets, it's important that you have adequate liability insurance to protect them against legal judgments. This is where a personal liability umbrella policy can assist you.

What can an umbrella do for me?

Personal umbrella insurance provides the extra liability limits you need above and beyond those provided on your home and auto insurance policies. A personal umbrella policy responds after your primary home or auto policy liability limits are exhausted. For example, if an injury was sustained in your home and the judgment was for \$1,600,000, and the homeowner's policy limit was \$1,000,000 then the umbrella would pay the additional \$600,000.

Coverage beyond the everyday

**Legal Liability** – Protection should you be sued for causing property damage or bodily injury.

**Libel Coverage** – Libel, slander, and defamation of character coverage.

**Legal Expenses** – Payment for legal expenses should a claim not be covered by your other insurance.

**Income loss coverage** - Payment for loss of income incurred while preparing your legal defense

**World wide coverage** – wherever you go, you'll always have your umbrella with you.

\*\*Please note that there are some restrictions with regards to automobiles out of Canada or the U.S.\*\*

How can I tell if an umbrella is right for me?

Do you own an automobile?

Do you own a home or a condo?

Do you own a recreational property, rental property, boat or snowmobile?

Are you well established and therefore a target for lawsuits?

Are you active in your community?

Do you volunteer for school field trips or outings with your children's friends?

Are you involved in car pooling?

Do you travel?

Do you volunteer or are a director of a non-profit organization?

Do you own any property in the U.S.?

How much does an umbrella cost?

Umbrella policies automatically include coverage for up to 2 domestic residences, 2 automobiles, and all watercraft owned, leased or operated by the insured 8 meters (26ft) or less in length equipped with outboard motors totaling less than 25 horsepower or inboard motors of less than 50hp. Additional residences, autos, and boats can be added for an additional premium. Premiums for a personal umbrella start as low as:

\$ 1 Million Coverage	\$120 per year
\$ 2 Million Coverage	\$168 per year
\$ 3 Million Coverage	\$204 per year
\$ 4 Million Coverage	\$222 per year
\$ 5 Million Coverage	\$234 per year

Call us to find out if an Personal Umbrella Liability Policy is a fit for you.

*Young & Haggis*  
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Let our family take care of yours

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Your Best Insurance  
Is An Insurance Broker

## Our Clients Say It Best

"I have been with Young & Haggis for several years and every time I call for information on my policies, I get an immediate response. Your agents really do go the extra mile to help and get the best rates. ++++ excellent service and I really do like your new website."

Gail Campbell, Calgary

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## Spread The Word



## Referral Program

And the winner is...

NOVEMBER: Kyle Rowan      DECEMBER: Ron Hodges      JANUARY: Terry Palmer

2010 GRAND PRIZE WINNER: GLENN & JANET ZOSIUK

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 the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis!

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 the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

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.*

