

WESTSIDE

▼ BABYSITTER COURSE

Program is expanding this year

TRAINING FROM B7

actual training so that children will receive the most thorough training available.

Many important topics will be discussed, such as the rights and responsibilities of the employer, the child, and the babysitter, and the developmental and behavioural characteristics of children of different ages.

Basic child care, nutrition, injury prevention,

emergencies, age-appropriate play, and basic first aid procedures will also be covered.

A special component of the course will prepare babysitters for handling the special needs of children who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically disabled, speech impaired, and mentally challenged.

“Although the Canada Safety Council recommends that children don’t start babysitting un-

til they are 12 years old, the reality is that many 10 to 12 year-olds help care for their younger siblings, and this course will give them the skills and information necessary to be much safer and aware babysitters and helpers,” said Tania Meyer, executive director.

“Many parents also register their children in this course as an alternative to Home Alone classes, as the curriculum covered in this Babysitting course is much more in-depth than Home Alone curriculum.”

The course is only \$60 (no taxes), and includes a KDSC Babysitter’s Gear Bag, a comprehensive student reference book, and a graduation certificate.

All classes are expected to sell out, so contact the Kelowna & District Safety Council at 250-765-3163 or toll free at 1-888-580-7233. Register online at www.kdsc.bc.ca.

Firefighters answer call for burn awareness

The 17th Annual Burn Awareness Week program by the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters runs Feb. 3 to 9.

Through resources available online at burnfund.org, the program teaches kids to be responsible for their own safety, and helps make their families aware of potentially harmful situations.

To encourage student participation, the Burn Fund runs the annual Burn Awareness Week Poster Contest for students in Kindergarten to Grade 7. Details are available at burnfund.org.

Every entrant receives a participation prize and fifty students will win money for their elementary school or B.C. Ministry of Education sanctioned distance education facility.

There are seven regional prizes, including a \$1,000 grand prize and six \$500 regional prizes.

Regions are the Lower Mainland (three winners),

Vancouver Island, Kootenays, northern B.C. and the Okanagan (one winner for each area).

Forty-three students win runner-up prizes of \$50 each for their school or distance education facility.

Complete prize details, rules and regulations are available online at burnfund.org.

The Burn Fund is a registered charity established in 1978 by the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association.

It provides life saving, life supporting, and life enriching services to the people in British Columbia.

More than 3,800 professional firefighters in B.C. dedicate their time and skills to support burn survivors and increase the public’s knowledge about fire and burn safety issues through the work the Burn Fund does with its Burn Awareness, Research and Prevention programs.

▼ AUTO ACCIDENTS

Legal rights will not be quashed by responsibility

Our legal system imposes a duty on each of us to take reasonable care to avoid injuring others.

You pull up to an intersection facing a red light and stop.

The driver of an approaching vehicle is distracted by his cell phone conversation and smashes into the back of your car. You are injured.

You were driving safely. You properly stopped at a red light. There is nothing you could have done to avoid the crash.

The distracted driver has clearly failed to take reasonable care.

Through his insurance company, he is required under British Columbia law to pay fair compensation for your injuries, expenses, and income losses arising from that failure.

I am going to toss you a few “what ifs” for you

“

MANY INJURED VICTIMS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR RIGHTS TO FAIR COMPENSATION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THAT AN INFRACTION ON THEIR PART, HOWEVER MINOR, IMPACTED ON THOSE RIGHTS.



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

to think about.

What if you are driving your husband’s car, and your husband forgot to renew the insurance?

Totally unbeknownst to you, you are driving uninsured. Does it have any impact on your right to fair compensation?

How about if you forgot to renew your driver’s license and it lapsed the day before the crash?

Neither scenario will absolve the offending driver (through his insurance company) from legal responsibility to compensate you for your injuries.

It is not your insurance, it is the offending driver’s liability insurance that is involved in the payment of your claim.

As for the status of your driver’s license, it had nothing, whatsoever, to do with the crash.

What if you are texting your husband as you sit there at the red light?

How about if your husband had left a half-full bottle of tequila sitting on the passenger seat?

Once again, neither illegal activity will impact on the offending driver’s liability.

How about if your license didn’t lapse, but was suspended because you are a horrible driver and racked up too many points?

Alternatively, you are a 14 year-old kid taking your dad’s car out for a spin and have no license at all.

What about if you lied about the principle driver when you bought your insurance?

Answer: No impact.

What if it was your bottle of tequila, not your husband’s, and you are grossly impaired by having guzzled that half-bottle?

What if you have just robbed a bank and your car is full of the loot?

How about if you are heading home after assassinating the prime minister?



HIRED EQUIPMENT RATES

The District of West Kelowna invites parties interested in providing hourly rates for equipment hire. Please provide a list of equipment available with their respective hourly rates, both manned and unmanned, as well as any mobilization/demobilization costs. The District intends to compile a list of equipment and their rates annually, and distribute the list to the various Departments. Hourly rate submissions will be received until 4:30 pm on February 28, 2013 and all rates should be firm to December 31st, 2013. Liability Insurance (with the District Named as additional insured), a West Kelowna or Inter-Municipal Business License and a WCB Clearance Letter must accompany your submission or it will be returned. Contractors will be required to sign a Prime Contractor Agreement with the District.

Submissions should be directed to the Purchasing Department, located at 3717 Elliott Road, West Kelowna, BC, V4T 2H7. Fax 250-768-0614

PLEASE NOTE: that submitting hourly rates does not guarantee work with the District of West Kelowna.

Please visit our website for insurance details and other requirements.

www.districtofwestkelowna.ca/departments/finance/purchasingdepartment

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WESTSIDE

▼ IMPORTANT CAUSE

A powerplay of another kind played out at Royal LePage

Recently I had the pleasure to attend a West Kelowna Warriors game.

It was a great game with our home town Warriors coming out on top.

Yet, they weren't the only winners that night.

Before the game began, I joined local residents, as well as representatives from BC Hydro and 1-800-GOT-JUNK to help promote recycling and raise awareness on



MLA'S REPORT

Ben Stewart

the importance on energy conservation.

Like many there, I contributed an old piece of electronic equipment to recycle, which in my case

was an old television.

I was astounded to learn about the energy costs of having unused electronics plugged in around the house.

Did you know that if every operating secondary fridge in B.C. was unplugged and recycled, the energy savings would be enough to power every home in the City of Chilliwack for a year?

Or, a television left plugged in for a year consumes enough power for

119 loads of laundry.

Yet, with these figures, we only begin to air our dirty laundry.

According to BC Hydro estimates, over 20 per cent of homes in B.C. have three or more televisions.

These additional televisions are typically left unused, yet continue to use energy as they remain plugged in.

This event brought my attention to the importance of recycling and

how all of us can participate and make a difference on an issue that affects us all—our environment and our wallets.

By recycling your old electronics, you will reduce your environmental footprint, promote energy conservation and allow raw materials from the electronics, such as metal, glass and plastic to be recovered for reuse rather than sent to our local landfills.

Kelowna and West

Kelowna both offer regular recycling that is free, simple and easy.

I was happy to be part of this event, as I believe it is good for our environment.

It will help reduce energy costs for B.C. families and it is plain and simply the right thing to do.

I'm glad to see BC Hydro working closely with our community partners, such as the West Kelowna Warriors and the

District of West Kelowna, for such an important cause.

For more information on what products you can recycle, visit www.return-it.ca/electronics/products/.

To find a location to recycle in our community, visit www.return-it.ca/electronics/locations/thompson-okanagan/.

Ben Stewart is the Liberal MLA for Westside-Kelowna.

www.benstewartmla.bc.ca

▼ ACCIDENTS

Don't concede on your legal rights

HERGOTT FROM B8

While the criminal, or quasi-criminal penalties might be significant, you have a right to fair compensation for your injuries in each of those scenarios.

None of those scenarios change the fact that your injuries were caused by the failure of the rear-ending driver to take reasonable care.

It is no more lawful to negligently cause injury to an impaired driver, thief or assassin than it is to cause injury to a properly licensed and insured, sober and otherwise lawful driver.

Many injured victims have abandoned their rights to fair compensation because they believed that an infraction on their part, however minor, impacted on those rights.

The insurance company doesn't get off that easy. This column is intended to provide general information about injury claims. It is not a substitute for retaining a lawyer to provide legal advice specifically pertaining to your case. Paul Hergott is a lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

paul@hlaw.ca



Thank You

To the volunteer teams from the UBC Okanagan Golden Key Society and Canadian Western Bank for pitching in at the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore! A ReStore is a store that sells new and gently used building materials, appliances, home improvement items and furniture. The ReStore will open in Spring 2013, and will be located at 1793 Ross Road, near Bartley & Hwy 97. ReStores help keep material out of the landfill, and the proceeds from the sales help support Habitat's building program. Volunteers and good quality donations are needed. For more information, contact 250-762-7303 or info@hfhkelowna.ca or visit <http://habitatforhumanitykelowna.ca>



If your non-profit organization has a project, or your organization is interested in volunteering for a Day of Caring, please contact Avril Paice at 250.860.2356 or email avril@unitedwaycso.com

Receive e-matches and get involved. Individuals create volunteer profiles. Organizations create volunteer opportunities. Go to www.kcr.ca, click 'Volunteer Opportunities Search' or call Dawn at 250.763.8008 ext 25.

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