



Considering Your Needs..

Insurance Update from the Ackert Team Spring 2004

Port Elgin: 519-389-4142/800-699-6638

Chesley: 519-363-3962/888-403-9164



Please join us for an Open House at our new Port Elgin location, 644 Mill Street, across from the Post Office, Friday, May 28 from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Our Commitment To Your Privacy

At Ackert Insurance, we are committed to providing our clients with excellent service. Doing business with us involves providing information about yourself, so protection of your personal information is one of our highest priorities.

Our brokerage and the insurance industry have a solid track record of respecting your right to privacy and safeguarding your personal information. You can be assured that we'll only handle your personal information in a manner that a reasonable person would consider appropriate in the circumstances.

For more information on our privacy policy, please contact our Privacy Officer or ask for a copy of our Privacy Brochure.

Rental Car Coverage

Many people expect that if their vehicle is out of commission, and the insurance company is involved, that provision of a rental vehicle is automatically included. **This is not always the case.**

Take a close look at your auto insurance policy – if you have an OPCF 20 Rental Vehicle Endorsement on your policy and your vehicle is involved in an automobile claim, you'll be driving away in a replacement vehicle. However, if this coverage

is not on your policy, the circumstances of the claim will dictate who pays for the rental car – you or your insurance company.

In the case of theft of your entire automobile (not just the stereo!), a vehicle will be provided for you by the insurance company (subject to certain waiting periods and limitations – check out your policy wording!).

In the case of an accident where you are found by your insurance company (not the police!) to be 100% not at fault for the damage and the other person involved in the claim has proper insurance verified by your insurance company, a vehicle would be provided for you.

A few obvious exceptions to a complimentary rental include any type of a comprehensive claim (hitting an animal, vandalism, glass problems, etc) and accidents where you are the only one involved (single vehicle accidents, weather-related claims, hit & run incidents, etc).

Limits do exist--Most rental car coverage is limited to a total of \$900.00. Some companies are beginning to offer a higher limit, as \$900.00 can go by quite quickly if parts are backordered and your vehicle repair is unduly extended. Check your policy, and call us to discuss your options!

A Valid Drivers License & Automobile Insurance

In order for the automobile policy that you bought and paid for to be valid in the case of a claim, the driver of the vehicle must have a valid driver's license and permission from the owner to operate that vehicle.

While this may appear straightforward, the reality is that many claims are denied due to violations of the driver's license issue. For example, you forget to renew your license, which expired last week, and your car is totaled in an accident. The driver of the vehicle at the time of the loss would be considered to NOT have a valid license, and the policy would be null and void.

In another example, a G2 licensed driver who is involved in an accident would void the policy if a breathalyzer test revealed a blood alcohol level of any count as a G2 license has a 0 limit (same applies for a G license if blood alcohol limit is over .08).

Know your license limitations (alcohol limits, vehicle class and weight restrictions, expiry dates, etc) and be sure your policy will respond in a claim situation!

Antique and Collector Vehicles

Do you have a vehicle that is worth more than the depreciated value in a “Black Book”? If so, seriously consider having your vehicle appraised so that in the case of a loss both you and your insurance company will be able to agree on the value of your vehicle.

Furthermore, an appraised vehicle that is used strictly for “fun” (ex. parades, pleasure use, not driving to work!) can be insured with the Silver Wheels plan for a premium that will amaze you!

Points To Ponder...

- Almost every type of coverage and claim is subject to a deductible – do you know how much you will have to pay in the case of a claim?
- The personal contents in a vehicle are not covered by auto insurance – do you have a home or contents insurance policy to take care of this risk?
- Your homeowner’s policy excludes coverage for the peril of freezing if you have been away from your dwelling for more than a certain number of hours. There are limitations and exceptions to this exclusion – check your policy and see how it applies to you!
- Are you involved in non-profit organizations? You need directors & officers liability, and this coverage is very affordable in combination with a

personal umbrella policy, also increasing the liability limit on your auto and home insurance to further protect your interests! Call us to discuss!

- Do you have any Sports Memorabilia? Take a look at the special limits of your policy, as you may find a limit of \$2,000.00 in total for all the autographed hockey sticks, jerseys, original baseball cards, etc you have in your collection! Call us to discuss!

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Smoke alarms are the cheapest safety devices on the market that can save you and your family members from a catastrophe.

Seventy-five to eighty per cent of deaths caused by fire occur in homes. More than half of these deaths occur in buildings without smoke alarms. So by installing a smoke alarm, you can reduce the risk of death by over fifty per cent.

Thirty per cent of all smoke alarms are missing batteries, or the batteries are dead. So with each time change, spring and fall, we should change the batteries, and clean the smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be tested weekly, and remember smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years.

There are two types of smoke alarms.

1. Ionization Alarms - these alarms are for areas that have fast spreading flames, creating a lot of heat and little smoke. These are suited for rooms that

store highly combustible materials, such as paint, grease, cleaning supplies, newspapers, etc.

2. Photoelectric Alarms – these respond to slow, smoldering fires and are suited for areas such as living rooms, bedrooms and kitchens.

Smoke alarms should be installed in each room, for maximum protection, but there should be at least one on each floor of your home.

If you have an electric smoke alarm, it makes sense to have a battery-operated one for back-up, in case the hydro system fails.

Learn at least two escape routes out of your home and practice them with your family. If escape ladders are required, buy them and show family members how they work and practice with them.

Have a meeting place outside the home where your family members can meet and be accounted for if there is a fire. A good meeting place may be a certain tree, mailbox away from the house, or the neighbour's porch.

Remember to talk to your family members about the importance of getting themselves, and the rest of the family out of the house, if a fire occurs. Make sure they understand that they are not to waste time looking for pets or going back into a burning house for a pet. Explain that pets can be replaced but family members cannot be.
