

# Lifestyle

## Be aware of rules on sale and serving of liquor

Do-it-yourselfers planning to serve alcoholic beverages at weddings or special events should know about Ontario regulations covering the sale and service of liquor.

Under the Liquor Licence Act and Regulations, consumers need to obtain a Special Occasion Permit (SOP) in order to legally serve liquor in unlicensed areas other than those considered "private places."

"Although the term private place may sound as though we're asking people to hold their wedding reception in a dark little room off a blind alley, we simply mean that the event and its location must meet four criteria,"

says Elizabeth Garel, LLBO communications analyst.

A private place is defined as follows:

- the location is not usually open to the public;
- liquor is not sold at the event;
- the location is not open to the public at the time of the event; and,
- the event is held indoors.

Any location available for rental by members of the public is not considered a private place. Therefore, a reception held in an unlicensed banquet hall, church basement or condominium meeting room would require a permit for the legal sale and service of alcohol.

People planning to hold a wedding at home are reminded that, although permits are not needed at private residences, liquor cannot be sold.

Applications for special occasion permits for weddings, which are available at liquor stores or from the liquor licence board, must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the event.

Garel reminds consumers that permit holders must abide by the same liquor laws as licensed establishments, including those prohibiting the service of liquor to minors and intoxicated persons.

"This is a responsibility not to be assumed lightly," says Garel. "If you're not prepared to be held legally responsible for the safety and sobriety of your guests, you should consider holding your reception in a licensed premise or having the event catered by a licence-holder."

When finances make these suggestions impractical, help for ensuring responsible liquor consumption at your wedding is available through a service offered by the Addiction Research Foundation. The Server Intervention Program, or SIP, operates half-day courses on responsible liquor service.

Vickii Ronald, SIP's client services co-ordinator, says "This isn't a program to discourage people from having a good time at a wedding. Server intervention is there to eliminate problems

that can otherwise ruin what should be a happy day for everyone concerned."

The program looks at ways to encourage safety through understanding the basics of preventing intoxication, and recognizing its signs and the factors that influence impairment.

Transportation strategies, well-timed food consumption, knowing and how to tactfully meet legal obligations if someone does become intoxicated are discussed in detail.

The program also shows you how to protect yourself from becoming vulnerable to lawsuits and prosecution.

Anyone interested in further information on the Server Intervention Program may contact Vickii Ronald, at 416-595-6123 in the Toronto area, or toll-free at 1-800-668-8228.

Information on Party Alcohol Liability (PAL) insurance, which may be purchased in values up to \$1-million for minimal fees is available from PAL at 1-800-661-1608.

To apply for a Special Occasion Permit, visit your local Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlet or write to the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, 55 Lakeshore Blvd. East, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1A4.

For information brochures on many issues of interest to consumers, contact the Consumer Information Centre, 1st Floor, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6.

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The revved-up engines of these modified tractors hurt some people's ear drums at the Bang-O-Rama truck and tractor pull but the noise drew hundreds of people to the track to watch the tractors drag the loaded sled as far as they could. (Herald photo)



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### Scout Sky Ride

The Scout Sky Ride wasn't in working order Monday but scouts and scout leaders such as (left to right) John Alexander, Dave Hughes and Dave Livingstone found it at least offered a good view of all the activities going on at the Optimist Club's sponsored Bang-O-Rama. The scouts were plagued with

troubles this weekend. Before the ride malfunctioned, vandals caused extensive damage to the ride late Saturday night. Scout leaders had already spent approximately eight hours setting it up and had to spend several more hours fixing it up after the damage. (Herald photo)

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