

NEWS

Firefighters respond to fire behind vacant building in Hornby

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, just after 4 p.m., Halton Hills firefighters responded to a burn complaint in the area of Steeles Ave. and Hornby Rd.

On scene crews found thick black smoke visible and a large fire burning behind a vacant residential building. Upon further investigation it was noted that the fire was a large pile comprised of plastics, metals and other various products that are in violation of the Halton Hills Open Air Burning Bylaw. The fire was extinguished after it was determined there was no permit.

The occupant was advised of the requirement for burn permits for any future burns.

FIRE AT GDHS

On Thursday, Dec. 10, firefighters responded to an alarm activation at GDHS. On scene staff met with the principal, who advised that a garbage can had been lit on fire in the boys wash-room in the Tech wing. Building staff were not sure if it had been fully extinguished and there was significant smoke in that area of the school.

Approximately 1,682 students had to be evacuated. Halton Police was contacted to respond to the scene. There was no fire and the garbage can was moved outside. Ventilation procedures were started and the building was cleared.

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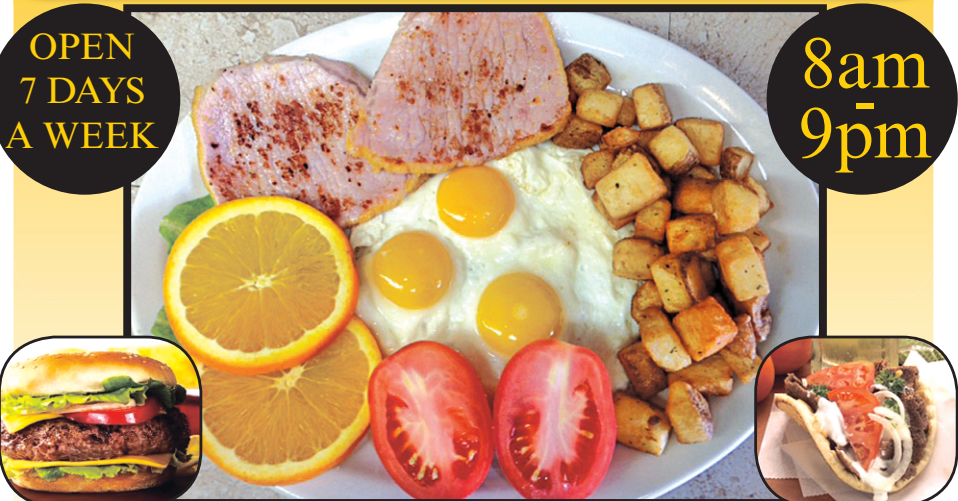
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Q

What is social host liability, and how can I try and avoid it?

A

This is a timely question with the holidays here and people or employers having parties at which alcoholic beverages are being served. There can be a significant potential for liability with such activities. Those acting as hosts may be held responsible for injuries sustained by or caused by employees or guests who become impaired and, for instance, get into a motor vehicle accident driving home. A host can try and reduce the exposure to liability in such situations. Some helpful considerations to try and minimize or eliminate potential liability are to:

1. Ask people when they arrive if they are, or have a designated driver;
2. Ensure there are many non-alcoholic beverages and food options available;
3. At least an hour before the function ends, stop serving alcohol and start serving non-alcoholic beverages, including lots of water;
4. Arrange for cabs, including providing cab chits;
5. Keep watch and don't hesitate to ask for someone's keys if you have concerns about their ability to drive.

Be safe and enjoy the holidays. See you in 2016 at one of our three office locations, including the Lounsbury Life & Group Insurance Benefits building at 8 Guelph Street, Georgetown.



Todd C. Hein
Litigation Lawyer

BRAMPTON OFFICE

350 Rutherford Road South, Suite 320
Brampton, Ontario L6W 4N6
PHONE 905 452 7400
FAX 905 452 6444

CALEDON EAST OFFICE

15955 Airport Road, Suite 201
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