

# Be responsible: Know when and where you can drink alcohol

Last weekend I was speaking to someone about the Liquor Licence Act. This person is a very responsible senior citizen who would never dream of breaking the law, so when I discovered that she was unaware of many of the LLA rules, I realized that other people must be also.

For example, if you are a passenger in a vehicle you cannot be consuming an alcoholic beverage. "Ah-ha!" you say, "but we go on vacation in a motor home, so people in the back can drink, because it's like our living room." Sorry, you will have to wait until you are parked in a bonafide camping spot. The motor home then becomes a residence. You can't even pull over to the side of the road and drink.

What about boats? The same

applies; if you have a houseboat you need to be docked at a marina for it to be considered a residence. You cannot be drinking while the boat is under way. Keep in mind that you can also be charged with impaired driving in a boat.

The LLA states that "No person shall have or consume liquor in any place other than (a) a residence (b) premises in respect of which a licence or permit is issued." The exception to that section is when the liquor is in closed container.

There it is in a nutshell. You can consume alcoholic beverages only in a



residence or licensed premises. If you are renting a church or another venue that has a hall for a wedding or another social event, you will either have to get a special occasion permit, or the caterer will use their

catering licence in order to serve alcohol.

Many other countries are more open with alcohol consumption. In European countries it is common to see people with a bottle of wine in a park. I'm sure that many feel this is a more enlightened approach to drinking, but at this point in time the Ontario government feels that the resi-

dents aren't ready for it! In case anyone is interested, the drinking age is 19. It is an offence for a licensed establishment to serve anyone under that age. They would be putting their licence in jeopardy if they were caught. Another common offence that police come across is public intoxication.

Remember the Summer Safety Blitz at the Acton fire hall on June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You need to phone me to book an appointment for the car seat clinic.

If you have any questions about this or any other police matter, contact me at 905-878-5511 ext 2120 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca.

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the Community Support Officer for 1 Division

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