



# News & Views



## Is your home winter ready:

- Clean your chimney and flue
- Remove debris from eaves troughs
- Extend downspouts away from your foundation by three feet
- Trim branches near the roofline
- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- Drain your outside faucets
- Clear your furnace vent of ice and snow



## Tips to keep you safe on winter roads:

- ◆ invest in quality winter tires.
- ◆ Pack an emergency kit including a blanket, flashlight, shovel, booster cables, flares, windshield washer fluid
- ◆ Take your car in for winter maintenance checks including brakes, windshield wipers and battery.
- ◆ Keep a full gas tank to prevent freezing of lines.
- ◆ If the driving conditions are poor, it's best to stay indoors.

Home Business | Auto | Commercial | Farm | Agri-Business | Liability  
Bonding | Marine | Umbrella Liability | Group | Fleet



## Great tips to prepare your Home for your vacation!

- ✈ Stop all mail and newspaper delivery cancel any deliveries scheduled for while you're away
- ✈ Use timers on a few lights as well as a TV or radio
- ✈ Have someone pick up your mail including flyers, notices and catalogues
- ✈ Arrange to have your snow shoveled
- ✈ Ask a neighbour to park their vehicle in your driveway and to leave one of their garbage bags in front of your house on collection day
- ✈ Use your work address on luggage tags so potential burglars do not know where your empty home is
- ✈ Make sure to have personal items of high value insured on a personal article floater.





**THE DOMINION**  
Canada's Trusted Insurance Company

**TRAVELERS**

Dominion of Canada  
General Insurance Company  
was purchased by  
Travellers Insurance Company.  
We will contact you if this  
change impacts you in any way.

This transition began November 1, 2013.

### What is Telematics:

- ◆ The capture of data from your vehicle.
- ◆ With built in risk factors that allow discounts for good driving behaviours.
- ◆ Parents & Young Drivers could benefit the most as they are made aware of risky behaviours that can lead to accidents.
- ◆ Currently government regulators have approved a maximum reduction of 5% contrary to rumours of more.

### Either side of the story:

- ◆ Some people don't like the idea of "big brother" looking over their shoulder.
- ◆ We contend you own the data, and it should be portable and shared by your choice.
- ◆ Auto manufacturers have data ports to gather information already and these devices may become standard equipment.

### What we are doing:

- ◆ Our trade association is working towards a solution with you in mind.
- ◆ We expect news by Mid 2014 and you will have a choice to join in or wait and see.

### Rate Reductions continue to be unresolved:

This initiative was driven by an NDP MPP from Brampton, an area that has for years had the highest rates and most claims. There are over 40,000 injury claims in a backlog created by the last change that is slowly beginning to resolve. MADD (Mothers against drunk driving) recently expressed concern that the biggest benefactors of the rate decrease would be the worst drivers.

The federal government regulates insurance company solvency (ability to pay claims) may have some concern now or in the very near future if rate reductions are not justified for a particular company. This can limit choice long term, make for tough times with people with even a single minor ticket and create a backlash.

If this issue survives the election expected in the new year we hope for a continuing environment of good balance between claims cost, customer benefits and affordability.

***As your insurance broker we thank you for continuing to make us your choice provider.***

*Kevin Donovan*



We have hired a consultant as part of an elite program we are participating in to constantly find ways to do what you need us to do.

Please complete the survey if you can spare us a few minutes. The request will come to you shortly via e-mail if it has not already, please e-mail us to be added to our distribution list. [dmonteiro@donovaninsurance.com](mailto:dmonteiro@donovaninsurance.com)

Thank you from all of us at Donovan Insurance Brokers!

## Why does my Private Company need a Board of Directors? Article by David R. Shaw

### Done Right, a formal board can accelerate success and reassure all stakeholders

As founder and CEO of a successful private company, I've asked myself this question many times. I've seen so many organizations utilize advisory boards and networks of confidantes to guide their businesses. But they stop short of establishing a board with formal accountability and oversight. As a result, they miss out on the credibility and wisdom that a formal board provides.

In discussions, I've heard other CEOs express fears about "loss of control" that comes with a formal board. Or they complain about the administrative burden they would have to endure if large decisions had to be vetted through a board. Based on my experience, I believe these fears are profoundly overstated.

Establishing and maintaining a board is neither onerous nor unmanageable-if you do it right and for the right reasons.



### The benefits of a formally constituted board

The first and most compelling motivation for establishing a board is accountability. With a real stake in the company, and a legal accountability to shareholders, boards are a magnificent source of balanced and objective advice and guidance. However, that is not where the benefits end. A formal board can provide comfort to financial institutions, which tend to see the board as a sign of integrity. Shareholders will see the board as a means of protecting the interests of all investors, not just majority stakeholders. Customers will find solace in your board, especially if you have recruited directors of sufficient profile and reputation. And last but not least, a board can be a source of protection for employees, ensuring that their place of employment does not fall victim to the whims of any one individual. A board is the ultimate protection for the broader interests of employees and shareholders.



Are there benefits to using an Insurance Broker?  
The answers are in video and can be found at  
[www.donovaninsurance.com](http://www.donovaninsurance.com)

## Your Personal Team of Registered Insurance Brokers

Nasir Malik  
Ext. 223  
Sales Broker



Charles Zhang  
Ext. 240  
Sales Broker



Pete Musselman  
Ext. 242  
Personal & Commercial Sales Broker



Jim Moser  
Ext. 224  
Sales Broker



Amanda Eagle  
Congrats on her new Bouncing Baby Girl!



Heather Mellor-Lundy  
Ext. 229  
Customer Service Broker



Ria Distefan  
Ext. 248  
Customer Service Broker



Amanda DeOliveira  
Ext. 250  
Customer Service Broker



Joanne Pinkerton  
Ext. 236  
Customer Service Broker



We welcome our newest Donovan employee, Joanne

## Your Commercial Team of Registered Insurance Brokers



Tam Good  
Manager Commercial Lines  
Ext. 226



Ray Bauer  
Sales Broker  
Ext. 238



Shelley Fraser  
Customer Service Broker  
Ext. 246



Tom Radcliffe  
Sales Broker  
Ext. 231



Mike Fischer  
Sales Broker  
Ext. 227



Mary Ann Millar  
Technical Service Broker  
Ext. 222

### Winter Hours 2013

- Tuesday, December 24, 2013 Close at 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013 Closed
- Thursday, December 26, 2013 Closed
- Tuesday, December 31, Close at 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014 Closed

### Regular Hours 2014

**Monday—Friday 8:30 am — 4:30 pm**

*Help us to help you,  
please call to make an appointment!*