



I think of myself as a handy guy. I like to take on projects around the house... electrical, plumbing, framing ... basically anything that involves power tools; I can get it done. I get this, perhaps surprisingly, from my grandmother (*Nanny*). In our family, she was the one with a hammer in hand and could fix just about anything that needed repair. She had an impressive array of tools and knew how to use every single one!

My grandfather, however, was blessed with “*two left hands*”, and limited ability (or interest? one never really knew) to do anything more than pass her a fresh box of nails, a paintbrush or a screwdriver just out of reach.

Nanny was particularly proud of her abilities and unsurprisingly, her confidence, capabilities and self-reliance around the house trickled down through the generations. I'm proud to be on the receiving end of those genes.

Earlier this month, I was out at my mom's house doing some small renovations, including taking out a closet wall. When I pulled the baseboard off, something caught my eye – it was colourful and firmly wedged between the baseboard and the wall.

To my surprise, and oddly, only a few days before Valentine's Day, a card from my grandmother to my grandfather appeared. The card dates back to the late 1940s, maybe the early 1950s.

As I stood there with my hammer in one hand and this Valentine's Day card in another, I felt like she was looking down at me and (hopefully) nodding with approval at the work I was doing in her former house.



So, whether you're handy with a hammer, or even if you don't know which end of it to hold, I encourage each of you to take a few minutes this coming month to tackle a few safety chores around the house ...

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors; that simple action just might save a life.
- Head outside and shovel around the fire hydrant on your lawn; that'll help the firefighters save valuable time accessing the hydrant in an emergency.
- While you're outside (given all the snow we've had lately), check your furnace by inspecting the exterior exhaust vent to ensure it's clear of snow buildup. Do the same for your hot water vents. Blocked vents can prevent proper heating and potentially create carbon monoxide hazards; if snow is blocking the vent, carefully remove it to allow for proper airflow.

- Clear snow and ice away from your gas meter and the external exhaust outlets. This will ensure that both the meter and your appliances function safely.
- Lastly, before all this snow melts, please perform some basic maintenance and cleaning of your sump pump; nobody wants a flooded basement.

I wish those of you travelling over March Break a safe journey, and those staying home, get those tool belts out. Good luck tackling your chore lists.

~ David P. Clark, President

GOING AWAY FOR MARCH BREAK? (LUCKY YOU!) PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO “ADVERTISE” THAT YOUR HOME IS UNOCCUPIED!

It's tempting to share your holiday adventures on your socials as they're happening. As we fast approach one of the busiest holiday travel weeks (March Break), we encourage you to help protect your home from potential burglars and break-ins by NOT letting everybody know that your house is unoccupied. Posting photos of your family in the departures lounge as you wait for your flights is tempting, but that only signals to everyone that follows your socials, that nobody is home. Resist the urge to publicly share your “check in” at hotels, restaurants or tourist attractions. Don't share the “countdown” of your upcoming departure date. Please delay your posts until you're home safe and sound. (Use this opportunity to also check and adjust your privacy settings on your social media accounts!) Wishing you all safe travels ... *bon voyage!*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ON MARCH 9th – IT'S TIME TO SPRING FORWARD & CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

****This information is for those whose smoke detectors are NOT tied to an alarm system.****

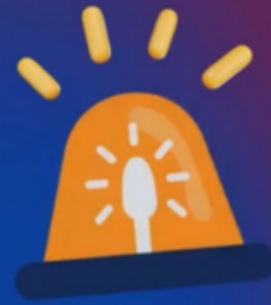
As a friendly reminder to our customers, daylight saving time 2025 in Canada will begin at 2am on Sunday, March 9th. So, when you are trying to remember how to change the time on your coffee pot and microwave oven, please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Over time, batteries can lose their charge and could render your smoke detector ineffective. We recommend testing smoke detectors monthly and changing the batteries routinely in the spring and fall when clocks are changed.

Was your home built in 2015? This is the year to replace your smoke detector! The Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal also reminds those homeowners whose homes were built in 2015 (or prior to) that residences are required to have smoke alarms with visual signalling features (i.e. strobe lights). If you are unsure about the type of smoke detector you need – **please contact your local fire department.**

Replacing smoke detectors over 10 years old should also be done (regardless of when your home was built!) as they have reached their useful lives. Unfortunately, most fire-related deaths in Ontario occurred in residences that did not have working smoke detectors. So, please take the time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Replace Every 10 Years

Because smoke alarms are required to be replaced typically after 10 years, starting this New Year, homes built in 2015 must replace smoke alarms with comparable features like a strobe light.



Need more info?

If you are unsure of what type of smoke alarm to replace, contact your local fire department.

ontario.ca/firemarshal



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE 4th ANNUAL BRAESTONE WINTER CLASSIC



The **Braestone Winter Classic** 3-on-3 charity pond hockey tournament in support of the **Hudson Regional Cancer Center at the Royal Victoria Hospital** was BACK for a fourth year! We are thrilled to report that this year, thanks to Mother Nature blessing us with cold temperatures, everyone got to lace up their skates and hit the ice (instead of lacing up running shoes for the last minute switch to a ball hockey tournament that happened last year!)

In addition to our Sterling Silver Sponsor this year, we were also proud to have a few folks from Huronia participate on the ice. Special thanks go out to Kris Lee and Kurtis Roulston (and their friends!), who participated in the hockey tournament on behalf of our organization.

This year, the fundraising goal (hockey pun intended) was set \$25,000 higher than last year; bringing the new objective to \$155,000. We are pleased to help share the good news that not only did they meet their goal, but they also exceeded it, reaching (at the time of writing) \$169,426!!! Huge congratulations to everyone who organized the event, sponsored, participated as players or bid on online auction items.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: ALARM TECHNICIAN – UTTERSON (MUSKOKA) and AV TECHNICIAN (COLLINGWOOD)

Some of our best leads have come from our customers, so we are reaching out again to ask for your help finding Alarm Technicians to join the Huronia Alarm & Fire Security Inc. team!

Alarm Technician: we have availability in Utterson (our Muskoka location). We are specifically looking for individuals who have been certified through the Canadian Security Association's (CANASA) Alarm Technician Course (ATC). The Alarm Technician will be responsible for the installation and pre-wiring of structured cabling, audio video cabling, and related equipment for security alarm card access systems, fire alarm devices, CCTV and IP camera systems, structured cabling termination, and audio component installations. The Alarm Technician will be responsible for providing instructions to clients/users in operational procedures and maintenance of equipment and will, at times, and as directed, meet with builders, contractors, trades people and owners to discuss progress or challenges.

Audio Video Technician: as an Audio Video Technician at Huronia Alarm & Fire Security Inc., you'll be based in our Collingwood office and travel to customer locations in Grey County, Simcoe County, and Muskoka & Parry Sound. You'll work closely with our Audio Video and Alarm Security teams, taking on responsibilities such as the installation of audio video wiring and related infrastructure and hardware, installation of audio video equipment including home theatre systems and networks, providing on-site customer support, and troubleshooting audio video related issues. We're looking for someone with 3 to 5 years of related experience, and we're committed to supporting your professional development.

We offer a competitive hourly rate (based on related work experience), extended health and dental benefits, RRSP contribution, company vehicle, continuous training and development, uniforms, safety equipment/tools, on-call/overtime pay and the opportunity to work with a great group of people!

If you're interested in this exciting opportunity, we'd love to hear from you. Simply send an email to hr@huronialarms.com or contact our Human Resources department at 705-445-4444 ext. 1113. We look forward to receiving your application!

We offer an incentive for leads that create viable employment opportunities for our company: three months of free monitoring for the lead, 12 months of free monitoring if we employ the lead through their probationary period, and an additional 24 months of free monitoring should the lead remain employed after one year of continuous service.



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