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Woodhouse Group Inc. Acquires First Response Restorations

June 6, 2018

Kitchener, Ontario - June 6, 2018 - After twenty years in separate businesses, Ken and Doug Woodhouse, of Woodhouse Group Inc., and their brother Jim Woodhouse Jr., of First Response Restorations, are reunited in the disaster restoration industry.

Woodhouse Group Inc., a full-service contractor, announced Friday, May 31, 2018, that it has acquired restoration contractor, First Response Restorations. This acquisition positions Woodhouse Group Inc. as one of the largest and most experienced disaster restoration and general contractor companies in the Waterloo Region.

Together, Woodhouse Group Inc., and First Response Restorations, will reinforce their service offerings and provide greater opportunities for existing and future employees of both companies.

VP of Construction Jay Boyer commented “The addition of First Response Restorations solidifies our presence in the insurance restoration industry and sets the footprint to re-establish Woodhouse as the go to company for disaster restoration and emergency response services.”

About Woodhouse Group Inc., and First Response Restorations

Jim Woodhouse Sr. established Woodhouse Contracting Ltd. in 1968 as a siding, window and door installation company. Jim Sr. was joined by his son Ken Woodhouse in 1981, followed by Ken’s brothers Jim Woodhouse Jr., and Doug Woodhouse. Together they grew the business into a residential and commercial contracting company.

In 1987, Woodhouse Contracting Ltd. expanded to include disaster restoration services which became their primary focus through the 1990s.

In 1997, Jim Woodhouse Jr. left to start his own disaster restoration business, First Response Restorations. Jim was joined in 2003 by his son, Mike Woodhouse who held a variety of positions, eventually becoming Sales Manager. First Response Restorations increased to 25 staff and became a member of two premiere industry associations, EMRG and DSN.

Meanwhile Woodhouse Contracting Ltd. continued to grow to nine locations in Southern Ontario. The partners sold their disaster restoration business in 2007 and stayed on with the new entity until 2011. Lead by partner Jay Boyer, Woodhouse reemerged in late 2012 as a general contractor, operating under Woodhouse Group Inc.

The business welcomed a third Woodhouse generation in 2015 as Ken’s son Joe Woodhouse CPA, CMA, was promoted to the position of CFO and partner.

Over the past three years, Woodhouse Group Inc. has grown and now markets themselves as “Your Full Service Contractor”, offering general, disaster, and environmental contracting services.

First Response Restorations will continue to operate as First Response Restorations. Jim Woodhouse Jr. remains on as Senior Manager, Disaster Restoration. Mike Woodhouse takes on the position of Project Manager. The acquisition positions the original founder’s grandsons, Mike Woodhouse and Joe Woodhouse, as integral components to the business’s success in the future, solidifying the Woodhouse legacy.

“Twenty years ago, the family business went in two different directions and gained different strengths, knowledge, and skills. Reunited, we have more resources, trained staff, and expertise,” said Jim Woodhouse Jr. “Together we have become the strongest restoration contractor in the area, better positioned to serve our clients and our community.”

To learn more about Woodhouse Group and First Response Restorations click on the links below.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2018



June is here and so is the sunshine! We had a very warm May, and June has started off a little cooler, so let's hope that the sun is here to stay!



We are almost at the end of our OIAA season, but don't worry, before we take a summer break we've got the John McHugh Memorial Golf Classic! It is being held on June 21 at Ariss Valley Golf Course. There is still room to put in a team or sponsor a hole! We hope to see everyone out – will you be able to win a prize for the longest drive, or closet to the pin? It's a fun day out, and a great place for networking!

If you have an idea for a topic for an Educational Meeting for the 2018-2019 term, please do not hesitate to reach out to a board member.

Thank you,
Charlene Ferris
President of K-W OIAA

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Email: jaime.renner@economical.com

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Economical Insurance

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Director

Economical Insurance

519-570-8500 ext.43017

Email: Jennifer.mohr@economical.com

Randy Henderson

Social Director

Arcon Forensic Engineers

1416-492-2525 ext 36

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Email: mpatel@paladinsecurity.com

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Financial Secretary

KPMG Forensic

519-747-8882

Email: dbushell@kpmg.ca

Carrie Keogh

Vice President

Economical Insurance

519-570-8500 ext. 43220

Email: carrie.keogh@economical.com

Ellie Celestine

Secretary

The Co-Operators

519-618-1211

Email: ellie_celestine@cooperators.ca

Leeann Darke

Director

The Co-Operators

519-618-1230

Email: leeann_darke@cooperators.ca

Stephen Tucker

Toronto Delegate

Economical Insurance

519-570-8500 ext 43281

email: stephen.tucker@economical.com

Ashleigh Leon

Social Director

Miller Thomson LLP

519-593-2427

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Kristin McCutcheon

Web Director

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If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact any of the above committee members.

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The K-W OIAA is pleased to be hosting the John McHugh Memorial Golf Classic at Ariss Valley Golf and Country Club. Please join us for a day of golf and fun among your industry friends. Every year the K-W OIAA president chooses a charity to be the beneficiary of a generous donation that will greatly assist that organization. This year the chosen charity is [7nj1W Jvfclg](#).

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE: <http://www.kw-oiaa.ca/>. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY JUNE 1st, 2018.

Itinerary for Thursday June 21, 2018 :

- 8:30am Registration Opens - Breakfast
- 10:00am Shot Gun Start
- 12:00pm Lunch on the turn
- 4:00pm Approximate time for dinner

Players Golf Package

\$155 HST inclusive per person, Fees include one round of 18 holes of golf, use of a cart, breakfast, lunch and dinner. A team of 4 will be \$620.00

Other Options:

- All Day Food Tickets: \$50 (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Dinner Only Tickets: \$35

Sponsorship

A generous donation will be made to [7nj1W Jvfclg](#) from all hole sponsorships.

Hole Sponsorship (2 types) is available for \$225 A prize hole (longest drive/ closest to the pin) requires sponsors to bring both a male and female prize in addition to sponsoring the hole. A non-prize hole has no additional requirements. ****Please note:** You are responsible for providing your own tent, table and chairs.

Title Sponsorship is also available should you be interested:

- You may display your banner at this portion of the event should you sponsor these.
- Breakfast Sponsor- \$500
- Lunch Sponsor- \$1000

Door Prizes are also a welcomed and are drawn for at the dinner. If you are donating a door prize please advise Charlene Ferris (charlene_ferris@cooperators.ca) or simply bring it with you with a businesscard attached to it.

Questions? Please contact:

- Charlene Ferris (charlene_ferris@cooperators.ca) or by phone 877-682-5246 Ext 272280
- Carrie Keogh (carrie.keogh@economical.com) or by phone 519-570-8332 Ext 43220

SOCIAL CHIT CHAT

June 2018



“It is the month of June, The month of leaves and roses, When pleasant sights salute the eyes and pleasant scents the noses.”

Nathaniel Parker Willis

“Wine and cheese are ageless companions, like aspirin and aches, or June and moon, or good people and noble ventures.”

M. F. K. Fisher

“If a June night could talk, it would probably boast it invented romance.”

Bernard Williams

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

Al Bernstein

June is by far my favourite month of the year and I hope you all can enjoy it as much as I do. We are looking forward to a wonderful golf tournament to end the year. Wishing all of you parents out there the best of luck with your little ones home for the summer!

Cheers, Your Social Director,
Ashleigh Leon



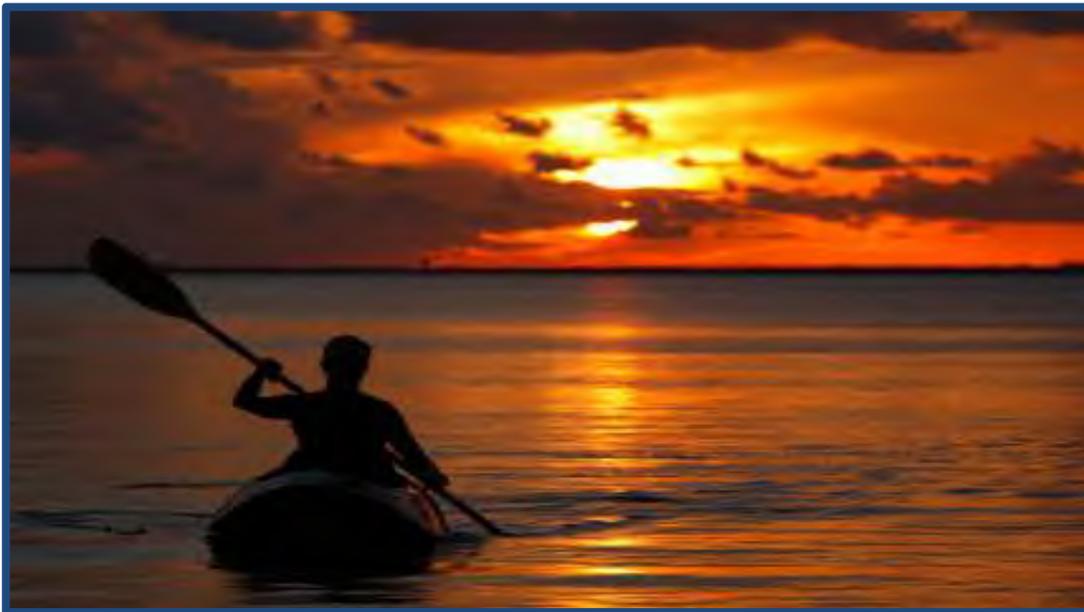


PROVINCIAL DELEGATE REPORT



To all members, industry partners and supporters of the Kitchener-Waterloo chapter: thank you for allowing me to serve you in the role of Provincial Delegate for the past four years. The K/W chapter has and will continue to be one of the largest and most vibrant chapters in the OIAA. The incoming executive brings diverse perspectives and experience with more local insurers represented than at any point that I can recall. As I pass the torch to Jennifer I can say with certainty that the chapter is in good hands.

Moving forward I plan to stay involved in K/W and I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming OIAA events. That said, the sunset is calling and I must go...



Upcoming events and need to know information:

Ask Jen

Tucker out...

Regards,

Stephen Tucker

Kitchener-Waterloo OIAA Chapter, Provincial Delegate



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*Thank
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On behalf of the K-W OIAA we would like to thank all of our Industry Partners for their continued support of the events held throughout the year.

In recognition of all that you do for the K-W OIAA Chapter, for the 2017-2018 we are waiving the social membership fee for all of our industry partners. We would ask that you still register through the website so that you receive emails notifying you of the upcoming meetings and events.

*please note that the monthly meeting charges will still apply



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Parameters of the Duty of Care Owed by a Business to an Injured Thief



Authored by:

Hermina Nuric
Associate, London

519.931.3578

hnuric@millerthomson.com

After drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, two teenagers went on a joyride in a vehicle stolen from the defendant business owner's commercial car garage. The vehicle had been left unlocked on an unsecured lot, with keys in the ashtray. There was insufficient evidence that the garage was specifically targeted by the teenagers, as they had stolen valuables from other unlocked cars in the neighbourhood. The driver did not have a license and had never driven. The teens sadly crashed the car, leaving the passenger plaintiff catastrophically impaired.

The injured teen sued the garage owner. At trial, it was held that the defendant owed the plaintiff a duty of care and was 37% liable for the plaintiff's injuries. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision. The Court of Appeal found that the defendant had care and control of many vehicles for commercial purposes, and that this created a responsibility to secure the cars against minors in whose hands the vehicles were potentially dangerous.

In its May 11, 2018 decision in *Rankin (Rankin's Garage & Sales) v. J.J.*, 2018 SCC 19, the Supreme Court of Canada allowed the appeal and dismissed the claim against the business owner. Writing for the majority, Justice Karakatsanis held that a business will only owe a duty of care to someone who is injured following a theft of a vehicle when, in addition to the theft, there is evidence that the unsafe

operation of the stolen vehicle was reasonably foreseeable. In this case, there was enough evidence to establish only that the theft was reasonably foreseeable.

A risk of theft does not necessarily translate into a risk of physical injury. Evidence has to establish that *both* were reasonably foreseeable. The majority criticized the Court of Appeal for relying on speculation, rather than evidence, to establish the connection between the theft and an unsafe operation of the stolen vehicle. Although cars can be dangerous when operated by an unlicensed teenager, this risk could only realistically exist in certain circumstances.

The majority disagreed with the Court of Appeal's acceptance that a general risk of theft included a risk of theft by minors, in whose hands the vehicle was potentially dangerous. The majority held that the risk of theft in general did not automatically include the risk of theft by minors. Theft by minors had to be *reasonably foreseeable* to the business owner. A mere *possibility* that minors could steal the car was not enough. To say otherwise would mean that theft by minors is always foreseeable, which would fundamentally change tort law.

The majority's decision is consistent with the Supreme Court's recent guidance that the categories of duty of care should be narrowly framed. If the Court had accepted that this case was captured by a broad category of foreseeable physical injury that would have, in the words of Justice Karakatsanis, "[signalled] an expansion of that category in a manner that would subsume many of the categories recognized in tort law, rendering them redundant in cases of physical injury (e.g., the duty of a motorists

to users of the highway...the duty of a manufacturer to consumer...”).

Given the Court’s decision above, it was not necessary to consider whether illegal conduct could sever the proximate relationship. The Court did, however, comment on the issue. Justice Karakatsanis wrote that it made no analytical difference to the duty of care analysis whether the injury was suffered by an innocent third party or the thief. If the mere fact of illegal behaviour could eliminate a duty of care, this would effectively “immunize” negligent defendants and potentially deny recovery to seriously injured individuals. Although illegal conduct can operate as a defence in some actions in order to preserve the integrity of the legal system, this was not one of those cases. The plaintiff’s wrongdoing was integrated into the analysis of contributory negligence.

Hermina Nuric is an associate in the London office of Miller Thomson. She litigates insurance and commercial matters at all levels of complexity, including commercial general liability disputes and litigation matters resulting from automobile accidents.

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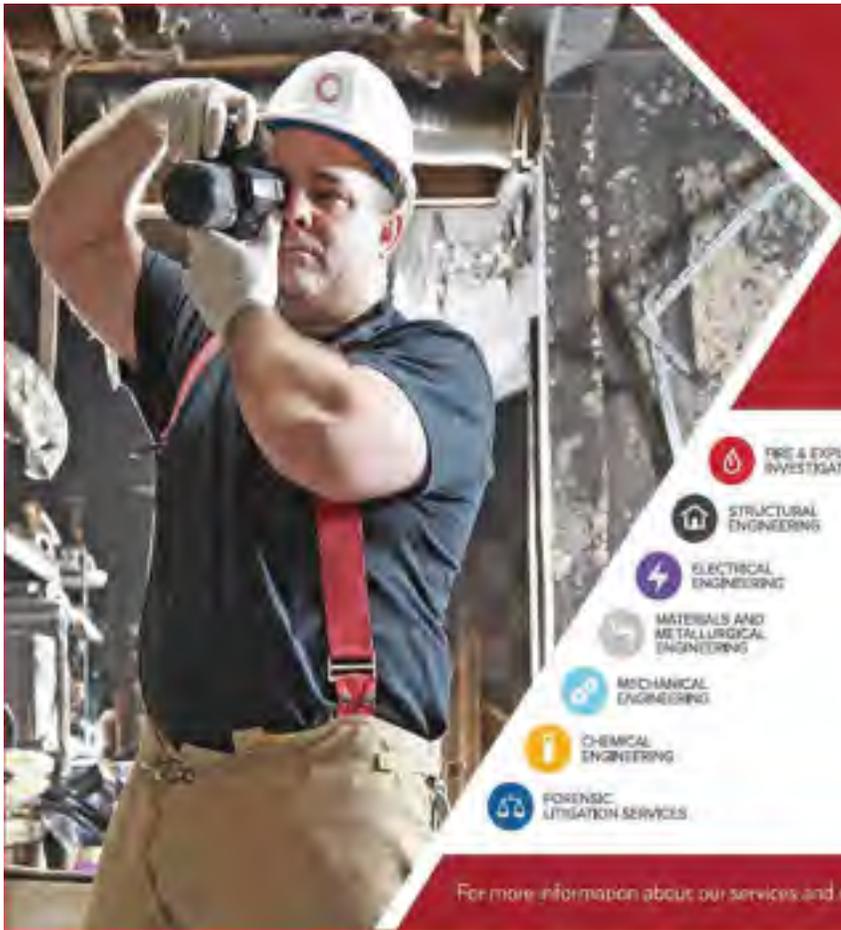


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