



President's Message

Seasons Greetings to all my CASA friends.

We all have an important job to do defending the food supply and protecting our businesses and consumers. Most people don't realize how much we all do (or even that anyone is doing this kind of work). When the public is made aware of the work that we do, they are very supportive and extremely interested in what we do.

We can all recall times when we have seen our work presented during a food safety crisis. It's not always the best way to get our message out – but it may be the only time the media is interested in our story.

We are constantly giving news to our clients (sometimes good and sometimes bad) and we all have some talents in this. Those of us in enforcement often have to give bad news to companies about their products, facilities or practices.

Our December meeting (December 16th) at Betty's in Niagara Falls, Ontario will feature a guest speaker from the CFIA Area headquarters. JoAnne Ford is the CFIA Area Communications Officer and is an expert in giving our message out (good and bad). I have asked JoAnne to speak to us about communicating bad news. This is something we can all continue to develop.

I am also working with a surprise guest to make the meeting that much more memorable for all of us.

In this issue of our newsletter, we will have the usual linkages and Tara will be linking to our OSH sites for useful safety and health tips to get us through the winter.

See you on December 16 in Niagara Falls.

Dan Plunkett

CASA -NFC 2008 Holiday Meeting

Betty's Restaurant – Niagara Falls, Canada

CASA - NFC 2008 **Holiday Training & Meeting**

It is that time again to get together during the holiday season to meet with our fellow members of the NFC. This year, we will be holding the meeting at Betty's Restaurant located in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada (see below for details and directions).

This year, the meeting will feature a special training presentation by JoAnne Ford, Area Communications Officer with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. JoAnne's presentation will explore various aspects of communications that will contain a great deal of information NFC agencies, departments, and affiliates can apply to their jobs.

WHERE

Betty's Restaurant
8921 Sodom Road
Niagara Falls, ON CA
L2E 6S6
(905) 295 - 4436
<http://www.bettysrestaurant.com>

WHEN

Tuesday, December 16th, 2008
10:30 a.m. - Registration
11:00 a.m. - Presentation
12:00 p.m. - Lunch

COST

\$20 CDN - Members
\$25 CDN - Non-members

LUNCH

Garden salad
Beef, chicken, or fish & chips entree
Assorted pies
Hot beverages served after meal



PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th TO:

Dan Plunkett
(905) 937-6347
Dan.Plunkett@inspection.gc.ca

DIRECTIONS TO BETTY'S RESTAURANT

CASA-NFC 2008 Holiday Meeting

Betty's Restaurant

8921 Sodom Road

Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S6

(905) 295 - 4436

<http://www.bettysrestaurant.com>



FROM TORONTO:

1. Exit QEW at Lyons Creek Rd.
2. Turn left on Lyons Creek Rd. (heading east).
3. Travel approximately 3 miles and turn right on Sodom Rd.
4. Betty's Restaurant is 1/4 mile down Sodom Rd. on the right.

FROM FORT ERIE/BUFFALO:

1. Exit QEW at Sodom Rd.
2. Travel north on Sodom Rd. for approximately 3 miles.
3. Betty's Restaurant is on the left.



Winter Safety:

Some Tips and Information for a Safe Holiday Season

How to drive in Winter weather...and other tips to winterize your vehicle

- Buckle up before you start driving. Keep your seat belt buckled at all times.
- **SLOW DOWN!** - posted speed limits are for ideal travel conditions. Driving at reduced speeds is the best precautionary measure against any misfortune while driving on slippery roads. "Black ice" is invisible.
- Be alert. Black ice will make a road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement should look grey-white in winter.
- Do not use cruise control. Winter driving requires you to be in full control at all times.
- Reduce your speed while approaching intersections covered with ice or snow.
- Allow for extra travelling time or even consider delaying a trip if the weather is inclement.
- Drive with low-beam headlights on. Not only are they brighter than daytime running lights but turning them on also activates the tail lights. This makes your vehicle more visible.
- Lengthen your following distance behind the vehicle ahead of you. Stopping distance on an icy road is double that of stopping on a dry one. For example, from around 45 meters (140 ft) at the speed of 60 km/h, to 80 meters (over 260 ft) on an icy road surface.
- Stay in the right-hand lane except when passing and use turn signals when changing lanes.
- Steer with smooth and precise movements. Changing lanes too quickly and jerky steering while braking or accelerating can cause skidding.
- Be aware and slow down when you see a sign warning that you are approaching a bridge. Steel and concrete bridges are likely to be icy even when there is no ice on the asphalt surface, (because bridges over open air cool down faster than roads which tend to be insulated somewhat by solid ground.)
- Consider getting off the road before getting stranded if the weather is worsening.
- Be patient and pass other cars only when it is safe to do so.

Taken from http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/icesnow.html

Winter Driving: Be Prepared, Be Safe!

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/winterdrive/winterdrive.htm>

FEMA: During a Winter Storm

http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_during.shtm#2

Information Corner

The 28th Annual Guelph Organic Conference, Food Expo & Tasting Fair

January 22-25, 2009 at the Guelph University Centre, Guelph, ON Canada. Come visit over 150 booths with free admission and free parking!

28th Guelph
Organic
Conference

<http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>

FreshCut: International Restaurant and Foodservice Show of New York

March 01-03, 2009 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York, NY. Featuring a new products gallery and many booths from the industry, this is a convention to attend!



<http://www.freshcut.com/pages/calendar.php>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!