

Measles Spreading Across Canada

Cases of the highly contagious disease are popping up all across Canada, igniting concern.

Spring Thaw May Bring Water Damage

Follow these tips to protect your home from water damage this spring.

Get Your Car Ready for Spring!

Winter conditions can really do a number on your vehicle. Learn how to get it spring-ready.

LIFE

Measles Spreading Across Canada

In 2014 so far, 288 cases of measles have been confirmed in British Columbia, along with six in Calgary, 10 in Saskatchewan and two in Ottawa. In 2012, over 120,000 deaths occurred across the globe from the disease, according to the World Health Organization.

Surprisingly, three out of the six people infected in Calgary had already been vaccinated for the disease—although this did make their symptoms less serious than the individuals who hadn't been vaccinated.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is spread through contact with mucous from an infected individual's nose and mouth. In pockets of the population where children remain unvaccinated, the disease can run rampant and gain entry into a larger percentage of the population.

The symptoms of measles are a high fever, irritability, runny nose and sore, red eyes that are sensitive to light. Three to seven days after those symptoms emerge, a rash will develop on the face and begin to spread down the body. Pregnant women, the elderly and children under age 1 are the most vulnerable to the disease.

PROVIDED BY



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Canadians have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of warmer temperatures and greenery in 2014. However, the highly desired spring weather means that homes are at risk for blocked gutters, crumbling foundations and flooded basements from all of the melting snow.

There are a few things you can do to minimize the damage this year's spring thaw may bring:

- Clear all gutters and downspouts of leaves and other debris. If you are not able, hire a professional to do this for you.
- Make sure your driveway or sidewalk has not shifted or cracked, allowing water to run towards your home's foundation.
- Make sure the gradation near your home will allow water to flow away from the foundation.
- Check for cracks in your foundation where water could potentially seep in.
- Move all valuables and electronics out of the basement area, or onto higher shelves.

Unfortunately, all the preparation in the world may not be able to stop Mother Nature from raining water damage upon you. Be sure to call Beyond Insurance Brokers Inc. as soon as possible—the faster you act to remove standing water and repair subsequent water damage, the less expensive the cleanup will be, and the more valuables you can potentially save.

Get Your Car Ready for Spring!

Cold-weather driving can cause quite a lot of wear and tear on vehicles. Low temperatures, salt-covered roads and heavy snowfall are just a few things that can contribute to your car needing a tune-up come spring. Here are some tips you can use to fix the damage and get your car ready for warmer temperatures:

- **Have your alignment checked and adjusted.** The potholes that appear after the snow and ice melts can throw a car's alignment off.
- **Change your tires if necessary and check the tire pressure.** The rising and falling temperatures during spring can alter the tire pressure.
- **Change your wiper blades.** The ice and salt buildup can wear wiper blades down, leaving them in poor condition for when you need them during a spring rainstorm.
- **Check your battery.** Winter temperatures can potentially damage your car's battery connections.
- **Clean the interior.** After constantly getting in and out of your vehicle all winter, there is probably a substantial buildup of snow, salt and grime.



IN THE KNOW

Bear Safety This Spring

Canadians should keep in mind that they aren't the only ones coming out of hibernation after the long winter. As bears become active again in the spring, the shortage of natural food leads them to forage in garbage cans and around bird feeders, putting humans and their pets at risk.

Remember to follow these simple steps to keep curious and hungry bears at bay this season:

- Make sure all garbage cans are kept closed. If a lid no longer fits, be sure to replace the lid or garbage can.
- Only put out your garbage cans the morning of pickup.
- Hold off on filling bird feeders until later in spring.
- Pick the fruit and berries in your yard as soon as they ripen.
- Clean your grill after every use.