



**TOWN OF
VILLE DE** **BLIND RIVER**

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Blind River Municipal Alcohol Policy Committee, is pleased to submit this **Municipal Alcohol Policy** for the management of special occasion permit events in municipally owned parks and recreation facilities, to Blind River.

The following individuals contributed to the development of the policy recommendations:

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The Committee would also like to thank Claire Narbonne-Fortin and Louise LaRocque of the Addiction Research Foundation for the valuable assistance they provided to the Alcohol Policy Committee in their deliberations.

This alcohol management policy is unique to the Town of Blind River. A municipality wishing to avoid alcohol problems should not simply copy this policy but engage itself in a policy development process that will reflect the needs of its community.

Stoney Burton
Chair

Lila Cyr
Councillor



**TOWN OF
VILLE DE** **BLIND RIVER**

**MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS**

As amended and adopted
17 October 1994

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1. **GOAL OF THE ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Town of Blind River wishes to provide a policy for responsible management practices at Special Occasion Permit functions held in their facilities. The Town also wishes to reduce and/or avoid alcohol related problems that could result in litigation being directed towards the Municipality, its staff, community organizations, volunteers and participants.

2. **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide appropriate procedures and education to individuals or groups wishing to hold events in municipally-owned facilities in order to ensure that all Liquor Licence Board of Ontario legislation pertaining to Special Occasion Permits is properly understood and strictly complied with.
2. To ensure proper supervision and proper operation of Special Occasion Permit events in order to protect the organizers, the participating public, volunteers, the Corporation and its staff from liability by providing education in prevention and intervention techniques and through effective management procedures.
3. To encourage and reinforce responsible, moderate drinking practices for consumers through the development of appropriate operational procedures, controls, training and education.
4. To honour the decision of abstainers not to drink alcohol and to encourage their participation by providing alternative, non-alcohol drinks.
5. To provide for a balanced use of alcohol through Special Occasion Permits so that alcohol becomes a responsible part of a social function rather than the reason for it.
6. To provide a balance of wet and dry facilities and programs in order to ensure that consumers, abstainers, adults, youth and families will be adequately serviced and protected.

3. **HISTORY OF THE AREA**

The Town of Blind River is a uniquely located, friendly, multi-cultural community located at approximately the midpoint between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie on the Trans-Canada Highway (Hwy # 17). It is a community which has thrived since it's beginning as a trading post community in the late 1600's and has experienced boom and bust related to fur trade, logging, and (most recently) primary sector uranium mining operations. The North Shore Region has access to rail and road transportation, deep water harbour, natural gas lines, and airport facilities. Additionally, the area has fibre optic telecommunications infrastructure in place as a result of the Ontario Lottery Corporation in Sault Ste. Marie. In summary, the community is well positioned for future growth with access to all the essential ingredients for environmental, technical, light manufacturing, and upscale tourism industries.

Due to the strategic location on the North Shore of Lake Huron and the Trans-Canada Highway, with significant natural tourism assets, the community has been able to sustain itself and slowly grow to a present population of 3,913 residents. The tourism industry is well supported by public and private infrastructure including the Timber Village Museum, Huron Pines Golf Course, the Blind River Marine Park, numerous beaches and parks, and over 20 private hotel, motel, campground, resort, and cottage operations. The Blind River Marine Park was completed in 1993 with the generous assistance of the Province of Ontario and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It has since earned a reputation as the best marina on the North Channel and is frequently touted as one of the best on the Lake Huron. Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology also operates from a base in Blind River and more recently is preparing to initiate an Eco-tourism Certificate Program capitalizing on the significant assets of the North Shore Region. The continued support for and participation in the major marketing efforts of the North Channel Marine Tourism Council and the Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association have garnered annual increases in tourism over the last several years.

Forestply Canada Incorporated, a veneer mill operation, is the remaining evidence of what was once the largest white pine mill in the British Commonwealth. A newly constructed hospital, St. Joseph Health Centre, is valued at some \$18 million was completed in 1992 through substantial community support. The area is host to a refinery operation of Cameco Corporation - the most advanced uranium refinery operation in Canada. Other major employers include the Town of Blind River, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Area Office, and Ontario Hydro. The North Shore Roman Catholic Separate School Board also has its main offices in Blind River along with the Ontario Provincial Police, and the North Shore Tribal Council. A full range of business products, services, and facilities are available through the membership of the Blind River and District Chamber of Commerce with over 200 members.

4. **BACKGROUND**

On January 17, 1994, Claire Narbonne-Fortin and Louise LaRocque, Program Consultants with the Addiction Research Foundation's North Region, presented information on Municipal Alcohol Policy to the Blind River Town Council and interested members of the general public. This resulted in Resolution from Town Council asking that a committee be formed to develop recommendations for a Municipal Alcohol Policy.

A committee of 15 people, representing a cross-section of the Town of Blind River, was established under the Chairmanship of Stoney Burton.

The Alcohol Policy Committee met on 8 separate occasions in order to implement the following Terms of Reference:

- 1) To gather and review the available information on the use of alcohol relating to Blind River and area.
- 2) To review the literature on drinking practices and their implications in the management of alcohol in recreation facilities.
- 3) To collect and review comparative information relative to the task from Parks and Recreation departments in other communities.
- 4) To be familiar with Chapter 15 of the Liquor Licence Act of Ontario, 1990.
- 5) To identify those facilities and programs which will be covered by the policy.
- 6) To examine areas of use of alcohol in the past five years, with examples of both problems and of good management.
- 7) To gather the opinion of other agencies as to how they perceive the use and non-use of alcohol in municipally-owned facilities and programs which take place in those facilities.
- 8) To examine the goals and objectives of Blind River in relation to recreational activities.
- 9) To obtain comments and suggestions from staff and volunteers on the use of alcohol in municipally-owned facilities and programs which take place in those facilities.

This Policy complies with Bill 175: "An Act to revise The Liquor Licence Act and to amend the law relating to Liquor", which was given Royal Assent on September 15, 1990.

In addition, this Policy assists Blind River in the achievement of its goals:

- 1) To ensure responsible management practices at Special Occasion Permit functions held in municipally-owned facilities.

- 2) To reduce alcohol-related problems.
- 3) To protect the Municipality, its staff, community organizations, volunteers and participants from litigation arising from alcohol related activities.

5. **POLICY REGULATIONS**

REGULATION #1: FACILITIES ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT EVENTS

- A. THE MARINE PARK BOATERS' LOUNGE.
- B. THE MARINE PARK DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, FOR HOSPITALITY NO-SALE FUNCTIONS WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.
- C. THE COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL.
- D. THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, FOR HOSPITALITY NO-SALE FUNCTIONS WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.
- E. THE ICE SURFACE OF THE ARENA DURING THE SUMMER ONLY, WHEN THERE IS NO ICE.
- F. THE BLIND RIVER GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE.
- G. THE TOWN PARK, DURING COMMUNITY DAY EVENTS.
- H. LIBRARY, FOR HOSPITALITY NO-SALE FUNCTIONS WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.
- I. MUSEUM, FOR HOSPITALITY, NO-SALE FUNCTIONS WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.
- J. COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FOR NO SALE MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS.
- K. TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTRE, FOR HOSPITALITY NO-SALE FUNCTIONS WITH COUNCIL APPROVAL ONLY.

Rationale:

- The Marina, Community Centre/Arena, and the Golf Course are equipped with kitchen and bar facilities.
- Washrooms are easily accessible.
- Exits should remain unlocked but supervised.
- The Arena floor surface provides rental space capable of accommodating a large group of participants. In order to prevent accidents, it is not to be rented for Special Occasion Permit events when the ice surface is present.

- The Town Park has been the traditional venue for Community Day Activities. It is hope that in time a pavilion or permanent structure could be built to accommodate these events. The Town Park's proximity to the waterfront requires appropriately trained staff to supervise and work at events held in this outdoor facility.
- The Council Chambers, Library, Travel Information Centre and Museum may occasionally be used for small, special private functions such as receiving visiting dignitaries, art exhibits or book launches.

REGULATION #2: FACILITIES AND OUTDOOR AREAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT EVENTS OR ALCOHOL USE.

MARINE PARK FACILITIES

- A. PATIO DECK B. WATERFRONT PATIO C. BOARDWALK
- D. DOCKS E. VOLLEYBALL AND HORSESHOE AREAS
- F. MUNICIPALLY-OWNED GREEN SPACES AND WATERFRONT AREAS

COMMUNITY CENTRE/ARENA FACILITIES

- G. ENTRANCE LOBBY H. BLEACHERS I. DRESSING ROOMS

GOLF COURSE

- J. GOLF COURSE - GREENS, FAIRWAYS AND OTHER AREAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AS LICENSED OR ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS PERMIT OR LICENSED ACTIVITIES.

OTHER FACILITIES

- K. ALL OTHER MUNICIPALLY OWNED FACILITIES AND BUILDINGS NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR S.O.P. EVENTS OR ALCOHOL USE.

Rationale:

- Although there is no history of Special Occasion Permit events in most of these facilities, it is recommended that these areas remain alcohol-free.
- While these areas, such as Arena dressing rooms, have never been eligible for Special Occasion Permit events, there is a history of alcohol consumption by some individuals and/or groups. This specific notation is intended to serve notice that illegal consumption of alcohol will no longer be tolerated.

REGULATION #3: PARKS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT EVENTS OR ALCOHOL USE.

ALL MUNICIPALLY OWNED PARKS, BEACHES AND GREEN SPACES NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR S.O.P. EVENTS OR ALCOHOL USE.

Rationale:

- There is a history of illegal drinking, underage drinking and vandalism on waterfront and park sites.
- It is dangerous to mix water sports and activities with alcohol.
- Although the L.L.B.O. now allows S.O.P. outdoor events where an adjacent building is available, it is the recommendation of the Committee that such events be held indoors or that permanent or semi-permanent structures be available where these activities have traditionally been held.
- Legal precedents suggest that sponsors of any potentially dangerous activity "have a general duty to prevent an intoxicated person from participating..."

[e.g. Crocker v. Sundance Northwest Resorts Ltd. (1988)]

"Crocker had entered the Resort's tube-racing contest, which involved riding a large inner-tube down a steep hill. The Resort showed films illustrating the hazards of the race. Moreover, Crocker signed an entry waiver form that specifically exempted the Resort from liability. Nevertheless, the trial judge accepted Crocker's testimony that he had not read the form and that he could not see the film from where he was sitting."

"On the morning of the race, Crocker consumed a large quantity of rye and cola at home. He continued drinking at the Resort's bar. After winning the first heat, he had several more drinks and became "visibly drunk". The manager warned him not to race, but took no further steps to stop him. Prior to the second heat, Crocker fell and his tube slid down the hill. Another member of the staff confronted him, and stated that he was in no condition to race. Crocker belligerently insisted on racing and was given a second tube. During the race, he was thrown from the tube and suffered injuries that rendered him a quadriplegic."

"The Resort was found 75% liable, while Crocker was held contributorily negligent for only 25%. The judge specifically rejected the Resort's argument that Crocker had voluntarily assumed the risk of participating and should therefore be denied recovery. The case was eventually appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, which upheld the result. The Supreme Court held that the Resort, as the sponsor of a potentially dangerous event, had a duty to prevent Crocker from participating because he was visibly intoxicated. In the Court's view, the Resort should have disqualified Crocker, postponed the race or tried more effectively to prevent him from competing. In any event, he should not have been given another tube before the second heat."

REGULATION #4:

EVENTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMITS OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL.

Solomon, R.M., S.J. Usprich and L. Munro. "Municipalities and alcohol: Liability, Legal Powers, and Loss Prevention." Prepared for The Countermeasures Branch, Ministry of the Attorney General (Ontario), October 1990.

ibid.

- A. **THAT ALL YOUTH EVENTS AND ALL MINOR SPORTS EVENTS, INCLUDING BANQUETS, BE DESIGNATED AS EVENTS NOT SUITABLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMITS. ASSOCIATED, ADULT EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS COMMENCING AFTER 8:30 P.M. WILL BE ALLOWED, HOWEVER, MINORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ENTRY TO THE LICENSED EVENT.**

B. FAMILY DAY EVENTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COMMUNITY DAYS.

C. OUTDOOR EVENTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COMMUNITY DAYS.

Rationale:

- Minor sports banquets and Family Day events are intended for young people and families.
- Non-consumption by participating adults provides a positive example for young people.
- Since adults supervise and drive young people to and from these events, alcohol consumption does not provide a positive example regarding drinking and driving.
- Outdoor bars and beer tents may encourage consumption by those who would not normally drink alcohol at an outdoor event.
- Outdoor S.O.P. events do not necessarily provide an "option" for those who would consume illegally from their car or picnic cooler; some may consume legally and illegally.

REGULATION #5: PROMOTION OF NO-ALCOHOL FAMILY DANCES

THAT GROUPS BE ENCOURAGED TO SPONSOR ALCOHOL-FREE FAMILY DANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Rationale:

- Children enjoy participating in special events with their parents.
- Alcohol-free events provide a positive example to children that it is possible to have fun without the use of alcohol.

REGULATION #6: YOUTH ADMITTANCE TO ADULT EVENTS

THAT PERSONS UNDER THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE NOT BE ADMITTED TO LICENSED SOCIAL EVENTS HELD AFTER 8:30 P.M., BEING HELD IN MUNICIPALLY OWNED FACILITIES, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A FAMILY OCCASION SUCH AS A WEDDING OR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

IN THE CASE OF DAYTIME LICENSED EVENTS SUCH AS ADULT TOURNAMENTS AND SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS, UNDERAGE YOUTH HAVE PERMISSION TO ENTER OUTDOOR LICENSED AREAS AS LONG AS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

Rationale:

- There is a high risk of underage consumption when youth are admitted to adult Special Occasion Permit events.
- There is a history of underage consumption at adult S.O.P. events.

REGULATION #7: SIGNS

THE FOLLOWING SIGNS SHALL BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN S.O.P. DESIGNATED FACILITIES IN SIZES APPROPRIATE TO THE FACILITY AND SPACE TO BE USED.

A. STATEMENT OF INTOXICATION

The following statement will appear on a wall sign located in the bar areas and at the entrance.

"Blind River strives to provide recreation facilities for the enjoyment of all members of the community. We honour the rights of everyone, including those who choose to abstain, and encourage them to participate in our social events. Servers are required by law not to serve an intoxicated person or to serve anyone to the point of intoxication. Low-alcohol beverages, coffee, soft drinks, and food items are to be provided by event sponsors."

Rationale:

- In Ontario, it is illegal for anyone to serve a person to the point of intoxication.
- Signs provide authoritative support to servers and supervisors should they have to refuse service to consumers approaching the point of intoxication.
- This message is consistent with Recommendation #9 which requires a sufficient quantity of low-alcohol beverages.
- This message indicates that the sponsor is aware of the Liquor Licence Act and of the Blind River Alcohol Policy.
- This message is consistent with the L.L.B.O. Special Occasion Permit Application which states that the holder of the Special Occasion Permit and the facility owners are jointly responsible for the "safety and sobriety of the people attending the event".

B. "RIDE" AWARENESS

The following statement will appear on a wall sign located at the main entrance.

"The local Ontario Provincial Police look forward to personally thanking you at one of our spot-checks for leaving this event a Sober Driver."

Rationale:

- A 1980 Ontario roadside study found that 12.7% of impaired drivers detected at roadside spot-checks were travelling from recreational facilities.
- In a 1986 survey, 5% of drivers above .05 were returning from an Special Occasion Permit event (Smart, 1988).
- This sign politely informs participants that Police regularly conduct roadside sobriety spot-checks. Consequently, drivers are aware of the possibility of apprehension should they be considering drinking and then driving.

C. **ACCOUNTABILITY**

A PAPER SIGN MEASURING 11 INCHES BY 14 INCHES IS TO BE POSTED BY THE SPONSOR AT MAIN EXITS AND IN BAR AREAS STATING THE NAME OF THE SPONSOR, THE EVENT LICENCE HOLDER, AND THE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE. A BLANK SIGN FORMAT SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE SPONSOR BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

Rationale:

- Although informed of the date, time and place of S.O.P. events in their area, police do not always have the time to drop in.
- The Liquor Licence Inspector is in Sault Ste. Marie and rarely able to check in on S.O.P. functions.
- This sign informs the participants that there is a procedure for lodging complaints even if enforcement personnel are not present at the event.

D. **NO LAST CALL**

A SIGN WILL BE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HALLS LOCATED IN FACILITIES DESIGNATED ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT, INDICATING THAT THERE WILL BE NO LAST CALL BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE BAR.

Rationale:

- Last call results in high and rapid consumption and results in high blood alcohol levels which may peak after an event and lead to impaired driving charges.
- This sign indicates clearly to participants that Blind River is committed to safe serving practices and that last minute "stocking up" will not be permitted.

E. **TICKET SALES.**

That a sign be posted at the alcohol ticket sales table outlining the regulations. (Maximum 4 ticket per purchase per person; ticket sales ending at 12:30 a.m.)

F. **PROOF OF AGE.**

Signs posted near entrances to designated S.O.P. areas which read:

"You must be 19 years of age or older to attend a Special Occasion Permit Event. The only acceptable proof of age is photo identification."

G. **NO-ALCOHOL AREAS.**

THAT ALL AREAS IN MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND PARKS EXCEPT THOSE DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMITS BE CLEARLY INDICATED BY SIGNAGE AS AREAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DRINKING ALCOHOL.

Rationale:

- While these areas, such as outdoor parks, Arena dressing rooms and bleacher areas, have never been eligible for Special Occasion Permit events, there is a history of alcohol consumption by some individuals and/or groups. This specific notation is intended to serve notice that illegal consumption of alcohol will no longer be tolerated.

H. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME.

A SIGN SHALL BE DISPLAYED IN ALL FACILITIES WHERE ALCOHOL IS SERVED IN ORDER TO INFORM PARTICIPANTS OF THE RISKS OF FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME.

"Give your baby a good start. If you are pregnant or nursing your baby, please do not drink alcohol." An alternate design in international symbols may be used.

Rationale:

- Alcohol is harmful to the fetus and to children.
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) are totally preventable yet irreversible conditions which can result in physical and mental abnormalities.
- Nursing mothers who drink alcohol transfer alcohol to the baby through their milk.

I. DESIGNATED DRIVERS

THAT A SIGN BE POSTED IN ALL FACILITIES DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR S.O.P. EVENTS THANKING DESIGNATED DRIVERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THEIR FRIENDS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

Rationale:

- A designated driver program is an important part of a safe transportation strategy; providing recognition indicates appreciation of their important role. Sponsors are encouraged to provide free non-alcohol beverages for designated drivers.

J. STANDARD DRINK SIZE

THAT A SIGN INDICATING STANDARD DRINK SIZES BE POSTED IN THE BAR AREAS.

Rationale:

- Serving standard alcohol drinks can assist bartenders who must monitor alcohol consumption in order to prevent intoxication.

REGULATION #8:**SERVER TRAINING**

- A. THE SPONSOR MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE FACILITY MANAGER THAT ALL EVENT SERVERS, DOOR SUPERVISORS, AND FLOOR SUPERVISORS HAVE ATTENDED AN ADDICTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION SERVER INTERVENTION COURSE AND HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN RESPONSIBLE SERVER TECHNIQUES.* IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT S.I.P. TRAINED PERSONS BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A REFRESHER COURSE SHOULD THE PROGRAM BE UPDATED.**
- B. THOSE EMPLOYED BY LESSEES OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES OR CONTRACT OPERATORS OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE S.I.P. TRAINING.***
- C. THE MUNICIPALITY WILL CONDUCT TWO S.I.P. COURSES PER YEAR - ONE SPRING SESSION AND ONE FALL SESSION OPEN TO ALL USER GROUPS.**

*50% by March 31, 1995 and 100% by December 31, 1995.

Rationale:

- Reducing the risk of litigation requires not only the components of policy and procedures, but also the recruitment of appropriately trained supervisors and servers.
- The Town of Blind River Council is morally obliged to inform volunteers of the potential for litigation and to provide them with the tools to avoid such action.
- Two S.I.P. training events, lasting approximately four hours each, have been held in Blind River. Approximately 25 Blind River residents are now trained to prevent and recognize potentially risky situations. Participants reported that the S.I.P. training had been informative and would enable them to avoid the possibility of litigation and ensure the safety of participants. Other S.I.P. training events are planned for the Fall of 1994.
- The Addiction Research Foundation's Server Intervention Program has been endorsed by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and sections of it are now used as part of the L.L.B.O. orientation program for new hotel licensees.

REGULATION #9: PROVISION OF LOW-ALCOHOL DRINKS

THAT IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FACILITY RENTAL FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT EVENT, THE SPONSOR MUST BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE FACILITY MANAGER THAT LOW ALCOHOL DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE EVENT. NON ALCOHOL DRINKS MUST BE OFFERED AT NO CHARGE OR AT A PRICE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN CHARGED FOR ALCOHOL DRINKS. FOOD ITEMS MUST BE AVAILABLE.

WHERE WINE IS PROVIDED WITH A MEAL, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT A NO-ALCOHOL SUBSTITUTE, SUCH AS GINGER ALE OR SPARKLING FRUIT JUICE, BE PROVIDED TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AND ABSTAINERS ARE INCLUDED IN TOASTING THE CELEBRANTS.

Rationale:

- 1½ oz. of spirits, 5 oz. of table wine and 12 oz. of 5% beer all contain equal amounts of pure alcohol.
- Low-alcohol drinks reduce the consumption of absolute alcohol, reduce the likeliness of intoxication and permit participants to socialize throughout the evening without becoming intoxicated.
- The Liquor Licence Act requires that a variety of brands be offered and that licensed premises must have lists or signs prominently displayed which indicate the varieties and prices of alcohol and non-alcohol beverages available.
- The availability of low-alcohol drinks reduces the likelihood of impaired driving.
- The availability of non-alcohol drinks supports the designated driver program.
- The availability of non-alcohol drinks honours those choosing to abstain from alcohol beverages.
- The availability of non-alcohol drinks honours children who are permitted to attend family weddings and anniversary dinners and permits them to participate in the festivities.

Note: Please see **REGULATION # 11: SAFE TRANSPORTATION.**

REGULATION #10: STANDARD ALCOHOL CONTENT DRINKS

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RENT A MUNICIPAL FACILITY, THE SPONSOR MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE MUNICIPAL FACILITY MANAGER THAT NO EXTRA ALCOHOL CONTENT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Rationale:

- Extra strength alcohol drinks make it difficult to monitor the number of standard drinks consumed by participants at an S.O.P. event.

Standard drink: 12 oz. 5% beer; 5 oz. 12% wine, 1½ oz. 40% spirits.

REGULATION #11: SAFE TRANSPORTATION

PRIOR TO RECEIVING RENTAL PRIVILEGES FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES FOR SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT FUNCTIONS, EVENT SPONSORS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE FACILITY MANAGER THAT A SAFE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, INCLUDING:

- A) A DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM;**
- B) ALTERNATE HOME TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS; AND**
- C) PROMOTION OF SOBER DRIVER SPOT-CHECK AWARENESS.**

A. Designated Driver

- designated driver program shall be advertised at the event; and,
- identified designated drivers (wearing button or other means of identification) shall receive free non-alcohol drinks (such as coffee, pop, juice)

B. Alternate Transportation Options

- sponsor a bus or personal transportation to drive intoxicated participant home; and/or
- call a friend or relative to assist an intoxicated driver and/or
- if necessary, call police, warn or apprehend impaired driver.

C. Sober Driver Spot Check Awareness

- Post wall signs in accordance with **Regulation #7: Section B. "RIDE" AWARENESS.**

Rationale:

- The greatest risk of liability is viewed as the impaired driver leaving an alcohol related event.

(e.g.: Schmidt v. Sharpe (1983))

"Less than 15 minutes after finishing his last beer and leaving the Arlington House Hotel, Sharpe failed to negotiate a curve in the road. Sharpe suffered only minor injuries in the ensuing accident, but his 16 year-old passenger, Schmidt, was rendered a quadriplegic. Schmidt and his family sued both Sharpe and Arlington House Hotel for \$13 million."

(e.g. Picka v. Porter and the Royal Canadian Legion (1980))

"The defendant Porter drove through a stop sign and crashed into the Picka station wagon, killing three of its occupants and injuring two others. Just prior to the accident, Porter had apparently consumed between the equivalent of 9 and 11 bottles of beer at the Legion Hall during a period of about five hours... the plaintiffs sued both Porter and Legion".⁴

- Awareness of police spot-checks for impaired drivers raises the possibility in the mind of the driver of probable apprehension by the authorities.
- Positive tone reinforces responsible behaviour by most drivers and does not deter from party atmosphere of event.
- The O.P.P. in the District of Algoma have initiated a roadside spot check programme for impaired drivers.

REGULATION #12: CONTROLS

A. WHEN AN EVENT IS HELD IN ANY FACILITY DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT, THE SPONSOR MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE FACILITY MANAGER THAT THE ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT POLICY IS UNDERSTOOD, THAT THE REGULATIONS WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED, AND THAT SUFFICIENT CONTROLS ARE IN PLACE WHICH WILL ASSIST IN ENSURING COMPLIANCE TO THE POLICY. THESE CONTROLS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The event sponsor must provide a list of event workers to the Facility Manager at least one week prior to the event along with each worker's S.I.P. registration number and the municipality reserves the right to assign event workers at the sole cost of the event sponsor.

This permits the municipality representative to verify that the designated number of event workers were SIP trained.

2. The event sponsor must obtain a Special Occasion Permit from the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario and must show proof of this to the Facility Manager as soon as the permit is received and before ordering the alcohol for the event.

Alcohol may not be served in public areas without a Special Occasion Permit or a Commercial Liquor Licence.

3. The entrance will be monitored by two people 19 years or over, from a list of S.I.P. trained workers, this list to be provided by the Municipality.

Controlling the door to prevent underage, intoxicated or rowdy people from entering an event considerably reduces the likelihood of problems occurring.

ibid.

4. The only acceptable form of identification will be an age of majority card, a Driver's Licence with photo.

This will help to ensure that no underage participants are admitted.

5. The event sponsor and event workers must ensure that the physical setting is safe for both drinkers and non-drinkers.

Ontario Occupiers' Liability Act

6. The event sponsor and event workers must prevent patrons from engaging in activities that can harm themselves or others.

Ontario Occupiers' Liability Act

7. The person who signs the Special Occasion Permit Application and the person or persons signing the Rental Agreement must attend the event and be responsible for making decisions regarding the operation of the event.

Properly trained event workers are able to identify potentially troublesome situations and correct the problems before they are out of control.

8. The person who signs the Special Occasion Permit Application and the person or persons signing the Rental Agreement is/are responsible for decision-making during the event and therefore must refrain from consuming alcohol while the event is in progress.

If an accident were to occur, it could be difficult to demonstrate commitment to sponsor's "duty to control" if the sponsor/licensee had been consuming an intoxicating substance.

9. All event workers must refrain from consuming alcohol while the event is in progress. Workers may consume alcohol if they are working a shift and their work responsibilities have ended for the entire event.

If supervisors were compensated for their volunteer work with free alcohol and if an accident were to occur, it would be difficult to demonstrate control if the control agents had been consuming an intoxicating substance.

10. All exits must be supervised.

All exits must be supervised to ensure that those attending the event have been monitored at the door and are not underage, intoxicated or known troublemakers, and that underage participants attending family events do not leave or arrive through an unsupervised access area in order to consume alcohol in another location.

11. A floor supervisor must be available upon request to ticket sellers who require assistance in managing a person who is refused a sale.

Having available a floor supervisor ensures that ticket sellers have backup should they encounter hostility when refusing to sell to those approaching intoxication or who object to a limit on ticket sales.

12. All bottles must be retained within the bar area, all drinks must be served in plastic or paper cups.

The use of paper/plastic cups is advantageous because:

- ***should a drink be dropped, paper and plastic cups do not break;***
- ***individuals might be less hesitant to ask for a light drink if their choice remained "anonymous" in a plastic/paper cup.***
- ***should a patron become belligerent, a broken beer bottle could be used as a weapon.***

13. The licensee must abide by the rules of the Alcohol Policy as enforced by the Municipal Council or by Council's designated representative(s).

The Special Occasion Permit Application states that the permit holder and the hall owner are jointly responsible for the safety and sobriety of those attending the event. It is therefore important that licensee comply with the Municipal Alcohol Policy and the municipal representative be authorized to enforce the Policy.

14. Marketing practices which encourage increased consumption, such as oversize drinks, double shots of spirits, pitchers of beer, drinking contests, ticket draws for alcohol, and volume discounts are not permitted. (Liquor Licence Act of Ontario, 1990, Regulations 546/90)

Consumption of non-standard drinks makes it difficult for staff to monitor consumption.

15. A minimum of two people will be designated to sell tickets.

Selling tickets slows down the rate of consumption as people are required to make two stops before getting their drinks. This provides ticket sellers and bartenders with the opportunity to look for signs of intoxication and to read the climate of the event.

A lone ticket seller could feel personal pressure to sell tickets to a close friend or relative who should be refused any further purchase of alcohol.

16. Tickets must be purchased from a designated ticket seller and redeemed at the bar, with a maximum of 4 tickets per purchase per person.

Selling tickets slows down the rate of consumption as people are required to make two stops before getting their drinks. This provides event supervisors with the opportunity to look for signs of intoxication and to read the climate of the event.

17. Unused tickets are to be redeemable for cash on demand at any time during the event, to a maximum of four (4) tickets per person.

Redeeming unused tickets for cash could help avoid a confrontation with a patron who may be nearing intoxication but who wishes to purchase additional drinks to get his/her "money's worth".

18. A minimum of two (2) O.P.P. paid-duty police officers must be hired to work at all events organized for more than 300 participants.

19. The Town of Blind River reserves the right to require the presence of two (2) O.P.P. paid-duty police officers for the duration of an event, the cost of which will be borne by the sponsoring group or individual.

20. The local O.P.P. Detachment may, at their own discretion, set higher minimums.

Having police officers police events is particularly beneficial at events where a large number of people are expected to attend or where a history of problems exists. The presence of off-duty police officers in uniform could act as a deterrent to potential trouble-makers.

21. There will be no last call or signal indicating that the bar is closing.

Last call usually results in high and rapid consumption and results in high blood alcohol levels which may peak after an event and lead to impaired driving.

22. A free bar event must have trained servers and floor supervisors.

Since responsible service is always required, whether alcohol is sold or provided at no charge, the same ratio of S.I.P. trained workers will ensure that an event is run safely.

23. All event workers must wear highly visual identification approved and provided by the Town of Blind River to SIP trained individuals.

Wearing highly visual identification enables participants to quickly contact an event worker should problems occur.

24. At masquerade events, participants shall be required to identify themselves to event staff on demand.

Masquerade events can make it difficult to identify underage persons and can encourage participants to behave inappropriately since they might not be recognized.

25. At youth dances, no one who leaves the event will be re-admitted.

This ensures that participants are not leaving the event and drinking alcohol elsewhere before seeking re-admission.

26. Whenever possible, Police will be notified by the Licensee and/or the event sponsor of a potentially risky situation before the situation is out of control.

Although police will be called if a situation becomes risky, it is the responsibility of the Special Occasion Permit holder to ensure the proper management of an event. Most Special Occasion Permit events are held on Friday or Saturday night, which is prime time for other occurrences requiring police attention. This could result in a slower response time by police when they are called. Early notification of potential problems will facilitate the ability of the police to plan their availability should they be required.

27. In order to reduce the risk of intoxication and the rate of consumption, staff should encourage patrons to consume food, low-alcohol beverages, and non-alcohol beverages. (Liquor Licence Act of Ontario, 1990, regulation 549/90). Food shall be provided beginning no later than 10:30 P.M. and must not be removed until 12:45 a.m.. Chips, peanuts and other snacks do not qualify as food. Food minimally consists of sandwiches, cheese, vegetables and dip.

The Liquor Licence Act requires that food be available during a Special Occasion event. High-carbohydrate foods, such as bread, cheese and dip, slow down the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream and therefore reduce the risk of intoxication. Chips, peanuts and other snacks do not qualify as food. Food minimally consists of sandwiches, cheese, vegetables, and dip.

28. The role of workers at S.O.P. events is defined as follows:

Bartenders: accept tickets for the purchase of alcohol drinks; serve drinks; monitor for intoxication; keep the bar area clean.

Floor Supervisors: Monitor patron behaviour; monitor for intoxication; respond to problems and complaints; pick up empty cups.

Door Supervisors: Check identification; monitor for intoxication at arrival and departure; respond as required to patron conduct, complaints and problems.

Ticket Sellers: Sell alcohol tickets to a maximum of 4 per person per purchase; monitor for intoxication; **must** refuse sale to patrons at or near intoxication.

ALL WORKERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO THE LICENCE HOLDER.

29. The ratio of S.O.P. event workers designated by the lessee and by the Facility Manager will be as follows:

COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL				
CAPACITY:		280		
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
Under 50	1	1	1	2
50 to 100	2	1	1	2
101 to 180	2	2	2	2
181 to 280	3	2	2	2

ARENA FLOOR				
CAPACITY:		1300		
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
300 to 500	4	3	4	2
501 to 750	8	6	4	4
751 to 1300	10	8	4	4

MARINE PARK BOATERS' LOUNGE				
CAPACITY: Standing: 150 Seated: 100 Dancing: 70				
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
Under 50	1	1	1	1
50 to 100	2	1	1	2
101 to 180	2	2	2	2
181 to 280	3	2	2	2

GOLF CLUB				
CAPACITY: 238 (Clubhouse and Deck)				
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
Under 50	1	1	1	1
50 to 100	2	1	1	2
101 to 180	2	2	2	2
181 to 238	3	2	2	2

TOWN PARK COMMUNITY DAYS				
CAPACITY: Depending on structure to be used.				
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
Under 50	2	2	2	2
50 to 200	3	4	3	2
201 to 350	4	5	4	2
351 to 500	6	6	4	2

INDOOR NO-SALE EVENTS				
CAPACITY:		Depending on facility.		
Number of Participants	Bartenders	Floor Supervisors	Door Supervisors	Ticket Sellers
Under 50	1	1	1	N/A
51 to 100	2	1	1	N/A
101 to 200	2	2	2	N/A
201 to 350	3	4	2	N/A
351 to 500	4	4	3	N/A

A greater number of workers ensures that proper supervision can be exercised at all levels, including door supervision, floor supervision, ticket selling and bartending.

30. No bar tickets will be sold after 12:30 a.m.

31. No one will be admitted after 12:30 a.m. with the exception of designated drivers.

32. The bar area will close no later than 1:00 a.m. (Liquor Licence Act of Ontario 1990, regulation 549/90) and will not re-open.

Closing a bar area after the last patron has been served and no later than 1:00 a.m. and vacating premises no later than 1:45 a.m. are all required under the L.L.B.O. Act.

33. All lights must be turned on at 1:00 a.m.

34. All entertainment must be completed by 1:00 a.m.

35. Participants must leave by 1:30 a.m.

36. Facilities must be vacated by 1:45 a.m. (Liquor Licence Act of Ontario, 1990, regulation 549/90)

37. All evidence of alcohol service must be removed by 1:45 a.m.

38. All alcohol beverages must be cleared from the facilities immediately following the event.

Rationale:

- The law clearly states that the sponsor of an event has a "duty to control", that is to protect participants from foreseeable harm to themselves or others.

[e.g. Jacobson v. Kinsmen Club of Nanaimo (1976)]

"The defendant's club sponsored a beer party in a large Facility. During the party, some patrons began climbing one of the support beams and "mooning" the crowd below. One individual lost his grip and fell about 10 meters onto the plaintiff, knocking him unconscious. Although there were 30 Kinsmen volunteers supervising the event, the only steps taken to discourage the climbers were shouts from certain members. The court found that the club had breached its statutory obligation as an occupier by failing to prevent the I-beam climbing."⁵

- The municipal representative who approves the rental of a municipal facility to an individual or group must ensure that the group and/or individual is aware of the municipal alcohol policy and of the controls required to facilitate its implementation.

B. INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUPS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE BLIND RIVER MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL POLICY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES:

1. The event staff may report any infraction of this policy to legal authorities whenever they believe such action is required.
2. Any infraction of the Blind River Alcohol Policy will be reviewed by the appropriate facility committee.
3. A registered letter describing the problem will be sent by the Facility Manager to the sponsor. Copies of the letter will be sent to the appropriate facility committee.
4. Where underage youth are found to have consumed or to be consuming alcohol at S.O.P. and non-S.O.P. events, Police must be called by the sponsor or licensee and may be called at the sole discretion of the Facility Manager.
5. Where adults and/or youth engage in disruptive behaviour at social events, authorities may be called at the discretion of the Facility Manager or the event sponsor.
6. When individuals are found to be consuming alcohol in restricted areas, police will be called to enforce the law.
7. Where an S.O.P. licensee contravenes the Blind River Alcohol Policy, the S.O.P. licensee and the event sponsor will be barred from renting municipally-owned facilities for a period of one year and the licensee will be required to obtain or update S.I.P. training during that time at his/her own expense prior to being reconsidered for rental of town operated facilities.
8. Following the suspension period, future rental privileges to penalized individuals or groups will depend on demonstrating to the Facility Manager that S.I.P. training has been obtained and that all rules will be followed at future functions.

Addiction Research Foundation Server's Manual, 1986.

9. Should an event sponsor contravene the **Blind River Alcohol Policy** a second time, s/he will be permanently barred from renting municipally-owned facilities.

10. Event workers who contravene the Blind River Alcohol Policy or any other Municipal Alcohol Policy will be removed from the S.I.P. workers list for a period of one year.
11. Event workers who contravene the Blind River Alcohol Policy or any other Municipal Alcohol Policy a second time will be removed from the S.I.P. workers list for a period of one year and be required to obtain further S.I.P. training at their own expense.
12. Should an event worker contravene the Blind River Alcohol Policy or any other Municipal Alcohol Policy a third time, s/he will be permanently barred from working at S.O.P. events held in Blind River.

Rationale:

- It is important that a clear set of guidelines be developed and that penalties for failure to comply to the policy be consistently applied.
- This practice ensures that user groups and participants recognize the policy as being fair, consistent and enforced when required.
- If an event sponsor or worker is unwilling to follow the policy, it is only logical that they not be permitted to work at S.O.P. events.
- Event workers and sponsors act as role models, therefore their adherence to the policy is important.

REGULATION #13: ACCOUNTABILITY

AT LEAST ONE DESIGNATE OF THE FACILITY MANAGER, WITH AUTHORITY TO DEMAND CORRECTION AND/OR TO SHUT DOWN AN EVENT ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPALITY, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EVENT SPONSORS. THE APPROPRIATE FACILITY MANAGER SHALL APPOINT AT LEAST ONE PERSON WITH SUCH AUTHORITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

Rationale:

- The presence of a designate of municipal Council could facilitate early correction of potentially risky situations.
- The Special Occasion Permit Application states that the permit holder and the hall owner are jointly responsible for the safety and sobriety of those attending the event.
- The designation of several specific individuals to represent the Municipal Council at S.O.P. events would ensure the availability of at least one designated representative at these events.

REGULATION #14: INSURANCE

THE SPONSOR(S) OF A SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT EVENT BEING HELD IN A MUNICIPALLY-OWNED FACILITY ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A MINIMUM OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN LIABILITY INSURANCE PER PERMIT THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY. ADDITIONAL COVERAGE THROUGH AN ALTERNATE SOURCE IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED.

Rationale:

- By insisting on insurance, potentially risky groups may be discouraged from sponsoring events since they may be unable to obtain insurance.
- Case law indicates that judges and juries are sympathetic towards the injured plaintiff.
- S.O.P. permit holders, hall owners, club executives and volunteers could all be named in a lawsuit. This occurred in Chapis, Quebec when the Chapis Lions Club, club organizers, Lions International and Falconbridge Ltd. (hall owners) were successfully sued following a New Year's Eve Party where a participant set fire to hall decorations with a cigarette lighter. The ensuing fire resulted in injuries and deaths.
- Municipalities can be held jointly liable and could end up paying the predominant share of an award to a plaintiff should the sponsor be uninsured.
- Many volunteers at S.I.P. training events were unaware of their liability in cases where alcohol has been consumed at an S.O.P. function.
- Many volunteers at S.I.P. training events were unsure of their individual insurance coverage and/or their group's coverage.

REGULATION #15: ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

IN ALL BLIND RIVER FACILITIES WHERE CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE ALLOWED ENTRY, ADVERTISING AND POSTERS WHICH PROMOTE THE USE OF ALCOHOL ARE PROHIBITED.

Rationale:

- Alcohol advertising is designed to encourage and promote the consumption of alcohol. Since it is illegal for people under the age of 19 to consume these products, it is preferable not to use alcohol advertising in areas frequented by young people.
- Promotion of alcohol products is inconsistent with Blind River's desire to provide a positive example to underage participants who use recreational facilities.

REGULATION #16: POLICY MONITORING AND REVISIONS

THE POLICY SHALL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE BLIND RIVER ALCOHOL POLICY COMMITTEE, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE FACILITY MANAGER AND OTHER INVITED SOURCES, AND REPORTED TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WITH SUGGESTED POLICY CHANGES IF REQUIRED.

THIS COMMITTEE SHALL BE FORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE ELIGIBLE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES WITH AN INVITATION TO COMMUNITY BASED FACILITY USER GROUPS.

Rationale:

- Permits policy to be changed to meet changing community needs, adding new facilities and new program demands.

- As the policy is implemented, procedures requiring adjustments for improvement can be suggested.
- Permits adjustments to any future changes to the Liquor Licence Act.

REGULATION #17: LIAISON WITH NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

BLIND RIVER SHALL ENCOURAGE ASSISTANCE TO NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT EACH COMMUNITY IS SAFE NOT ONLY FOR ITS RESIDENTS, BUT FOR NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS WHO MAY USE ITS FACILITIES.

Rationale:

- This process will enable the sharing of important information regarding policy implementation, enforcement and revision.

REGULATION #18: ORIENTATION OF STAFF AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.

THAT THE TOWN CLERK ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE A COPY OF THE POLICY TO ALL NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS, AND NEWLY ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.

Rationale:

- This will encourage individuals new to the organization to become familiar with the policy and its promotion and enforcement strategies.

REGULATION #19: PROCEED TO IMPLEMENTATION PHASE WITH ARF

THE BLIND RIVER ALCOHOL POLICY COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADDICTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION, SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGY TO ORIENT ALL COMMUNITY USER GROUPS TO THE POLICY REQUIREMENTS AND PROMOTE THE POLICY TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

Rationale:

- Without a publicity campaign, the policy will have no impact on community behaviour.
- Most people are law abiding citizens and will comply with rules if adequately informed.
- Public receptivity to the Alcohol Management Policy Publicity Campaign has been very positive in other communities. (e.g. Thunder Bay)