



**ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL  
2008 SENIOR PROM AGREEMENT**

Senior year is the culmination of a student's St. Mary's career. To add an element of healthy celebration to this experience, our school has developed a strong tradition of organizing successful senior proms.

The Prom Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Gervais, works hard during the year to ensure that Prom is memorable. To ensure Prom is safe and fun for all who attend, St. Mary's has developed basic expectations for behaviour. These are consistent with those that exist when a student is in class or at a school activity. Individuals who are unable, or unwilling, to behave within these expectations are advised not to attend Prom.

All expectations for School Dances outlined in the Student Agenda Book apply. In particular:

- Students are expected to comply with all school rules. Students under the influence of alcohol or drugs can expect to be suspended from school and barred from future dances for a period of time. Parents/guardians will be called if alcohol or drugs are detected. The police may also be contacted.

**THIS YEAR'S PROM INFORMATION**

**THEME: HOLLYWOOD**

**DATE: MAY 16, 2008 TIME: 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. COST: \$35.00 PER PERSON**

**LOCATION: LION'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, ELGIN STREET COBOURG**

**PARADE STARTS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL AT 6:00 P.M. - MAIN PARKING LOT**

**PROM TIPS:**

**SOME PROM NIGHT SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

- MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A PLAN FOR THE EVENING AND THAT YOU KNOW THE PLAN.
- ENSURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS WHERE TO REACH YOU IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. ENSURE HE/SHE HAS CASH MONEY AND/OR KNOWS YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO PICK THEM UP AT ANY TIME.
- KNOW "HOT SPOT" DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING ANY AFTER-PARTIES YOUR CHILD MIGHT ATTEND.
- TAKE STOCK OF THE ALCOHOL IN YOUR HOME.
- KNOW WHO IS DRIVING. IF IT'S A LIMO, CHECK ITS POLICY ON ALLOWING ALCOHOL IN THE VEHICLE.
- DISCUSS SCHOOL PROM RULES (SEE STUDENT AGENDA BOOK) WITH YOUR CHILD AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THEM.
- ENCOURAGE SEATBELT USE.
- DO NOT RENT HOTEL ROOMS FOR PROM-GOERS.
- COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS.
- STAY UP UNTIL YOUR PROM-GOER RETURNS HOME.

**Information on Host Liability-Teen Partying Information for Parents/Guardians is on back page.**

**In order to purchase a ticket, return this completed bottom portion to Mr. Gervais.**

*By signing this agreement, I agree to abide by school rules and school dance expectations.*

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*Student Name (Please Print)*                      *Student Signature*                      *Date*

*The above student has my permission to attend the St. Mary's Secondary School Prom on May 16, 2008. My child and I have read, discussed, and understood this information and the rules governing the event and agree to abide by them.*

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*Parent/Guardian Signature*                      *Date*

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*Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)*                      *Contact Phone Number During Prom*

## **Host Liability - Teen Partying Information for Parents and Guardians**

Anyone involved in organizing or running an event where alcohol is consumed is required to follow Canada and Ontario liquor laws. Ignorance of the law is not a valid defense!

If you are a parent or guardian, you can be held liable if problems occur at a party that your teen hosts. Liability doesn't just rest with the individual who provides the alcohol, the organizers and hosts, but also includes anyone with control over the location where the problem and event occurred.

### It's against the law:

- ◆ For those under 19 years of age to drink alcohol.
- ◆ To give alcohol to someone who is under 19 or to allow this to happen at an event, even if you don't physically provide the alcohol.
- ◆ For someone to drive if they are intoxicated.
- ◆ To provide alcohol to someone who is intoxicated, or provide alcohol that may contribute to a person's intoxication.

### Principles for Determining Liability

As a parent or guardian:

- ◆ You can be held responsible for injuries or damages that occur as a result of alcohol provided in your home, even if you personally don't provide it.
- ◆ You and your teen are responsible for what happens to guests when they are in your home, on your property or on property that you control for events such as semi-formal, prom, street or field parties.
- ◆ You and your teen may be held responsible for the safety and behaviour of guests (whether invited or not) until they are sober, not just until they leave the party or premises.
- ◆ In the past, it was not common for people to be sued for the actions of others. However, over the past 15 years or so, public attitudes toward alcohol and impaired driving have become less tolerant. Impaired driving laws have been strengthened and the courts are more critical of alcohol servers and hosts.

### Can an underage youth ever drink legally?

It is legal for an underage youth to drink with their parents/guardians, in their own home, such as at times of celebration or on a religious holiday.

### What about underage friends who visit my teen in our home?

It is illegal for anyone, even an adult, to serve alcohol to your teen's underage friends while in your home or on your property.

Under the Liquor License Act, if you are found guilty of selling or supplying alcohol to an underage youth, you are subject to a fine of up to \$200,000 and a jail sentence of up to one year.

Having a parent/guardian present in the home when there is a teen drinking party does not prevent the harmful or legal consequences of underage drinking.

If a party is held at your home, you can be held legally responsible for whatever happens at the party. You are responsible even if you are not there or if you did not know about it or you did not provide the alcohol.

If you are a parent or an adult considering having teens party in your home, take the time to learn about:

- ◆ The dangers of teenage drinking - health and safety risks.
- ◆ Your responsibilities as a parent and adult regarding teen parties.
- ◆ Canadian and Ontario liquor laws - that affect you and your teen.

Sources:

- Parent Action on Drugs [www.parentactionondrugs.org](http://www.parentactionondrugs.org)
- APOLNET [www.apolnet.ca](http://www.apolnet.ca)
- Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario [www.agco.on.ca](http://www.agco.on.ca)

# **HAVE FUN BUT BE SAFE AT PROM!**