

# Community Connections



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## *From Melanie's Desk: Celebrating A Milestone!*

Contact Us

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***We are celebrating a milestone here at Velocity Injury Law LLP... Rochelle Cote and I, Melanie Gardin, have been working together for 15 years!***

We were recently reminiscing about Rochelle's initial interview, which took place in Bill Chapman's office back in 2006. I interviewed Rochelle with Bill Chapman and Donald Gordon. Rochelle was initially hired to work with Bill, but within a short time transitioned to working with me.

Rochelle says that she was nervous on the day of her interview because she hadn't done a job interview for over 20 years and was going to be interviewed by 3 lawyers! She also says that once we got going, Bill, Don, and I made her feel very comfortable. She did great and as you can see it all worked out! The years have flown by for both of us.

Rochelle will tell you that she's been a legal assistant since before Jesus was born! It's this sense of humour that makes working together so enjoyable. Rochelle comes to work with a positive attitude and big personality. Over the years she has been a shoulder to lean on for many clients and I know they appreciated that friendly voice and calming reassurance. I've jokingly told Rochelle she's earned a social work degree by this point in her career. Rochelle is truly a wonderful person with a huge heart and it's been a blessing to have her working by my side these last 15 years. Cheers to many more!

*From Rochelle:*

*Continued on the next page...*

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*I have worked in law for over 35 years and can honestly say that working with Melanie has made these last 15 years the best of my career! Melanie is so easy going which makes work so enjoyable. Melanie is very calm and always in a good mood! I think I remember two instances where I saw her lose her cool. Once when a shared server*

*went down and there were serious concerns about when it was last backed up and the other time was when a new client of ours with cancer was denied long-term disability benefits! Melanie is passionate about helping people and will do anything she can to help our clients. I am of the same view and I believe that is why we work so well together. Also,*

*we both have crazy fun personalities and are from the same little town in the county! Here's to 15 more, Mel!*

If we were married, the traditional gift would be crystal. The modern gift might be a watch or other timepiece. We've decided to celebrate with a spa day and lunch once we can.

## Cooking Corner: Fancy Potato Salad

***This recipe is for warm potato salad with basil mayonnaise – a great side dish with BBQ meals. It makes about 4 servings.***



Potato Salad:

- 2-3 lbs baby white or red potatoes, cut in half
- 3 green onions, sliced thinly
- ½ English cucumber, julienned
- 2 red bell peppers, roasted and julienned
- 2 hard boiled eggs, very finely chopped
- 2 tbsp lemon juice

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the potatoes until a small knife can be inserted and removed without resistance – approximately 35-40 minutes.

After draining the potatoes, gently fold in the green onion, cucumber, red pepper, eggs, and lemon juice. By adding the lemon juice now, the flavour will absorb into the potatoes.

The mayonnaise recipe will yield approximately 2 cups of finished mayo. Add as much or as little of the mayo as you like. One half to three quarters of a cup is a good amount.

Basil Mayonnaise:

- 3 egg yolks
- 2 cups canola oil
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 small onion, grated
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- ½ cup chopped basil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Squeeze the grated onion over a food processor to extract the juice. Discard the flesh.

In the food processor, combine all remaining ingredients except for the oil and process until the garlic is good and chopped.

While the processor is on, slowly drizzle in the oil until it is all incorporated. Drizzling slowly is key.

## News You Can Use: Once Bitten...

### By Melanie

***I'm a dog lover. Right now, I've got two standard poodles named Toby and Midas. Midas was born without his radial bone in his front right leg and it's fused at the elbow and wrist. So we did some puppy physio with him and he's learned to tripod. Despite his disability, he's the alpha of the two and quite a bodyguard. I've dubbed Toby my security guard. Between the two, our house is well protected.***



*Toby on the left and Midas on the right.*

In April, my daughter and I were at the Tecumseh Dog Park. Midas and Toby got into a squabble with another dog that I'll call "D" and both my dogs suffered bite wounds. At the time, I was focussed on getting myself, my daughter, and both dogs out of the park without further incident. I was not worried about getting the

owner's name or contact information, which of course, is crucial information.

I did a little quick research and it's estimated that there are over 500,000 dog bites a year in Canada. The Humane Society of Canada estimates that someone suffers a dog bite every 60 seconds in this country. Three quarters of those bites are said to be to children under 10 years of age. Given that children are at a higher risk of being bitten, we will not be bringing our daughter back to the dog park. It's not worth taking that chance.

Since this is a recent incident, I thought I would use this space to provide a little legal information on dog bites. In Ontario, we have the Dog Owner's Liability Act. Dog bites are a "strict liability" offence which means that a dog owner is automatically responsible if their dog attacks another person or animal, whether or not they knew the dog might bite. The liability can be shared by the other person or animal to the degree with which the victim contributed to the damages. For example: if you taunt a dog; pull it's tail etc.

If you own a home and have Home Insurance, your insurance will normally cover you if it's your dog who has bitten someone. You should speak with your agent – many policies are starting to deny coverage if you didn't advise your insurance company that a dog resides in your residence. And they are including clauses in policies excluding coverage for such incidents.

Over the years I have represented some clients who have suffered horrible injuries from dog bites. Thankfully, I have not had to represent anyone who has been mauled to death by a dog.

I read a few articles about how dog bites have skyrocketed during the pandemic. It makes sense to me for a few reasons. Dogs who were used to their "me" time are now being stressed by a change of routine. More people at home in residential areas means more opportunity to get bitten.

To be honest, I'm leery to go back to the dog park. I don't want to take the chance of having to break up a dog fight. I don't want Toby or Midas to get bitten again and I don't want to get bitten either. Like so many of us, I think our pups may be under a permanent "Stay At Home Order".



*This is Midas' bite wound.*



## Celebrate: A Poem For Father's Day

*There's so much to celebrate about fathers and father figures. This Father's Day is on June 20th. Be sure to tell your dad and dad-like figures how much you care! In honour of Father's Day, we are sharing a poem called "Star Dad" by Karl Fuchs:*

I love you, Dad, and want you to know  
I feel your love wherever I go  
Whenever I've problems, you're there to assist  
The ways you have helped me would make quite a list  
Your wisdom and knowledge have shown me the way  
And I'm thankful for you as I live day by day  
I don't tell you enough how important you are  
In my universe you're a bright shining star



**Happy Father's Day**

### About Velocity Injury Law



Velocity Injury Law is Windsor and Essex County's full-service personal injury and disability law firm — working to obtain the best results — trusted in our community and beyond.

Led by Ruth Stewart and Melanie Gardin, our mission is to get the best possible financial, physical, and psychological recovery for clients so they can rebuild their lives as quickly and meaningfully as possible. We do this by representing each client as though we're representing a member of our own family, giving each client's file personal attention.

We wish we could give clients their old lives back. Fortunately, we can do the next best thing: give them back the sense of security they had before their accident and help them rebuild their lives. This involves obtaining a fair monetary settlement and securing rehabilitation for an alternative future path in a reasonable amount of time.

If you've been injured, call Velocity Injury Law at (519) 946-4300. Our goal is to get back to you about scheduling a free consultation on the same day.

***You're getting this newsletter because we thought you'd be interested in our stories, recipes, and other fun stuff. Plus, we'd like to keep in touch. If you'd rather not get this newsletter, no problem — we don't like unwanted mail either. Please email [Info@VelocityInjuryLaw.com](mailto:Info@VelocityInjuryLaw.com) and we'll take you off our mailing list. Our phone number is 519-946-4300 and you can also find us at 871 Ottawa Street, Unit 400, Windsor, ON, N8X 2C9. Our fax number is 519-946-3700 and our website is [www.VelocityInjuryLaw.com](http://www.VelocityInjuryLaw.com).***