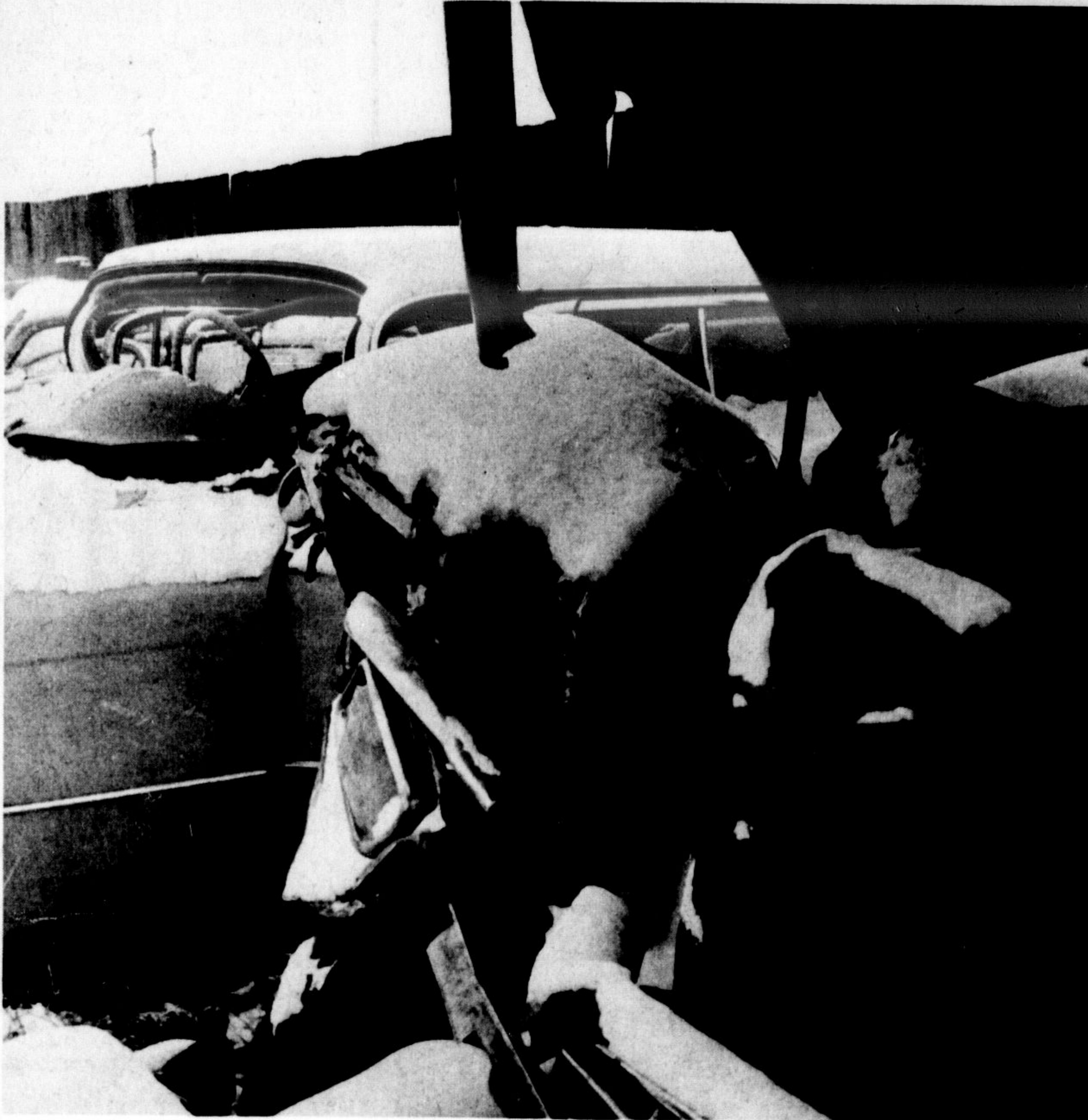
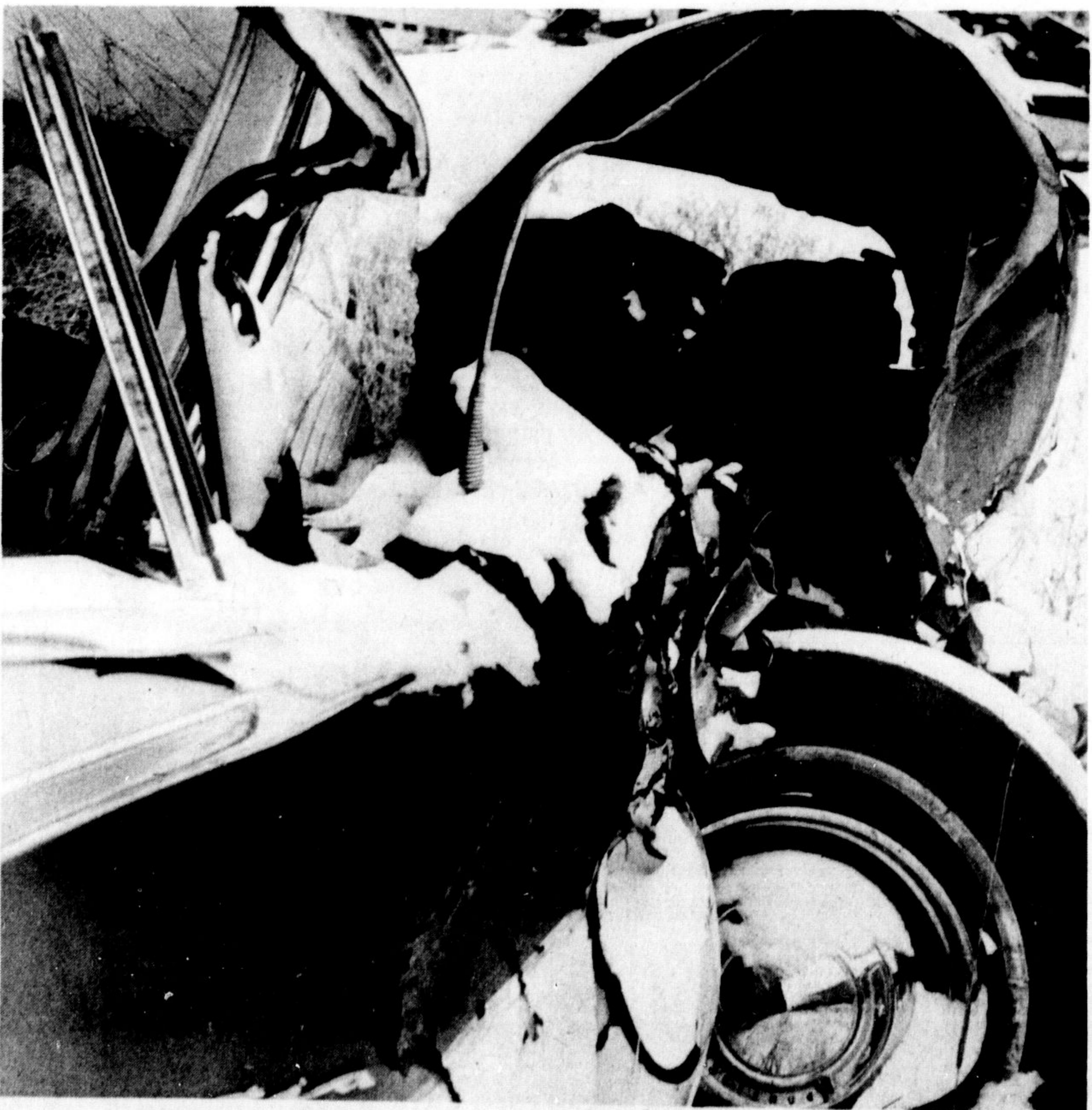


The grim reaper reminds you: "drive carefully"



DEATH STALKS THE HIGHWAYS . . . If these photographs appear shocking to you, that's good. They were intended to shock, not entertain. The pictures were taken in a local car wrecker's yard, to show the effects of violent collisions on the tons of heavy steel that go into today's modern but lethal automobiles. Unfortunately, too often people are mangled in accidents too. December 1 to 7 was Safe Driving Week in Milton. December is safe driving month in Canada. The year 1967 is centennial year, for Canadians from coast to coast. Wouldn't YOU like to be around to witness the end of 1967? Perhaps the memories of these photos might stir you into taking better care when driving your car. Or are we just wasting space with a useless campaign? Only you can provide the answer.

—Staff Photos



Champion / **Feature Page**

Accident statistics show Miltonians are a reckless bunch

We Miltonians are a reckless bunch. Our accident statistics are alarming. We haven't had a fatality on Milton's streets for several years, but it won't be long before one of us breaks that record and heads for the cemetery.

This year we've created loads of work for the body repair shops, plenty of work for police and insurance adjusters, and a degree of heartbreak to ourselves and those we love. So far in 1966 we've racked up over \$40,000 in property damage, injured 10 drivers or passengers, and created 160 accidents.

Oh sure, blame the weather, the other guy, the poor visibility, your nagging wife, the garage mechanic, the car style, or what-have-you. Who's really at fault?

Suppose it could be the drivers? Police think so — in the majority of accident cases there is carelessness on the part of one or both of the drivers. Maybe those other factors added to the accident, but the driver remained the main fault.

This isn't the only year our accident statistics look grim. (And besides, the year isn't over yet. There's still December to survive.)

In 1965 Milton had 179 accidents in which nine were injured and property damage totalled \$32,913.

The year 1964 had 204 accidents with three hurt and \$29,603 in property damage. We could go on quoting more and more outrageous figures, but unfortunately accident statistics don't mean much to anyone — until they themselves become one.

December 1 to 7 was set aside in Milton as "safe driving week". Const. Ted Kennedy of the Milton Police Department, who provided some statistics and Canadian Highway Safety Council information about the special week for The Champion, explained the aim of the week was not to stop all accidents for the one-week period. It's aim was to make motorists more aware of the consequences, so their driving record for the next 52 weeks would improve.

Everyone, from the Prime Minister on down the list, was pledging support to the special week. But will the guy who needs it join the campaign? Will the average motorist who makes most of the accident statistics heed the cause and join the fight? Probably not. He thinks it's "that other guy" who's always at fault, and no amount of convincing (short of an accident) can persuade him he's as big a potential killer as his next door neighbor.

The Champion visited a local wrecking yard to obtain pictures on this page. They show, in stark reality, the results of careless motoring.

You can see what happens when a car rolls over. They show what results can be obtained when a heavy object, hurtling down the highway at 50 miles an hour, hits another vehicle or a tree or a bridge. In the twisted metal of these wrecks, the smashed glass, the twisted frames, the crumpled fenders, lies a moral — a moral few will heed but most will relegate to that unnamed "other guy" who supposedly causes all accidents.

Where do we go from here? Do we play it safe and tighten up our driving to avoid further accidents? Or do we carry on as we are right now, in hopes our car doesn't join the junk heaps at the wrecking yard?

The answer lies in each and every one of us.

One parting thought—Merry Christmas to those of us who won't be around to enjoy it. Should we add a Happy New Year?

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