time we do, we take a risk. We risk our lives. We risk the lives of others. And we risk being picked up by the police.

Drinking and driving-

many motorists do it. Each

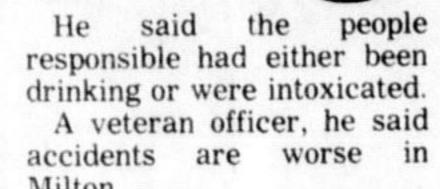
With the holiday season upon us, many motorists are going to take a chance.

We are going to enjoy ourselves at Christmas and New Year parties. We are going to insist we are capable of driving. And for some, that insistence is going to cost over that." them their health.

Most automobile fatalities

are alcohol-related. That is a fact agrees Staff Sgt. Eric Bullock, commanding officer of the Milton detachment of Halton Regional Police.

The majority of fatalities which his men have had to investigate are alcoholrelated.



limit is often 50 and fre-

quently people who are in-

volved in accidents, are well

never have an accident.

But it can. And it does.

Accidents are the worst

But a more common hazard

which can happen. They kill

and maim and cause untold

say as we roar off.

grief and hardship.

with friends. Originally you thought one drink would be all right but, given the time of "That's because the speed is greater," he said. the year, a couple won't hurt "In cities like Burlington Before you know it, you are on your way home. and Oakville, drivers are

the police.

Suddenly, you spot flashing going slower. They may be over the speed limit but the lights in your rear view fimit is usually only 30 miles A patrolling officer has an hour." "Out here the speed

been attracted by the way you were driving and pulled you over to check his suspicion. If the smell of alcohol from Many of us think we will

motorists will encounter is

The tale is a common one.

You have been drinking

your lips is blowing into his face, his hunch has been con-"It can't happen to me," we firmed.

He is going to ask to see your driver's li-Then he is going to read you the

demand to accompany him to the police station to give a sample of your breath.

Refusal to do so is an admission of guilt and you will be charged on the spot. You have no choice but to

However, if you are really nice to the officer, he may allow you to park the car and walk home without anything being said.

The occasion is rare. But it does happen.

Bullock said a person who has been pulled over because he is suspected of drinking has everything to gain and nothing to lose by being polite and co-operative.

If he is rude, loud and defiant, he is giving himself a one-way ticket to the police will cut you off.

"It's the same if I walked into a store," said Bullock. "If I am rude and angry with the clerk, I'm not going to get anything.'

Another thing the public should be aware when they are pulled over, is an officer isn't going to read them their

He is simply going to read you the demand. Bullock said people who

become angry and insist on their rights are doing themselves a disservice. "These fellows are profes-

sionals," he said of his officers. "They know what they are doing. It's their job." He said he would be the first to say everyone has rights.

But when it comes to being pulled over by an officer of the law on a check for impaired driving, a person should realize his drinking has affected his driving to the point of attracting police attention.

You have been caught and that's all there is to it.

An officer will usually touch you to show that he has control over you. If he suspects you may be

armed or dangerous, he will search you and perhaps handcuff you. Bullock said the practice

has been not to handcuff increasing number of motorists who become angrier and angrier the longer they spend in custody. By the time they

get to the station, they are

willing to pick a fight.

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mines whether the officer will charge you.

thing is tripled. A fourth time will probably send you to jail. physical characteristics such Bullock said the fines and as eye and hand co-ordinapenalties are variable, tion, speech and the look of depending on the circum-

your eyes as well as driving evidence.

currence will mean every-

He said there are no hard

and fast rules. The court

sadder, but hopefully, wiser.

blown over 80, you are con-

Unless the law has made a

You do not have to be

The legal wording is "care

An impaired person can be

asleep in the car with the keys

capable of waking up, putting

One person who was con-

victed of being over 80, was

caught pouring gas into a car.

The reason was because he

was filling the car with the

have to prove that you had

previous two hours from the

They have two hours to take

Don't think you can beat an

sure sign you were impaired.

Bullock said the police only

and control of a motor

stances.

That is the law. But you save you. Once you have

Bullock said most people is to delay the inevitable.

will ask to speak to the in- quickly as possible.

Lawyers know what the driving to be charged.

Two breathalyzer tests in his pocket and can still be

Then, if you exceed the the key into the ignition and

have to be done, 15 minutes convicted because he is

maximum, you will formally driving off, Bullock said.

From then on you are a intent of driving it.

convicted by a machine for been in care and control of a

Generally, the police drop time you were stopped.

impaired driving in Halton vehicle some time within the

is too difficult to prove, but a sample of your breath from

Once you plead guilty to impaired driving charge by

this, you will be fined not claiming you didn't un-

more than \$2,000 and not less derstand what the police

than \$50 under the Criminal wanted. Such testimony is a

pended for three months breathalyzer tests has to be

under the Highway Traffic over the limit to convict you.

Act. This is doubled to six However, it is more than just

months if you have been in an the machine which deter-

Bullock said putting hand-

cuffs on such people would be

a simple means of deterring

them from becoming physi-

Once you have agreed to

station, your troubles have

He will radio the station

At the station they will tell

If you try talking longer victed.

you that you can make one

than you should, the police

who telephone their lawyers

are advised to take the test.

score is when their clients

phone them about impaired

said. Just talking tells them

be charged: driving while

your ability is impaired and

driving with over 80 milli-

grams of alcohol in 100 milli-

statistic, one of the more than

215 people who have been

Hills and Milton this year.

the former charge because it

Your licence will be sus-

accident as a result of your

court conviction gives you a

A licence suspension and

If you are caught a second

time, the fine and suspension

are doubled and a third oc-

they proceed on the over 80 that time.

driving charges, Bullock vehicle."

vestigating officer.

everything.

litres of blood.

Code of Canada.

criminal record.

and arrange to have a tow-

truck haul your car away-at

your expense, of course.

accompany an officer to the

cally antagonistic.

just begun.

phone call.

can't abuse it.

Officers like to be sure they have sufficient evidence assesses the fine after each which will stand up in court. Bullock said he has seen However, the damage has cases which had powerful been done and you have no supporting evidence, fail to choice but to go awayconvict while others with little evidence, convict. Don't expect a lawyer to

It depends, he said. This doesn't mean you have a chance to beat the charge. Most who are charged, are

mistake, all a lawyer can do It is advisable not to drive to court because your licence Bullock said it is better for will be taken from you at that a person to accept what he time. Driving while your In many cases, the lawyer has done and get it over as licence is under suspension

All of this should convince you it is better to swallow

your pride and take a taxi than risk being apprehended **NEW LIGHTS** New traffic lights went into

action last week at the inter-

section of Highway 25 and

will earn you more penalties. by the police. As the advertisements from the Ministry of Health say, "You are your own liquor

> Five (Campbellville) Sideroad. The corner is heavily used by trucks from nearby quarries and pits.

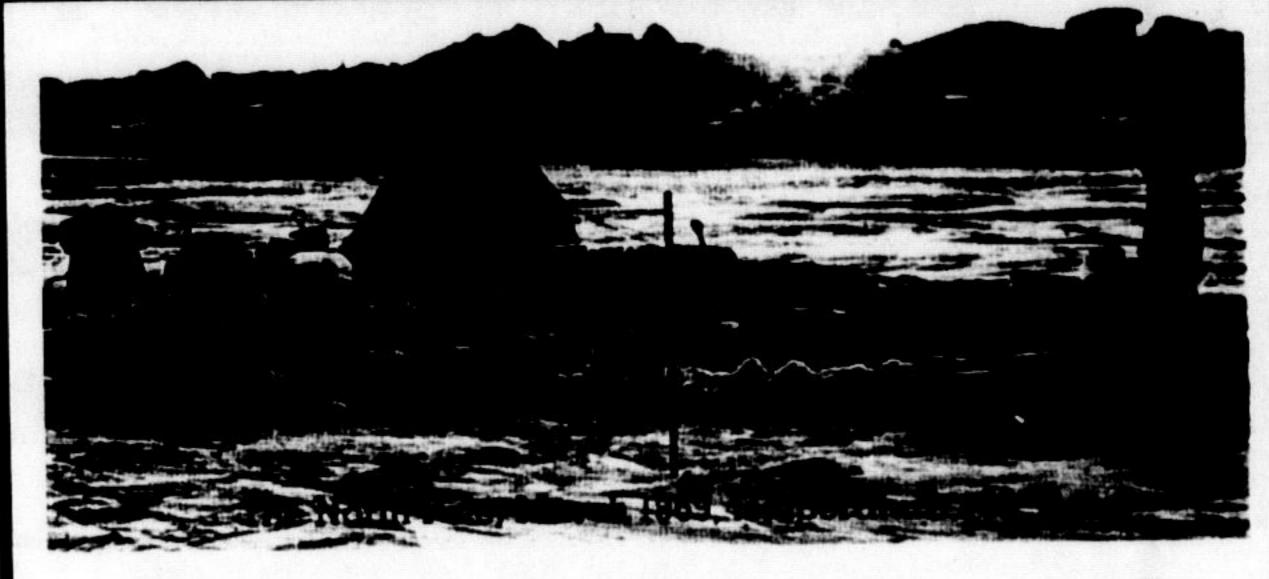
CORRECTION NOTICE

Please note the following correction in regards to the Santa Claus Parade Thank You Notice which appeared in The Canadian Champion December 6,

FREDRICK'S THE MAN'S SHOP was listed as FREDRICK'S THE MAN'S WORLD

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

The Canadian Champion



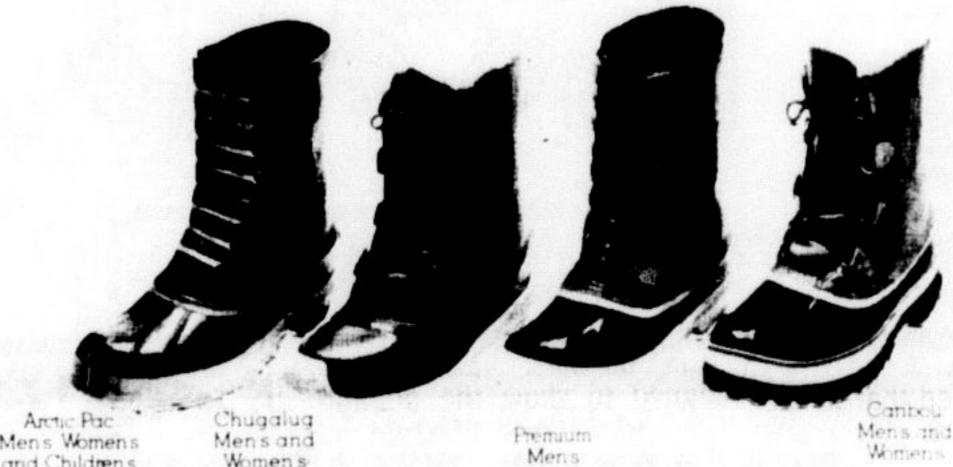
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