



by
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Raised from \$400 to \$700 Property damage reports have been changed to reflect those high costs

Over the last few years, as with most other goods and services, the cost for parts and labour required to repair motor vehicles which have been involved in accidents has increased. Accordingly, to reflect this fact the amount of property damage in reportable motor vehicle accidents has been raised from \$400 to \$700.

As a result any individual involved in an

Raised from \$400 to \$700

accident which results in personal injury or property damage exceeding \$700 must report to the police. This new minimum damage level applied to all motor vehicles, including motorcycles, mopeds and off-road vehicles.

The latest increase is the first since January, 1978. Given the increases in costs it is appropriate for this new minimum level.

In other news from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ontario motorists are now required to keep their headlights on longer in the evening and turn them on earlier in the morning.

Due to an amendment

to the Highway Traffic Act, drivers must switch on their lights a half hour before sunset and keep them on a half hour after sunrise.

Previously, headlights had to be turned on 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. There is evidence that the use of headlights during daylight hours can significantly reduce accidents.

Multiple vehicle collisions have particularly decreased through the use of headlights. In addition studies have shown marked decreases in accidents involving motor vehicles and cyclists or pedestrians when motorists keep their

lights on longer.

As you can see, there is good reason for this extended "lights on" period.

This change was agreed upon by all provincial transportation ministers. It was recognized as a straight-forward measure to save lives when sun glare and traffic density are at their peak. When visibility is less than 150 metres, lights must be used as before.

Another measure has been introduced to increase the safety of the province's roads and highways. All school bus drivers must now have a clear view of 125 metres in both directions before stopping their bus on any highway or road. This same law continues to apply to all other motorists.

With the severe winter conditions we experience here in Simcoe County, I am hopeful that these safety measures will help to alleviate some of the traffic accidents that so often occur on our roads.



Support sealed by a hand shake

Fred Hacker of Midland told fellow delegates to the Ontario PC leadership convention that he is supporting Attorney General Roy McMurtry in his bid to succeed Premier William

Davis. Delegates and alternates from Simcoe Centre and Simcoe East met Monday night at the Hacker residence for a get-together with the candidate.

Snowmobile deaths up in '83-'84 season

The 1983 - 1984 winter season brought with it more ideal snow conditions for snowmobilers. It also resulted in increased accident statistics.

A total of 578 accidents were reported, representing a 61.5 per cent increase over the '82 - '83 winter season.

Fatalities more than doubled, increasing to 24, compared to 11 the previous season. Injuries increased from 316 to 468.

And, while drinking-driving campaigns may be getting their point across to motorists, they aren't reaching snowmobilers.

Out of 22 drivers killed in off-

highway and on-highway accidents, 15 were described as "ability impaired" or "had been drinking." And, this figure doesn't include six drivers who drowned, each of whom had alcohol in their systems.

These statistics can only reveal disrespect for the law and plain carelessness. Especially when one looks through the accident reports and finds about 20 percent of all drivers involved in accidents weren't even licensed.

Winter is here again. Hopefully this year, snowmobile operators will exercise more caution and heed weather reports, ice conditions and drinking-driving campaigns.

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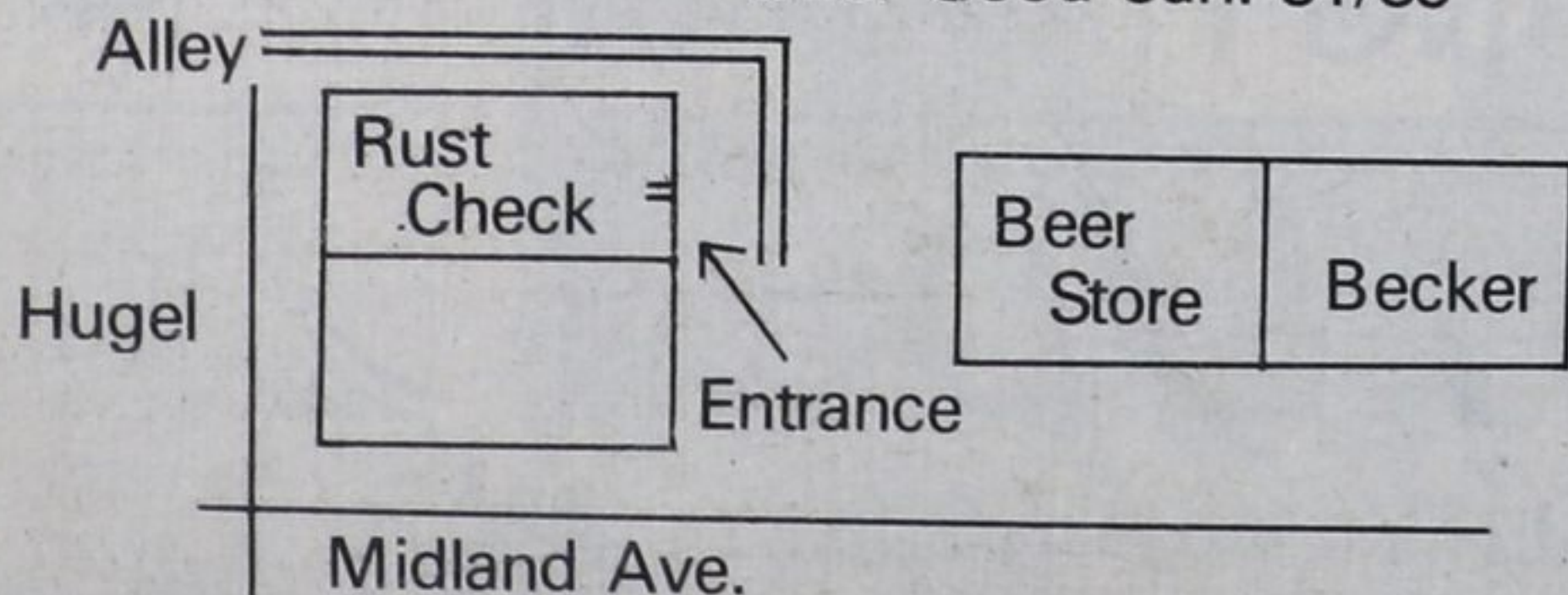


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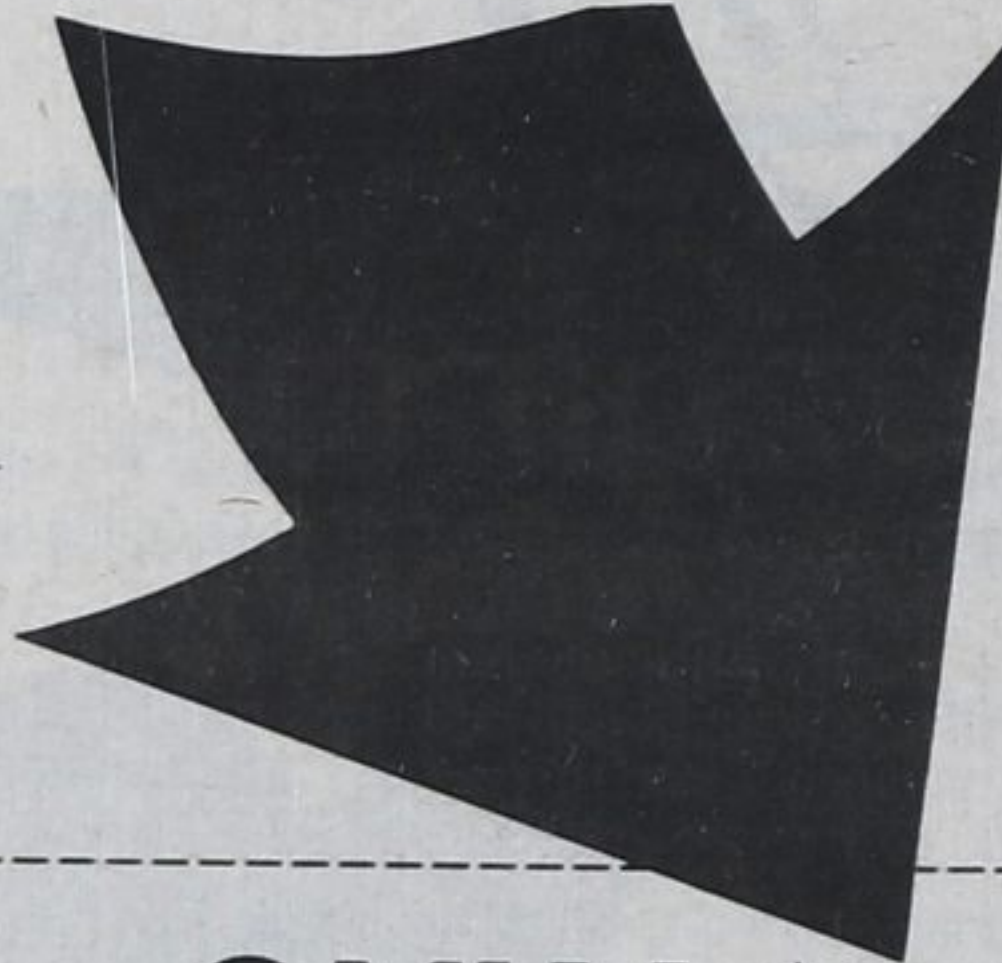
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