

# Getting Away From It All

by Cst. M. G. D. DUNCAN

When we return from summer holidays, most of us enjoy telling our friends what we have done. S/Sgt. Pat Costello, NCO i/c General Investigation Branch in Prince George, B.C., certainly has a story to tell this year. While on vacation in southern Alberta, he saved the life of a drowning truck driver from Calgary.

In the late morning of August 9, 1976, S/Sgt. Costello was driving along Highway No. 3 at Crow's Nest Lake, six miles east of Coleman, Alberta, when he came upon an accident. A tanker truck, carrying a load of dissolved salt, had failed to negotiate a turn in the road. It had struck a length of highway guardrail and had overturned into the fifty-foot deep waters of the lake.

S/Sgt. Costello stopped and prepared to help. Douglas Ivan Majors, the driver of the submerged truck, had no difficulty in freeing himself but was having trouble staying afloat. Crow's Nest Lake is fed by mountain streams and is freezing cold even in the middle of summer. S/Sgt. Costello donned a life preserver vest, dove into the water and rescued Mr. Majors.

Returning to shore with the victim, S/Sgt. Costello was met by two Blairmore residents, James Pizzy and Albert Osusuka, who performed artificial resuscitation and heart massage. Majors was taken to hospital and subsequently recovered. Attending physician, Dr. John Irwin, later commented that Majors had "come very close to drowning." It was later estimated that recovering the vehicle cost in excess of \$10,000.00.

On January 4, 1977, S/Sgt. Costello was honoured in Edmonton by Lieutenant-Governor Ralph Steinhauser. Following a dinner given by the Lieutenant-Governor for S/Sgt. Costello and his wife, S/Sgt. Costello was presented with an award from the Royal Canadian Lifesaving Society. He also received a silver goblet bearing the inscription:

"In appreciation — the family of Doug Majors"

It is probably safe to say that when S/Sgt. Costello emerged from the icy waters he was "too cold for comment". Had he said anything though, I imagine it would have been: "This is one vacation I'll remember for a long time".



S/Sgt. Pat Costello