

A SECOND STOREY STORY

by Cpl. J. G. White

Members working highway patrol on Prince Edward Island during the summer are frequently called upon at odd hours of the day and night to attend accident scenes. At that time of the year the Island's population grows dramatically as tourists descend to take advantage of the endless beaches, emerald-green golf courses, and myriad seasonal attractions. Unfortunately for our members, though, the tripling of the population often contributes to a marked increase in motor vehicle accidents.

Cst. Don Hutchinson of Charlottetown Highway Patrol was awakened at 6:30 in the morning on August 2, 1983. A serious motor vehicle mishap had occurred at the Oyster Bed Bridge, approximately twelve miles north of Charlottetown. He arrived at the scene of the accident half an hour later and found Cst. Roger Waite, Dr. K. G. Ellis, and the local ambulance service already in attendance. Cst. Hutchinson believed he was investigating a fairly routine, single-vehicle fatality. As the officer later discovered, however, this tragedy would become infamous as



The demolished car and gaping hole in the second storey of this P.E.I. farm house are a sad reminder that drinking and driving don't mix.

one of the most bizarre accidents in the Island's history.

A 1979 Chev Camaro lay crushed near the foundation of an old, but inhabited house. A gaping hole yawned from the second storey. Debris and twisted shards of wood lay on the grass below. Close by on the lawn lay a young man seriously injured. He was transported immediately to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown.

Although he sustained a broken neck and fractured hip as well as multiple minor injuries, this passenger had wrestled with death and won. The driver of the vehicle was not so lucky.

The two men, both in their early twenties, had enjoyed a full day of vacationing on the Island. A round of golf led to dinner at a local Charlottetown restaurant and lounge and one post-dinner drink led inevitably to