

# Drunk-driving crash costs Mountie his Order of Merit

An RCMP officer has been stripped of his Order of Merit for crashing his private vehicle following an evening of drinking four years ago.

Sgt. **Warren S. Gherasi** was appointed a member the Order of Merit of Police Forces in January 2006.

According to the citation, Gherasim was given the title for "contributing to the advancement of community-based policing in the Northwest Territories and for leadership in fugitive investigations in Canada and the province of Ontario."

But the Governor General has confirmed the honour was taken back in March.

The decision was published Saturday in the Canada Gazette.

According to the Gover-

nor General's office, the title was revoked as a result of a "disgraceful conduct sanction" ordered by the RCMP.

The RCMP adjudication board ruled in March 2008 that alcohol was a "contributing factor" in a crash two years prior that saw Gherasim lose control of his speeding vehicle and roll it into a ditch.

At the time, Gherasim was a detachment commander in Cut Knife, Sask., about 200 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon.

The board considered that an "aggravating factor" in deciding sentence.

"Detachment commanders are examples to both their subordinate members and the civilian population they serve," the three-person panel ruled.