

Certificate of Bravery Awarded

by Cst. A.D. Basha, Minnedosa Detachment

At 16:30 on April 7, 1987, 12-year-old Brandy Syroteuk put her life and health into great danger to save the life of her two-and-a-half year-old brother Thomas (T.J.), who had fallen into a swift-moving creek that swept him into a culvert under a highway near Erickson, Manitoba.

Brandy, T.J., and their sister Jolene had gone down the road from their farm that day to watch the running water that had developed during the spring runoff. They were standing at the mouth of the culvert when the surrounding snow gave way. Thomas fell into the water and was swept away. The water in the culvert was two-and-a-half feet deep.

Brandy was on crutches, recovering from one of a series of operations to strengthen and lengthen her legs. While four-and-a-half-year-old Jolene ran home to get help, Brandy dropped the crutches, and ran across the road, but the exit of

the culvert was not visible from that side of the road because of the snow cover. She jumped into the three-feet-deep water, and began to clear the snow away with her hands. T.J. was stuck in the culvert, but once Brandy cleared the snow away, he came floating out on his back, head first. She carried him back onto the road and flagged down a car. Had Brandy not allowed her brother to come clear of the culvert, the incident would have proven to be a fatal one.

T.J., who had never lost consciousness, was rushed to the hospital and recovered quite well. Brandy was very scared that she would have to repeat the last six months of operations and recovery, because she had put herself in great danger by walking on her legs. But X-rays taken a few days after the incident confirmed that no damage had been done to her legs. ■



The OC, Brandon Sub-Division, Supt. R.E. Boughen, presented Brandy Syroteuk with the Royal Canadian Humane Association Honorary Testimonial certificate for courage and bravery, in the presence of her young brother T.J.