

her to make a 400-mile round trip to a strange city, with the uncertainty of Maritime winters and Christmas traffic looming over her, I could not allow her to take the risk.

Sudden inspiration! Eight years ago, I retired from the RCMP, and surely my 25 years of service would count for something. I call Supt. Jack Penney, OC, Halifax Sub-Division, who patiently hears my tale of woe, followed by my plea — would it be out of line to ask the Highway Patrol (HP) to shuttle me home? He contacts Supt. Wayne Eaton in Truro Sub-Division, Nova Scotia, and Supt. Al Rivard in Moncton Sub-Division, New Brunswick, and subject to operational requirements, the deal is on.

09:00 — Saturday, December 23

Dr. Horsman advises that stage one appears to be working. I can go home for Christmas!

At 09:30, Cst. Ron Robinson, Halifax HP, Supt. Penney's first "elf", picks me up

and delivers me to Csts Gary Hicks and John Wood, Lower Sackville HP, who in turn hand me over to Cst. Wayne Roche, Truro HP, who then connects me with Cst. Steve Alexander, Amherst Detachment. At the New Brunswick border, we meet Csts Jacques Côté and Ian Cowen, Sackville HP, who graciously drop me at my front door.

19:00 — Sunday, December 24

Along with my wife and two daughters, I attend Christmas Eve services, thanks to the efforts of a group of men who, for the most part, we had never met before.

Two divisions, three sub-divisions, five detachments, seven constables and three superintendents had, however briefly, touched the lives of this family, in the true spirit of the season and the traditions of the Force.

Who says you can never find a police officer when you need one? ■

It's a tough job; help the police do it

by Albert Atkins

Editor's Note: Albert Atkins is a resident of Mississauga, Ontario, and a guest columnist with *The Mississauga News*. The following article is reprinted with the kind permission of *The Mississauga News*.

Wanted. Police officer for large Canadian city. Must enjoy perfect health. Impervious to verbal abuse and physical assault upon own person. Able to maintain close rapport with all elements of the community while remaining aloof under strict quasi-military discipline. Will be required to serve and protect the public with detached impartiality while simultaneously treating officially designated

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