



For more information regarding the RCMP 125 commemorative stamps, please call Canada Post at: 1 (800) 565-4362.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Canada Post is also issuing two commemorative stamps in June as a tribute to the RCMP's 125th anniversary. Nine other stamps related to the RCMP had previously been issued. The first, in 1935, depicts a Mountie on horseback with a prairie background; it was reprinted in 1982. Mountie stamps focussing on the RCMP Centennial in 1973 included George French, the first Commissioner, and the famed Musical Ride. Then in 1975, a stamp honouring the 100th anniversary of Calgary — an original NWMP outpost — was issued. One of the four-stamp Ice Vessels set featured the RCMP's famous *St. Roch* vessel, and a stamp issued in 1996 depicting the legendary Sam Steele paid tribute to the role of the Mounties during the Gold Rush.

*Courtesy of Michael O. Nowlan
Philatelic Columnist
Oromocto, New Brunswick*

photos taken with RCMP officers and see the dog handlers from the former RCMP Northern Dog Team Patrol. The snow sculpture with the coin design remained a popular attraction throughout Winterlude, Ottawa's outdoor winter festival.

For more information or to place your order, please call the Royal Canadian Mint at: 1 (800) 267-1871 in Canada, or 1 (800) 268-6468 in the United States. The coin is also available worldwide through the Royal Canadian Mint's global network of dealers and distributors.

The RCMP Commemorative Coin and silver or nickel lapel pins of the coin are also available through the RCMP Canteens at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa and in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Hot Air Balloon

The "Mountie" is a great image and it is the second-most-recognized image in Canada, after the flag. An 11-storey-high hot air balloon depicting an RCMP member in Red Serge on horseback, produced by a private

donor, will be traveling with the Musical Ride and will also be available for other events. The 33 m x 33 m balloon, sponsored by Leroux and Associates, was built by a company in Bristol, England, at the cost of around \$100,000. Under the agreement struck with the RCMP, Leroux and Associates will own the balloon and lend it to the RCMP for use at official events across Canada in 1998. The arrangement also allows the firm to use the balloon at events like the annual Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill, or balloon festivals in Canada and Europe.

The RCMP hot air balloon is not intended for individuals who want to take a hot air balloon ride — it is not really built for this. The basket can only accommodate one guest along with the pilot. The balloon operates twice daily, weather permitting, and will fly between 6:30 and 7:30 in the morning and at night between 7 and 8 p.m. The balloon will only fly if the winds are less than 10 knots and the sky is clear. Groups wishing to rent it for an event are asked to contact: