



When C/Supt. A.E. Crosby, Commanding Officer, "L" Division, informed me that I would be responsible for riding a horse in Review Order of Dress No. 1 (Red Serge) on the July 1st weekend, at Green Gables House, in Prince Edward Island's Cavendish National Park, at Cavendish (Summer) Detachment, I did a double take. I had previously submitted a proposal for Canada 125 Celebrations suggesting that a summer mounted detachment be established in Cavendish to perform Review Order duty on Prince Edward Island, but it had not been approved.

I immediately enquired with Cst. D. Williamson, Montague Detachment, who, like myself, had completed a tour of duty with the Musical Ride, and had been asked by the Commanding Officer to locate a horse suitable for Red Serge duty on the island. Mrs. Jean Myers of Cardigan, had an animal that she had agreed to loan to the RCMP for the summer. Sgt. L. Robinson, NCO i/c Montague Detachment, and Cst. Williamson had seen the horse and

had found her to have a quiet disposition and suitable colour and appearance. A photo had been sent to the OIC, Ceremonies Branch in Ottawa, and her colour and confirmation had been approved.

When I made arrangements to meet Mrs. Myers and ride the horse, I was introduced to a black French-Canadian mare about 15.1 hands tall, named "Chantelle". The horse was in need of grooming to meet Force standards, primarily trimming of fetlocks and muzzle hair and pulling of mane and tail. Moreover, it was unshod and quite sensitive about its feet — and very reluctant to allow its hind feet to be picked up. Chantelle was barely four years old and I was concerned as to how she might behave. I found her to be quite sociable, although headstrong. As well as having a very quiet disposition for such a young horse, she did not shy easily.

Deliberately, I left my rain jacket on the fence-post next to the paddock gate, to see the horse's reaction to an unfamiliar object; to my pleasant surprise, Chantelle did