

No Horsing Around for Police Exchange Officers

By Rupert Butler, London Press Service Special Correspondent
United Kingdom

A Canadian mounted policeman in full scarlet splendour said goodbye last December to his home Force amid the mountains of British Columbia to spend four weeks as part of an exchange visit with Thames Valley Police, responsible for law enforcement in three counties to the north of London.

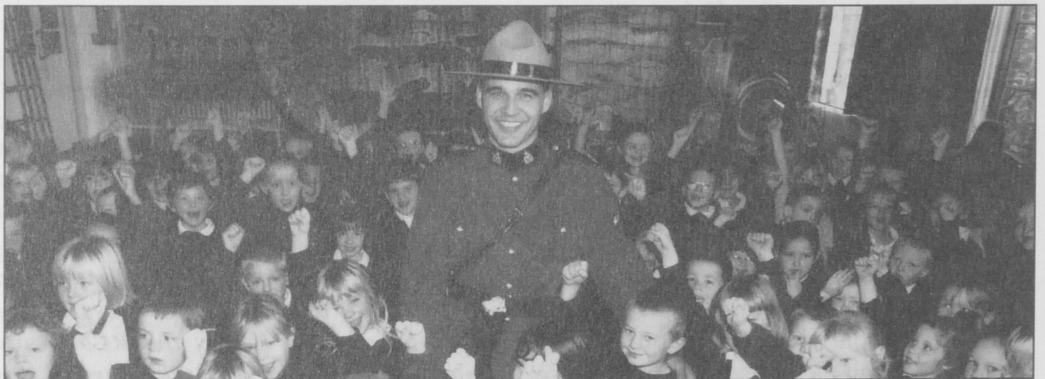
Constable Dion Arnouse, 31, went to the United Kingdom to learn about many of the aspects of Thames Valley's community-focussed policing.

A crowded program in the area of Oxfordshire, southern England, included visits to many of the areas covered by the British force. He talked to officers working in the traffic management, air support, liaison with schools on anti-crime initiatives and, naturally, the mounted section.

It was the first visit to the U.K. by Constable Arnouse who described it as "quite a culture shock." But he added: "Even though our countries are thousands of miles apart there are a lot of similarities in our policing."

"We both want positive partnership with our local communities and use innovative methods to achieve it. I have been very impressed with operational policing in Thames Valley and I think this exchange visit shows the commitment of both forces to look at fresh ideas and share good practice."

The importance that the Thames Valley Police Authority attaches to community policing is shown by the fact that membership includes 10 elected representatives from the local government authorities in the three counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.



Cst. Dion Arnouse visits with some enthusiastic school children during his exchange.