

Boys and Girls Club RCMP Angel Tree Project

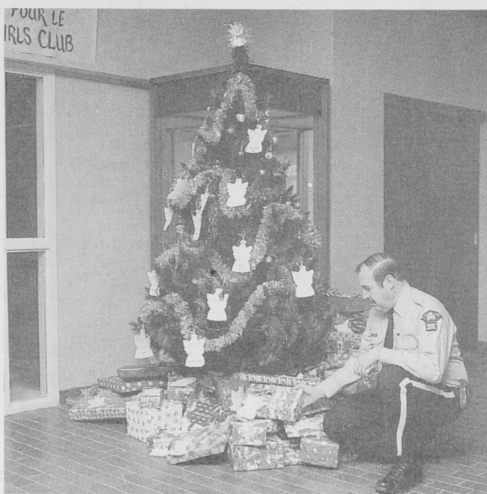
by Cpl. Brian Grant

Christmas was made brighter for hundreds of Ottawa youngsters, thanks to employees at RCMP Headquarters. The Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa-Carleton erected two seven-foot Christmas trees in the lobbies of Headquarters and Pickering Buildings. The trees were decorated with lights, garlands and paper angels, with the age and first name of a boy or girl printed on them. HQ employees selected an angel from the trees and bought a present for the designated child. The sight of these brightly wrapped Christmas presents under the trees made everyone feel good about helping the less fortunate at Christmas. The Christmas party, held at the F.C. McCann Clubhouse on December 23, saw many a happy youngster head home with a special gift, thanks to the generosity of HQ employees.

The Boys and Girls Club is a national organization with clubs across Canada. The Ottawa-Carleton Club, which is the largest in Canada, was founded in May, 1923, by prominent Ottawa citizens who had become alarmed at the dramatic rise in juvenile delinquency. The American Boys Club Movement provided the model for the Canadian organization to help keep our youth off the street.

Today, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa-Carleton has three modern club-

houses that offer complete social, educational, cultural and guidance programs for boys and girls 6 to 18 years of age. Each clubhouse has almost every facility a child might want: swimming pool, gymnasium, crafts shop, library, games- and meeting-rooms. More important than the facilities are the personal relationships, trust and confidence that develop between the children and clubhouse staff. Over 70% of the 3,380 children using the club's services are from single parent/limited income/multi-problem families. The guiding hand of this club has been extended to more than 168,000



S/Cst. R.E. Parno surveys presents under the angel tree in HQ lobby.