

More than 2000 RCMP members worked hard to ensure the success of the G7 Economic Summit in Halifax last June. Members from 12 divisions performed a wide variety of tasks, including VIP and site security, traffic control, media relations and equipment installations and monitoring. RCMP divers, food tasters, technicians, motorcade drivers, bodyguards and explosive disposal unit members were also on hand. Their professionalism and dedication to duty are truly commendable and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Force. Their performance was so exceptional that even foreign media took notice, citing, for example, the extraordinary courtesy shown by our members. Many favourable comments from many Canadians were also conveyed to the Commanding Officer of "H" Division at the time, A/Commr. A.D.F. Burchill (retired) and to Commissioner J.P.R. Murray, expressing similar sentiments regarding the performance of members assigned to Summit duties.
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Canada was proud to host the XXIst Economic Summit, June 14-17, 1995, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, welcoming leaders from six other major industrialized nations: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Great Britain and the United States of America. Others in attendance include the President of the European Commission, and as an observer, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

Under the command of Operations Commander C/Supt. R.E. Falkingham and D/Operations Commander, Insp. T.E. Elliott, as well as S/Sgt. C.L. Brown, a special task-force was assembled to ensure adequate security. This was to be a tremendous challenge for a small division like Nova Scotia's. Several months of hard work went into the planning of security for this major event. Over 400 members of "H" Division were specially trained in various aspects of VIP Security during the process.

More than 2200 members were required to provide security for nine world leaders, foreign ministers, finance ministers and their spouses. More than half of "H" Division strength was to be directly tasked to

Summit duties and security personnel had to be "imported" from other RCMP divisions throughout the country, the bulk coming from "A" and "O" (Ontario), "C" (Quebec), and Headquarters (Ottawa). During their tour of duty in Halifax, members were required to stay at five university residences due to a lack of hotel accommodations. The logistics of identifying, tasking, housing, transporting so many members was an onymous task.

The Halifax Economic Summit was billed as the "Friendly Summit" by world leaders and the media. There were no incidents or security threats made against any of our "protégés". The media even referred to Summit Security as "polite, friendly and efficient". The site of 38 motorcades moving simultaneously in a small city like Halifax had to be seen to be believed — and all without a hitch!

All in all, the Halifax Economic Summit was a huge success. "H" Division would sincerely like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this major event. ♦