

# Mother of the Force

by Staff Sergeant R.H. Wesner, Drumheller, Alberta

*Only on rare occasions, during the history of the Force, have we had the opportunity to recognize a private citizen as a "Mother of the Force". On September 19, 1993, members and former members of Drumheller Detachment, and their families, gathered to honour Mrs. Marie J. Vaast, for her long and caring association with the Force. — Ed.*

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Marie Vaast's association with the Force began in 1910, when at an early

age, she met members of the Royal North-West Mounted Police who stopped over at her family's farm, while on horse patrol. At the age of eleven, she moved to Drumheller with her family, where she has remained for the past 72 years.

In 1950, Marie renewed her friendship with the Force when she became a cashier at the Corner Cafe. Working the 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. shift for the next 33 years, she often served local members who usually took their mid-shift



(L-R) Mayor Wood, C/Supt. McDermid, Cpl. Storie, S/Sgt. Wesner, Marie J. Vaast, Cst. Parker and Insp. Bell.