

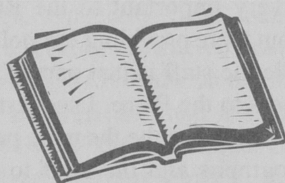
20,000 transients due to three military bases in the area. Today's population would be around 25,000. In 1942, there were two town police forces in the area, both of whom regularly called upon the RCMP for help if they ran into anything sticky. Today one of these towns is policed by a seven-person RCMP town station.

When I first arrived in the Detachment, it was a three-member station. We had no stenographers and did the janitor work in a drafty old house, mowed the lawns, washed the police car and every fall, we washed and installed about 100 storm windows on the old house. The NCO in charge of the Detachment and the Officer Commanding of the Sub-Division happened not to get along too well and, as "punishment," the OC took one person away from the NCO i/c.

For the next five years, the place existed as a two-person Detachment, occasionally supplemented with a third member who never seemed to stay long. During this interval, the NCO i/c died of a heart attack — which I always felt was due to overwork. After this, I ran the Detachment on the princely \$150 monthly pay of a constable for several years. As I had less than seven years service, I was forbidden to take on a wife to help around the office, as many unsung and unpaid wives did where there were married men in charge.

However in those pre Charter of Rights & Freedoms days, we managed to get the work done — one reason being that the legal process could be started and concluded about ten times faster than today. It is too bad that they did not pay overtime then; we could have retired as millionaires. At any rate, when the staff sergeant recently described the place as a busy office, I knew exactly what he is talking about.

ex-Sgt. Harold G. Searle
Windsor, Nova Scotia



In early June, RCMP Historians Stan Horrall and Dr. William Beahen were launching their book which chronicles the North-West Mounted Police from 1886-1900. Anyone who ordered the book, "Red Coats on the Prairies" should expect to receive it in July or August 1998. To place an order or for more information, please contact Tracy Wilson at PrintWest in Regina, Saskatchewan at: (306) 525-2304 or Fax: (306) 757-2439.



COLLECTOR OF RCMP MEMORABILIA

Dear Editor,

I am a subscriber to the *Quarterly* and enjoy it very much. I'm also a collector of RCMP memorabilia and I would like to buy items from current and retired members of the RCMP, particularly officer cap badges and identification shields (in or out of Lucite).

Sincerely,

Ralph Gray
Route 307 North
Bowman, Quebec
J0X 3C0
Telephone: (819) 454-2489



GRADUATING TROOP PHOTOS

Dear Editor,

I have wondered why the pictures of the Graduating Troops always have "Depot" staff front and centre, while graduates are relegated to the background. These gradu-