

From 1932 to 1942, personnel at Peace River Sub-Division increased from 21 to 26 men, but Grande Prairie Detachment decreased from one sergeant and three constables, to one sergeant and two constables. The opening of a one-man detachment at Beaverlodge in 1940, may have had something to do with this decreased strength.

The Grande Prairie Detachment establishment of one sergeant and seven constables in 1952, increased to one sergeant, two corporals and 14 constables in 1962, and during Canada's centennial in 1967, it was increased again to one staff sergeant, one sergeant, two corporals, 15 constables and one special constable. Today, Grande Prairie Detachment is staffed by one inspector, one staff sergeant, three sergeants, eight corporals, 35 constables, one special constable, six civilian members, three Public Service employees, and 13 municipal employees.

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Many interesting and exciting stories involving Force members came out of this area over the years. Some were humorous and some were sad, and many could have been written into an article of their own. One of the saddest was the shooting death of Cpl. Donald Archibald (Archie) Harvey, on June 23, 1967. The circumstances of his death were reported in *the Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No 2, October, 1967, and are reprinted as a reminder of the sacrifices and service that the RCMP has provided to Grande Prairie.

At 2.40 p.m. last June 23, a man in Grande Prairie, Alberta, telephoned the RCMP Detachment, identified himself and said that he had just murdered his common-law wife.

Five minutes later, Cpls D.A. "Archie" Harvey of Grande Prairie and W.R. Biggar of Beaverlodge entered the caller's yard. Corporal Biggar caught a glimpse of someone at an open window and simultaneously saw

Archie Harvey collapse to the ground. A .22 rifle slug had pierced his chest between the first and second ribs, severing his aorta. Death was instant.

Corporal Biggar sought cover, drew his service revolver and snapped off a shot at the window. Immediately, a .22 calibre single-shot rifle was thrown from the window and the policeman moved into the house. He found a woman lying dead and that his shot had nicked a man in the ear.

Archie Harvey was born in Arcola, Saskatchewan, on March 31, 1933. He joined the Force July 23, 1951, at Regina, and while in training at the Depot, was known as "the best boxer in barracks."

He took second-part training at Rockcliffe, Ont., and then was posted to "K" Division, where he served ever since at St. Paul, Bonnyville, Jasper, Leduc, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Fairview, Edmonton and back to Grande Prairie.

He married the former Hilda Borghild Arneson of Sexsmith, Alta., at Grande Prairie on June 20, 1959. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Gordon Trent, seven, a daughter, Janice Lynn, five, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Harvey of Arcola.

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In 1972, a cairn was erected in memory of Cpl. Harvey, next to the current site of Grande Prairie Detachment, and members have held an annual golf tournament dedicated to his memory, since that time.

The Grande Prairie area has changed little physically since the first patrols, but the impressions of vastness created in the minds of the early settlers are still with us today. Members who have been stationed here will probably remember how