

## The First March West

When the North-West Mounted Police was established in 1873 by the federal government to police the vast areas of western Canada, reports indicated that control was needed as free traders were exchanging alcohol for valuable furs, robes and horses. Gathering at Fort Dufferin, Manitoba, in the summer of 1874, a force of 275 men set out on the long march to the Rocky Mountain foothills, in search of the whisky forts and traders.

In October of that year, Fort Macleod was built and by 1875, additional posts at Fort Saskatchewan, Fort Calgary and Fort Walsh were established. In 1882, the Force's headquarters was transferred from Fort Walsh to Regina, where it remained for 38 years.

Through patient negotiation, the NWMP established friendly relations with the Indians, wiped out the illicit whisky traffic and suppressed the lawlessness that had flourished in the region. The NWMP maintained order along the line of construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and shouldered countless new duties brought about by the vast influx of settlers who flocked to the plains via the new railroad.

## ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Congratulations to all RCMP employees on the landmark occasion of your 125th anniversary. Over the years, the Force has maintained a tradition of excellence in law enforcement. The RCMP is a rich part of Canada's history and tradition, and has long served as a unifying symbol for Canadians. I know the RCMP will continue to meet the challenges ahead as we approach the next millennium.

— **Andy Scott,**  
**Solicitor General of Canada**

On behalf of the Charlottetown Police Committee and the Charlottetown Police Department, we wish to convey our congratulations to the employees, both past and present, of the RCMP on their 125th anniversary. Over the years, Canadians have come to know the RCMP through their varied roles in policing, from local level community policing through to their administration of national policing services. Congratulations on this milestone and best wishes on your continuing efforts in service to Canadians.

— **Chief Paul Smith,**  
**Charlottetown Police Department**

The RCMP has a long, rich history of protecting the rights and freedoms of people everywhere. From its inception back in 1873 to bring law and order to the North-west Territories, to its participation in the United Nations peacekeeping missions today, the RCMP has brought pride and recognition to Canada as an honest and fair nation. As you mark your 125th anniversary, the staff of the Halifax Regional Police Service commend the RCMP for its work in bringing technology into the area of crime prevention on a national basis. We trust municipal services and the RCMP will continue to work hand-in-hand to make our communities a safer place to live.

— **Chief Vincent J. MacDonald,**  
**Halifax Regional Police Service**