

Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000: The Trek Begins

By Sgt. Phil Johnson, "G" Division Community Policing

In February, the Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 had a successful launch at Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) despite the frigid weather conditions! On February 19, the Junior Ranger Patrol chopped a hole into the Arctic Ocean and water was drawn and presented to three Relay teams that will coordinate the water's travel through the three territories of Canada and onward to Ottawa.

On September 9, water from all three oceans — the Arctic, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans — will be ceremonially blended at

Ottawa into the Millennium Fountain by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, symbolizing the completion of the 16,100 km Trans Canada Trail and the uniting of the country.

Several members of the RCMP were on hand for the Tuktoyaktuk ceremony, including C/Supt. Bill Sweeney, CO, "G" Division, Insp. Brian Roberts, North West Region Admin. Officer, and members of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk Detachments.

The water was carried through the community by a host of elders, politicians, and other dignitaries to the Trans Canada Trailhead where it was blessed by local church officials. A reception and feast followed at the community hall. There are three Trailhead monuments erected in Canada — at Victoria, B.C., St John's, Nfld., and Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T. — symbolizing the start of the Trail at Canada's three ocean fronts.

The following morning, Relay 2000 officially began with the Yukon water handed to honorary water carrier Sgt. Terry Scott, OIC, Tuktoyaktuk Detachment, to carry as far as Inuvik by snowmobile. Local dog musher James Pokiak was handed the N.W.T. water and led the way through Tuktoyaktuk and onto the 180 km-long ice highway heading for Inuvik. The Nunavut water was given to a separate group of adventurers, the Arctic Millennium 2000 team — a team of five men who embarked on a three-month, 7,000 km



Trans Canada Trail Trailhead (Tuktoyaktuk).

Photo by Sgt. Phil Johnson