



Letters to the editor ...

SKETCHBOOKS

Dear Editor,

In 1973, my students and I researched, retraced, and relived, as best we were able to, the original trek west of the NWMP, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RCMP. It was a very exciting part of my teaching career and last fall, I put pictures and a diary of our experience on my Website, hoping that it will encourage people to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the RCMP in 1998.

For my RCMP 125 activities in 1998/99, I am doing a sketchbook on RCMP Commissioner George French. Every year, for the past six years, I have sent a different explorer's journal to interested teachers. Their students sketch part of the journal, send them to me and I make a fine quality hardcover presentation sketchbook showing the students' work. I add background on the explorer and make a series of presentations in various parts of the world that tie in with the life of the individual. The Commissioner French book will involve presentations in Ireland, Canada, United States, India and Australia. A goal of my program is to show the amazing global connections that exist in our history. To date, more than 400 schools and 7,000 students worldwide have been involved in the sketchbook series.

I got so enthusiastic over the RCMP celebrations 25 years ago, that I ended up purchasing much of the remaining stock of the Rolph-McNally Centennial print collection. I plan on giving the series away to participating schools (those not participating may purchase them) with the hope that the RCMP 125 celebrations will be as mean-

ingful for them as the RCMP Centennial celebrations were for my students and me.

If any of your readers are talking to schools about the history of police work in Canada, it would be appreciated if they would mention the sketchbook project which is found on my Website. For those not on the Internet, they can write me at the following address.

Yours sincerely,

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GETTING THE WORK DONE

Dear Editor,

I read a press release in a Halifax newspaper last fall with more than a little interest when it stated that a rural RCMP Detachment in this province was getting an additional two officers to help with the work. The sub-headline read, "Reinforcements welcomed by busy office." The staff sergeant in charge explained that the Detachment was now staffed by 18 regular members, four auxiliaries and two detachment assistants, as well as having a community policing office at one end of the area staffed by volunteers.

I was transferred to this Detachment in January 1942. At that time, the population in the area numbered 15,000 permanent residents and was later augmented by 5,000-