



Adopt-a-Cop Project

by Constable B.E. Kent

Fourteen days in the Florida sunshine may sound like a vacation dream come true for most people; however, for the members of the Metro-Dade Police Hurricane Relief Effort, in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew which struck Florida in August, 1992, there was no rest and relaxation in the sun. The relief effort, also dubbed "Adopt-a-cop", was organized by Cst. B.E. Kent, of Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport (TLBPIA) Detachment, Ontario, to assist in the reconstruction of the homes of Florida police officers that had been ravaged by what is believed to be one of the most destructive hurricanes to ever strike the Sunshine State.

Comprised of 27 "O" Division (Ontario) members, 22 from TLBPIA

Detachment and the balance coming from other sections within the RCMP in the Toronto area, as well as two members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police and one member from the Peel Regional Police, the team coalesced for the purpose of helping fellow peace officers in need. They possessed a mixed-bag of the skills and abilities of the construction trade, but more important, the drive and determination necessary to see a difficult job through to its completion.

Canada 3000 Airlines kindly donated 30 seats on one of its charter flights as its contribution to the hurricane relief effort. It was originally planned that the contingent would be divided into six teams of five workers each. However, on surveying the extent of the destruction and damage left in