

listening to my legs; we were doing turns on the forehand and haunches, reinback three paces, shoulder in and out, jumping hay bales in the field, and forging streams. The horse was seeking contact with the bit and was even starting to slim down.

Chantelle and I managed to get another full week of Red Serge duty around the long-weekend in August. Unfortunately, due to another appointment, we were unable to meet the Commanding Officer's suggestion to lead the Gold Cup and Saucer Parade into the Charlottetown Driving Park, for the commencement of the annual PEI Harness Racing Classic. We remained flexible throughout, trying to get the maximum efficiency out of our duty, with the least amount of resistance, and found that all went very well. Cst. D. Williamson took Chantelle for the middle-week of August and managed to get some more Red Serge exposure. The Labour-Day Weekend was curtailed for us a little early, but not without getting an opportunity to get some official photos taken by "L" Division Identification Section.

I was extremely pleased with the way things turned out. The feedback from the local tourist operators was very positive. Tourists had been expressing their pleasure at being able to actually see one of the main attractions they come to Canada for: a red-coated Mountie on horseback. Even Prince Edward Islanders were pleased. This was a great opportunity for some very effective community-relations work throughout a National Park which is reportedly "the fifth most visited tourist vacation area in North America", world-famous for its beautiful

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sandy beaches and, of course, for author, Lucy Maude Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*.

Visitors and Islanders alike were very understanding when I explained that, when I was not on horseback, I was out on the highways doing traffic law enforcement. Everyone promised to be very mindful of the traffic laws in PEI. I even received a bit of good-natured ribbing from some people, regarding certain aspects of the Force that had been publicized in the press lately, but I can honestly say that I never heard an untoward or uncomplimentary remark about the RCMP during the entire period. Apparently, a police officer on horseback, particularly one in Red Serge, seems to bring out the best in people. I certainly had never seen as many smiling faces looking my way when on highway patrol duty.

This whole project just landed in my lap, so to speak, and, as a result, I received an opportunity to do something positive for the public image of the RCMP. I am proud to have been afforded to participate in a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction as well as an opportunity to make some new friends. ☒