

# The Pan American Games — Winnipeg, Manitoba 1999

By Supt. D.F. Gork, OIC, Pan Am Section



*Her Royal Highness Princess Anne is driven into the stadium at the opening ceremonies of the 1999 Pan American Games. Also in the car: CPO Insp. R. Myhill, Cst. C. Gork (driver), Cst. S. Colwell and Cpl. J. Van Dam (Colour Party).*

The Pan American Games took place in Manitoba from July 23 to August 8, 1999. The games involved the deployment of over 300 RCMP officers from the North West Region and as far away as "E" Division and the Central Region. The policing of the games was done through a Joint Forces Operations Centre fully staffed by personnel from the RCMP, Winnipeg Police Service, CSIS, and the Department of National Defence. This event provided an outlet for building on our partnerships with these and several other federal and provincial government departments.

This sporting event was the third largest sporting event in North America, exceeded

only by the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The Games provided representation from 42 nations in 41 different sporting events, and provided a fully international outlet for the 10,000 athletes and officials that attended the games.

Logistically, the security forces had to contend with five villages spread across the province of Manitoba, from Winnipeg in the east, to Brandon in the west, and Gimli in the north. While this was demanding on the officers tasked with the functions associated with the event, these personnel enthusiastically embraced their role and provided an