



## Grand Opening of Air Services Detachment

On February 10, 1992, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the official opening of the recently completed RCMP Air Services Detachment at the Ottawa International Airport. Numerous people were on hand to witness the event and to take part in this historic occasion including, the Honourable Doug Lewis, Solicitor General, RCMP Commissioner N.D. Inkster, C/Supt. N.M. Melsness, Director, Air Services, and other dignitaries.

The idea of having a police air service in the RCMP was first conceived in

1919, but it was not until 1932, and the famous murder case of Albert Johnson, the "Mad Trapper", that the real need for police air support was made clear. In that year, the RCMP obtained the services of several RCAF aircraft, to assist primarily in anti-rumrunning duties. This arrangement was terminated by mutual agreement in 1936, and the following year, the RCMP Air Services was established with the purchase of four DeHavilland "Dragonflies."

Up until the construction of this new detachment, RCMP Air Services were