

**DEPOT DOES RIDE PROUD** July 13, 1987, was a day like any other at Depot. Troop 17 (1986/87) graduated, and the next morning, Troop D (1987/88) also participated in the “passing out” rite. But, what began as a typical day at the Academy, on July 14, quickly changed into a day of celebration and camaraderie, as nearly 4,000 RCMP members, veterans, many former Ride members, and their families, converged on Depot.

The gathering was to celebrate the Musical Ride’s 100th anniversary. Regina chose to host the event to commemorate the Ride’s first public appearance there, in January, 1887.

The day was filled with a variety of activities, starting at 12:50 in the afternoon. The Sergeant Major’s parade led the slate of events. A nostalgic visit to the stables, which had been empty for 20 years and were filled with the sight, sound and smell of the current Ride’s mounts, topped most visitors’ agendas. The spectacular Musical Ride display, in this familiar setting, gave spectators a sense of belonging.

Time was scheduled for a photo session, an opportunity for former Ride members, like C/Supt. Lagassé, to mount the horses provided for the occasion. By mid-afternoon, the hot prairie sun had parched thirsts and everyone had a chance to visit

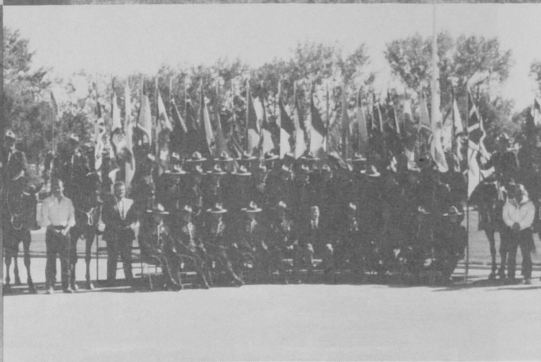
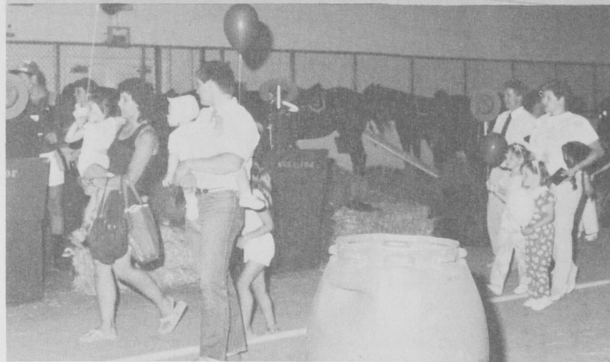
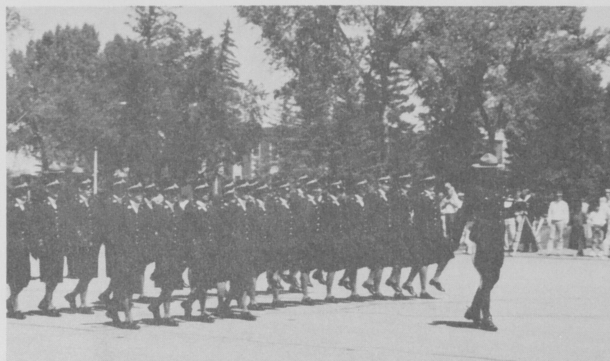
the beer garden to cool off. A roast beef dinner was enjoyed by all, during which, Commissioner Simmonds briefly addressed the gathering.

The famous Sunset Ceremony followed dinner, with Sgt. Herb Muma directing the recruit choir in a medley of popular Canadian songs. Cpl. Tom Sommerfeld’s female Troop 18 (1986/87) made him proud with their drill display; the recruit band displayed the results of their 7 a.m. practices, and the rest of the recruits demonstrated their physical training and self-defence proficiency. Dancing at the Drill Hall, to music by the Bison Band, wound up an eventful day.

Special thanks to Mr. Malcolm Wake, Museum Director, for the early 1985 reminder of the first Ride performance. C/Supt. Andy Lagassé and Cpl. Mike Shaver also deserve recognition for much of the organization of the centenary celebration. Thanks also to the tireless volunteers — recruits, public servants and staff members — at the Academy, who contributed to the success of the event.

At the Commanding Officer’s request, the Academy hockey team organized and held a steak BBQ and dance on September 11, 1987, to recognize the efforts of all volunteers.

*submitted by Sgt. M. Chabot*



The Ride’s Centennial celebration at Depot included (clockwise from top left): drill display by Troop 18; a performance by the 1988 Ride; time-out for a group photo; tours of the stables.