



DETACHMENT OPEN HOUSE Last May, Whitehorse Detachment held an open house and invited the community to join in the fun! Safety Bear and CHIP made a special appearance at the event. Keep up the great work!

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

LIBERAL CAUCUS SURRENDERS HISTORIC FLAG TO THE PUBLIC

After being cloistered in Liberal caucus quarters for 35 years, Canada's first Maple Leaf flag became public domain on February 15 as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien turned the artifact over to Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. The original flag, unfurled in a bitter-sweet ceremony on Parliament Hill in 1965, disappeared from public view after the ceremony, and a survey of museum officials, historians and politicians revealed no one really knew the flag's whereabouts. The *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper finally tracked it down to the Prime Minister's Office, where it sat among Mr. Chrétien's Centre Block offices on Parliament Hill. A plaque on the flag's pole explains how it got there: "This flag, the original raised by the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, on this occasion of the inauguration of the national flag of Canada on Feb. 15, 1965, was presented by Mr. Pearson to the National Liberal Caucus on April 24, 1968." (In fact, the flag was hoisted by Mountie Gaetan Secours in a ceremony over which the then-PM presided.)

RCMP Media Summary

CANADIAN POLICE PEACEKEEPERS IN KOSOVO (LAST CONTINGENT

LEFT FEB. 10) Canada has met its requirements to provide 100 members to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) with the deployment of 14 Canadian police officers. Members of the RCMP, the Edmonton Police Force, the Cape Breton Regional Police, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and the Brossard Police left for Kosovo to bring the Canadian Contingent to its full capacity. Twelve other Canadian police forces have already contributed members to UNMIK. Established last July, UNMIK's mandate is to maintain civil law and order in Kosovo as well as to establish a local police force. Presently, close to 2,000 civilian police officers are on the ground in Kosovo.

A/Commr. Wayne Wawryk, Director of International Liaison and Protective Operations told the future peacekeepers before they left that: "If the human rights of the people of Kosovo are improving, and we have already seen some progress, you will have accomplished your mission." A/Commr. Wawryk also encouraged them to work as a team and to use a lot of patience in this new potentially stressful and difficult environment. If you wish to contact any member in Kosovo or elsewhere on peacekeeping duty, please contact Cst. Sylvain Pillénère at (613) 993-1282.

Fast Facts #89