

Black Lux's sire, was officially taken on strength of the Force on October 15 of that same year...."⁴¹

Irrespective of whether Dale or Black Lux was first, or whether the program started on May 25 or October 15, 1935, the RCMP moved ahead with its canine program. It was small at first, but there were high hopes for the program. In 1936, the RCMP described some cases where Dale performed with distinction: "... we should say something regarding the invaluable work performed by this dog...."⁴² The account gave no word about Black Lux, but carried on optimistically about Dale: "As the dog Dale has now been taken on the strength of the Force he will be used more frequently and, no doubt, will prove his worth."⁴³

Dale and Lux did prove their worth. In fact, these two dogs were so successful that "... further purchases were made and a kennel was opened at Calgary.... Six dogs were trained and passed out to detachments."⁴⁴

In 1939, Superintendent Bavin noted that there were 13 dogs on the Force which, with handlers, were stationed as follows:⁴⁵

Place	Number of Teams
Peace River, Alta.	1
Vegreville, Alta.	1
Maidstone, Alta.	1
Wakaw, Sask.	1
Canora, Sask.	1
Regina, Sask.	2
Halifax, N.S.	1
Moncton, N.B.	1
Rockcliffe, Ont.	4
	13

41. Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Police Dog Service*. RCMP: Public Relations Branch, 1980, p. 3.

Superintendent Bavin was intent upon posting teams at strategic points across Canada as the array shown here illustrates. Bavin was prophetic when he wrote in 1939 that: "By an even and well-planned distribution, we hope to have our dogs stationed at points where their services can be used at short notice. It is necessary that all detachments be impressed with the importance of calling the dog first — the sooner he is on the job, the better the chance we are giving him to meet with success. There have been many instances where the dog has been brought in too late or perhaps as an afterthought and then the usefulness of the animal criticized because good results were not obtained."⁴⁶

That year, the superintendent also forecast that: "... as the interest in the use of dogs increases, more and more demand will be made for their services... it is certain that this increase will make it necessary to make further purchases and intensify our training."⁴⁷

There is more to the saga of Dale. In 1936, a Constable Thurston of the RCMP was trained by Captain Harwich and Sergeant Cawsey to handle police service dog Dale. Thurston and Dale were partners, compiling an impressive record, until rheumatism and heart strain brought about Dale's retirement

42. *Report of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the Year Ended March 31, 1936*. Ottawa: Department of Public Printing and Stationery, 1936, pp. 104-105.

43. *Loc. cit.*

44. *RCMP Annual Report for 1939, op. cit.*, p. 55.

45. *Ibid.*, p. 56.

46. *Loc. cit.*

47. *Loc. cit.*