



**The Parkland Horsemen.**

naments and provided excellent recreational opportunities for our members.

The successor to this team, the Parkland Horsemen, was designed as a positive public relations endeavour in Red Deer Sub-Division under the aegis of the Police-Community Relations Program. It resulted from the general wish of team members to become more involved in some project within the Sub-Division. If all reports are to be believed, this program has succeeded beyond even the fondest expectations.

As originally conceived, it was to be a benefit/exhibition hockey team, a joint undertaking with the sponsorship of media representatives in the City of Red Deer, coached by Insp. John Fream, A.O.C. of the Sub-Division, with Cpl. Gord Davis of Red Deer GIS as hockey director and team manager. All profits from gate proceeds were to be turned over to community projects, with games to be played in any detachment area where a team of any kind could be put on the ice — the district or service club sponsoring to designate the community program to benefit thereby.

The team was off to a flying start with the donation by the original Sub-Division team of their first prize of \$400 from the Big Horn Tournament at Rocky Mountain House in April, 1976. A post-season game in April, 1976, against the Didsbury Ramblers, netted \$450 for the Kinsmen and Cystic Fibrosis and proved that such a benefit team would be a viable

project. It also served to further spark the enthusiasm of all members toward such a hockey team.

Funds towards the purchase of uniforms and other equipment were raised by a Turkey Dinner in November, 1976, sponsored by the hockey team with the generous support of various Red Deer businesses and the media. Team members, wives and public servants served dinner to about 1500 members of the general public, who were entertained by a local singing group, the Waska-Billies, and Phyllis Quartly, an organist.

From that point on there has been no looking back! During the season, seventeen exhibition hockey games have been played at points throughout the entire Sub-Division. We won a few and lost a few, but the real winners have been the community projects, such as the Provost Nursing Home, the Rocky Mountain House Figure Skaters, and Red Deer Junior Football Team, which benefitted from gross receipts of \$7200 for the season. The general public has also had a heightened awareness of the more positive aspects of police services.

The Red Deer *Ad-Viser* of May 4, 1977 pays tribute that is well deserved: "But overshadowing the money, is the contribution made by the members of that team. The RCMP are more than the law. They have, and will no doubt continue to make contributions to the communities where they are stationed. A sincere thanks to the Parkland Horsemen."