



FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

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“CANADA 150 PARK”

**PROUD
SUPPORTERS
OF/FIERS
D'APPUYER**

**RCMP
HERITAGE
CENTRE**



**LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC**

**RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT**



**GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES**



On average RCMP Training Academy- 'Depot' Division is home to approximately a thousand cadets per year as they participate in the twenty-six week long cadet training program. It was determined that the cadets living on base did not have an easily accessible outdoor space where they could relax and unwind. The central area, once a parking lot was identified as the most ideal location for a green

space that could be utilized by cadets, employees and guests of the academy.

In 2014 a design the park competition was held and a design chosen. With a few minor modifications, construction of the park began in 2016 with an aim to have a grand opening in time for Canada 150 celebrations and became Depot's Canada 150 project. It was therefore fitting to call the park the "Canada 150 Park".

continued on next page

“CANADA 150 PARK” *continued from page*

The park serves as an outdoor seating area for lunch and boasts a large red turf maple leaf as a central feature. The park can be used as a location for physical conditioning classes, as an area for scenario based training and as a place for relaxation and reflection.

Although open, the park is still being developed to allow for the addition of physical training equipment, possibly the inclusion of amphitheater style seating for outdoor events, tours etc. and the addition of interactive displays.

A renaming of the park to honour a fallen officer, another historical event or influential Canadian figure may take place upon completion of the sesquicentennial. *(Explanation compliments of A/Comm. Brenda Lucki, Commanding Officer of Depot Division)*

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THE 1957 MUSICAL RIDE BY ALEX MATCHES

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE)

After my leave I returned to Harrogate, in Yorkshire, and from there, a few days later, we travelled to Norwich where we rode at the Royal Norwich Show, July 2nd until the 5th. We stayed in tents but the weather was warmer which made it quite pleasant. One day we rode to the Mayor’s welcome and a civic reception and drew a crowd of people along the way. Each day we had two matinee rides between 1:30pm and 5:30pm and in most places the rides took place during the daylight hours which left our evenings free for sightseeing at the various stops.

We returned to Harrogate for the Great Yorkshire Show, which was celebrating its 100th year, with the Queen and other royals in attendance. The weather was relatively good and the rides went well. We had two favourite pubs here—the Woodland, just outside the show grounds, where everyone insisted on buying us drinks and the Traveller’s Rest, a two-hundred-year-old roadhouse with lots of character.

Peterborough was our next stop and the rain and mud were unmerciful. When the rain started we couldn’t rehearse. The next day it rained and the grounds were so muddy that they had to use tractors to bring horse



Thousands of people lined the streets to welcome the Ride to Norwich, July 1, 1957.

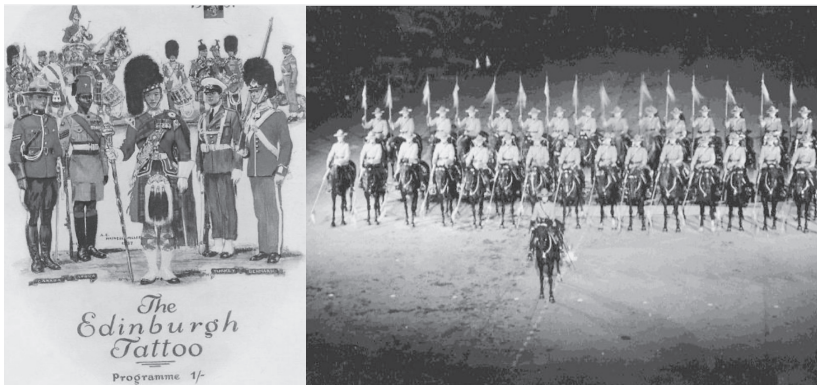
trailers and other vehicles into the grounds. Our two rides each day left us muddy and required lots of clean-up time. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were there for one ride and took the salute. During the show, Frazer's horse, Spark, tripped and fell throwing him to the ground. The Duchess jumped to her feet and seemed relieved that Frazer was all right and able to remount and carry on.

Our next week was spent in Harrogate and it was the week-off for the second group. Most of our time was spent cleaning tack, exercising the horses and going to the local pubs and movie theatres in the evenings.



Blackpool, the English summer resort city on the Irish Sea was a good stop, too. We were all given complimentary passes to the attractions at the famous Blackpool Tower which everyone enjoyed. The view from the top of the over-500 ft. tower was spectacular, looking out over the city and the Irish Sea, which has one of the fastest-rising tides in the world. Extreme care had to be taken when walking out on the beach so as not to get trapped by the incoming tide. We were hosted at a reception by the Lancashire Constabulary and had many invitations to local dances in the city.

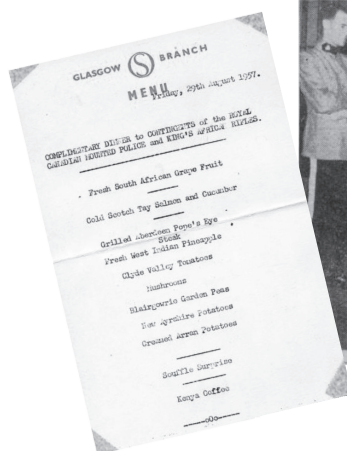
Our next-to-last stop on the tour was at the World Boy Scout Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield where the horses were stabled in the horse boxes at the train station and we stayed in a nearby grammar school. We put on two rides for the boy scouts.



The Ride at Edinburgh Castle

On August 7th we arrived in Edinburgh for the final stop of our tour. The horses were stabled a few blocks from Edinburgh Castle, the venue of our ride and we stayed at Collinton army barracks outside the city centre. During our stay there, Field Marshal Montgomery of WWII North Africa fame came in for a conference.

We had rehearsals on the esplanade of the castle and because of its slope we had to do a shorter, walking version of the ride. The crowds seemed to enjoy our presentation. The martial music was awesome as the tattoo involved marching military and pipe bands from around the world representing Africa, Turkey and Denmark as well as regiments from throughout Britain. During our stay we had receptions, dances and dinners at various places around Edinburgh. We also had a cruise down the Clyde River to the outer islands then a dinner at the Overseas League Club in Glasgow.



Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and officers of the King's African Rifles learn a Scots dance step at a function arranged by the Overseas League at the weekend. They are taking part in the Festival Tattoo.

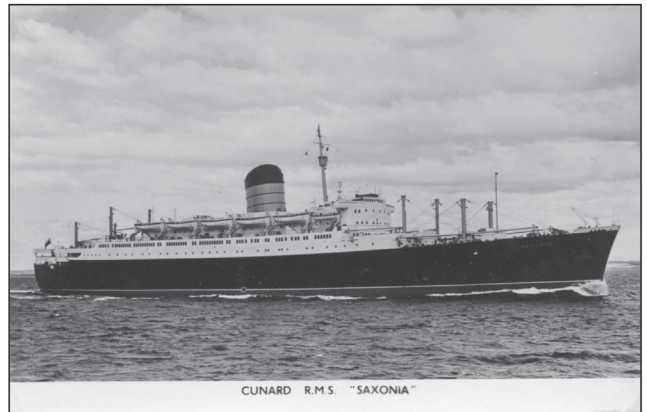
A dance and dinner at the Overseas Club.

Another day the Ride went to the Princess Margaret Children's Hospital with the Life Guards Band, much to the enjoyment of the kids and nurses. With the windup of the tattoo, Inspector Downey told us how pleased he was with our performances and everyone now looked forward to going home.

The wind-up dinner was held at the Waverley Market Hall for the Festival and Tattoo performers and we prepared to head to Southampton and our return to Canada on the Saxonía, via Le Havre, France, and Cobh, Ireland to Montreal. The horses returned on the Corinaldo. On September 10th we left Edinburgh on the overnight train to London's King's Cross then to Waterloo Station for the trip to Southampton and boarded the ship the next morning, September 11th.



*The wind-up dinner in Edinburgh.
Left to right: Wilson, Williamson, O'Neill and Matches.*



On board the Saxonía in Southampton prior to departure.

The ship left for Le Havre and filled up with returning RCAF personnel. We partied and danced, played games, watched movies and just enjoyed the trip home. In the evening of September 17th we arrived in Quebec City then departed for Montreal and arrived the next morning about 11:00am.



Arriving in Montreal, September 18, 1957.

We went through customs quickly, took an afternoon train to Ottawa and got settled back at “N” Division by 7:30pm. It was sure nice to be home again!

Within days of our return to Ottawa a few of us bought cars. I bought a 1953 Ford Ranch Wagon, a vehicle large enough for two trunks and all my stuff. The car had been a staff car at Rideau Hall and was used to pick up and deliver luggage and parcels around town. A few days after arriving home, a few of us came down with the Spanish (?) ‘flu and one of the lecture rooms was turned into a sick bay with a dozen or more of us confined to bed. A week or so later, in the first week of October most of us were feeling better.

On October 3rd the horses arrived from Britain and were brought to Ottawa by train and were returned to the stables. On the 5th, some members of the Ride attended Bob Laporte’s wedding where we formed a lance bridal arch for him and his bride, Irene.

With everyone and the horses back to normal and healthy we prepared for the Queen’s escort and the 24th Opening of Parliament, which was held on October 14th. We escorted the Queen from Rideau Hall in the open landau to what would be the first time Canada’s Parliament was opened by a reigning monarch. It was a beautiful sunny day with thousands of people lining the streets. As we left the grounds of Government House, a huge red maple leaf floated down from one of the trees lining the driveway and landed on her lap, to which the duke muttered something like, “welcome to Canada.” (as reported by one of the footmen riding behind them on the carriage.) The escort went very well and everyone was pleased.



HOOF-BEATS ON THE HILL

Red-Coated Mounties Thrill Crowd With “Ride”

By Phil Cooper
Citizen Staff Writer

The velvet green lawns of Parliament Hill provided a stage last night for the scarlet-coated brilliance of the RCMP’s world-famed Musical Ride. This colorful display of equestrian skill was the climax of the final evening of entertainment given on the Hill during the royal visit.

There had been fears that the horses’ hooves might ruin the lawn in last night’s exhibition. But the turf was trampled by thousands of other feet, too, as dense crowds carpeted the grounds to watch the spectacle. Led by Insp. J. C. G. Downey and riding master S/Sgt. R. R. Van Patten, the 32 NCO’s and men, with their handsome coal-black steeds, returned just recently from a five-month tour in the United Kingdom. And last night’s crowd on Parliament Hill gave them a rousing welcome home.

There was warm applause, interspersed with admiring “ohs” and “ahs”, as onlookers marvelled at the matchless precision and clockwork timing as the Mounties executed their intricate figures. These included, among others, the elaborate “Maze” and the “Bridal Arch”—all followed by the spectacular charge.

Taking part in last night’s ride were the same young men who toured Canada and the United States last year, hand-picked from RCMP riding schools across the country. Their average length of service in the force, according to Insp. Downey, is about five years.

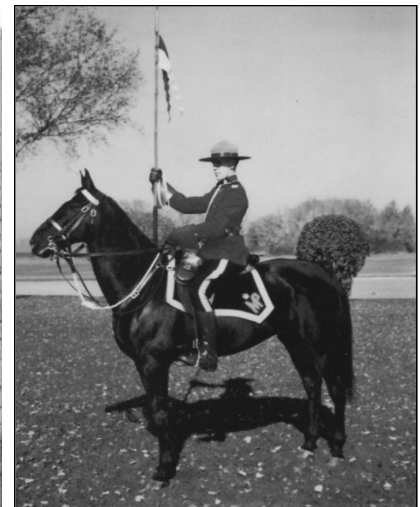
In past years the Musical Ride has often included a few bay horses—but the present horses are all the ideal coal black. Usually it is difficult to find black horses that meet the height requirement of 15 hands two inches.

Music for the ride was provided by the RCMP Band directed by S/Sgt. H. A. Blackman.

Last night’s program also featured, once again, the massed bands of the Canadian Guards from Petawawa, the Royal 22nd Regiment of Quebec, RCAF Training Command in Toronto and the Central Band of the RCAF in Ottawa.

At one point in the program, this assemblage of 225 musicians was augmented by three 12-pounder naval guns fired by seamen from HMCS Cornwallis and HMCS Stadacona in Nova Scotia. The guns figured in a repeat performance of Tschalkowsky’s 1812 Overture—originally scored to include real cannon fire.

This Tschalkowsky show piece is not great music, perhaps, but it certainly is spectacular—especially when performed as it was last night. And it fitted in perfectly on a spectacular evening.



My last Ride picture.

The following evening we performed the Musical Ride for the last time on the lawn in front of the Parliament Buildings. It was a good ride for an appreciative crowd for which we received many compliments. This would be the last ride for many of us. The next day, everyone left for their respective detachments or home on annual leaves. I drove home to Vancouver, arriving five days later, for some R:& R: with family and friends.

This concludes the story supplied by Alex Matches on the 1957 Musical Ride in England. On behalf of all our readers I would like to extend many, many thanks to Alex, for his kindness in allowing us to print it verbatim. I hope everyone enjoyed this story as much as I. It allowed each of us to feel the pride which these members experienced so many years ago.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Presentation to Willis and Evelyn Scott by Jerry Plastow, president of our Division. Cheers at the Spring BBQ.

Photo: Bob



Life membership presented by Pres. Bob Ogden, South Okanagan Division and Pres. Bob Clarke, Okanagan Div. on June 25th BBQ at home of life member Mel Murton.

Photo: Finn Nielson

SPECIAL DONATION

While attending his troop's 50th Anniversary (Troop 11 of 1967/68) Peter J.M. Pallesen made a donation of \$10,000 to the Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre. Mr. Pallesen's family was very active, early 1900's, in the Creamery/Dairy businesses, in the Province of Alberta.

Photo of Mr. Paullesen (front by saddle) and his troopmates in front of the Depot Chapel, courtesy of Murray Klatt.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the *Friends*:

James A Watt, Coquitlam, BC
George W. Vogen, Montreal, QC
Jakki Crowe, Regina, SK

***FRIEND – \$500.00 +**

John G. Van Kats, Dow Settlement, NB
Vivian Myers, Prince Albert, SK
Larry J. Baker, St. Andrews, MB
Mrs. Marion Sniezek, Melfort, SK
Wilfred Weiss, Saint John, NB
William Johnston, Winnipeg, MB
Frederick Searle, Regina, SK

***LIFE MEMBERS – \$1,200.00 +**
\$1200.00 – George & Zelly Rechner,
Edmonton, AB

LIFE SPONSOR – \$3000.00 - \$4,999

\$20,000.00 Leadership Source Inc –
Chestermere, AB
Peter Pallesen, Calgary, AB

IN MEMORIAM

\$200.00 Howard & Lesley Thompson,
Waterloo, ON – in memory of
#15948, S/Sgt. Roland Calvin Hill (Rtd)
\$200.00 Connie Falconer, Regina, SK
in memory of Audrey Falconer

*These are cumulative amounts over the years

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Bob Smart, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Past President | Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Secretary | Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.) |
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| Director | Murray Klatt, RCMP (Rtd.) |
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| Unit Observer | Rhonda Lamb |
| Heritage Centre Observer | Marty Klyne |
| Membership Committee | Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Newsletter Editor | Murray Klatt, RCMP (Rtd.) |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Membership One Year (\$35) Three Years (\$90)
Life Membership \$1,200 single payment or cumulative over several years to \$1,200 level. Existing members will have past membership payments credited towards the \$1,200 level.
Donation _____ (Any amount is eligible for a Canada Customs and Revenue Agency tax receipt. Canada Only)

American residents please add \$5.00 extra per year and international residents please add \$10.00 extra per year, to cover postage costs.

Total Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

E-mail Address _____

My membership/donation will be paid by:

- Cheque/check (payable to the Friends of the Mounted Police Museum)
 Credit Card # _____ (Visa or Master Card) Expiry _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Return by Mail:

Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

Join or Renew Your Membership Online:

Purchase your membership of the *Friends* with a simple, secure, on-line transaction using Pay Pal. When we receive your payment, a receipt will be sent to you by mail. Visit our website at www.rcmpfcfriends.com and click on "Join the Friends".