

FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

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PROUD
SUPPORTERS
OF/FIERS
D'APPUYER

RCMP
HERITAGE
CENTRE



LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC

RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT



GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES

THE RCMP HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS UNIT CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

An Open House to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Historical Collections Unit (formerly the RCMP Museum) was held on October 22, 2008 at the RCMP Heritage Centre. Invitations were extended to RCMP employees at "Depot", "F" Division and the Regina Forensic Lab.

It was S. T. Wood, a foresighted member of the RCMP and later Commissioner from 1938 to 1951 who saw it would be of great benefit to the Force and the public to start a museum. On June 28, 1933, Commissioner J. H. MacBrien gave assent to the formation of the RCMP Museum, to be located at "Depot" Division in Regina. It began with humble beginnings in a room in the basement of "A" Block (now the A. B. Perry Building). During this initial period, the Museum received many interesting items including a lock from Fort Walsh and items from Arthur Griesbach, the first Sergeant Major of the Force.

Due to the growing number of artifacts and the public's interest, in February 1940 the Museum was transferred to the basement of "C" Block. As the collection continued to expand, it received such interesting donations as items relating to the "Mad Trapper" Albert Johnson and from the Yukon Gold Rush period.

With the expanding collection and an increase in visitors, the Museum next moved to the main floor of "C" Block. After World War II, the museum moved again; this time to the main floor of the new "C" Block. Under the leadership of members like Art Band and Jack Chester, visitations in 1958 grew to



Wendy Kraushaar, Administrative Assistant (left) and Shannon Cunningham, Conservator/Collections Manager, at one of the Historical Collections Unit's displays for the Open House celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the HCU.

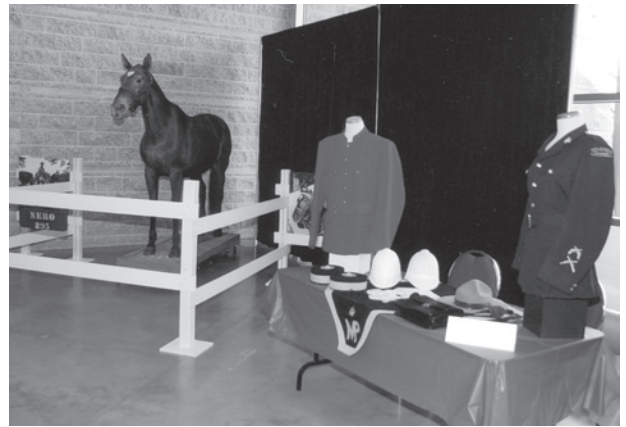
Photo by Kenn Barker

approximately 50,000. During the 1960's, unique donations were received such as Supt. Sam Steele's uniforms and many First Nations artifacts.

The collection was housed in "C" Block until the celebration of the Force's Centennial in 1973. In July of that year, H. R. H. Queen Elizabeth II opened the RCMP Centennial Museum. Two of the most notable acquisitions to come to the Museum were Commissioner Irvine's beautiful embroidered gold leather pouch and Inspector Fitzgerald's last will and testament from the tragic Lost Patrol.

In June 2007, the Collection moved to the new RCMP Heritage Centre. The care of the collection remains in the hands of the newly named RCMP Historical Collections Unit.

Over 100 people came to the open house on October 22. The Historical Collections Unit showcased the first artifact ever donated, including a padlock and key excavated at Fort Walsh, and Supt. A. H. Griesbach's tunic and accoutrements. As well as Historical Collections Unit displays, the Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre and the Heritage Centre hosted displays at the event. "Behind the Scenes" tours of the storage area, conservation lab and the workshop were offered. Nero even made an appearance.



Nero made an appearance at the Open House on October 22, 2008.

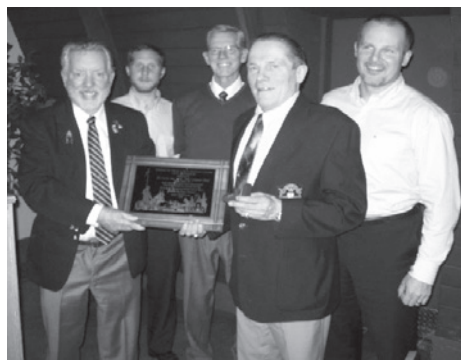
Photo by Kenn Barker

PRESENTATIONS

On November 11, 2008, on behalf of the *Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre*, Al Rivard, (left), President of the Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association, presented a life membership plaque to Assistant Commissioner Ray Quintal (Rtd.) and his wife Gilberte,



at Ottawa Division's regular general meeting. Photo by Gord Ireland, Editor, Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association.



On November 19, 2008, on behalf of the *Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre*, Ed Wilson (left), President of the Vancouver Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association, presented a life membership plaque to Wes Guymer of Maple Ridge, BC. In the background are friends Michael Wakely, Insp. Jim Wakely Officer i/c Ridge Meadows Detachment (ODS), and David Guymer. There were 108 members of the Association present for the ceremony. Photo by Daniel B. Lemieux

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the *Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre* will be held in the Community Programming Room of the RCMP Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan on:

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

5:30 PM Socializing

6:30 PM Annual General Meeting

7:30 PM Lunch and Refreshments

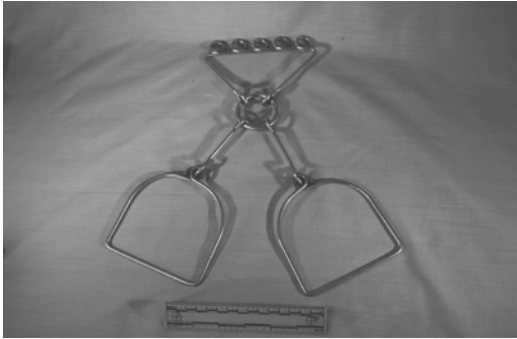
Details of the meeting are contained in separate correspondence enclosed with this newsletter.

Those Members of the *Friends* who receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically will be mailed a form for them be able to designate their proxy if they are unable to attend the meeting in person.

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CORRESPONDENCE



This is the photo of the “What is it” item that appeared in the Fall 2008 Issue of the *Friendly Notes*. Readers were asked to help identify the item. Thanks to J. L. Fontaine and C. N. Kittle for their responses given below.

Photo by Tim Hersche, RCMP Historical Collections Unit

“Letter dated October 22, 2008

Subject: “What is it?” bottom of Page 4 – *Friendly Notes* – Fall 2008

This is an exercise apparatus – using long (24” or so) springs with a handle at each end – the person can use from one to five springs. The item shown is to be used vertically, using the stirrups to anchor the apparatus to the floor – the upper ends of the springs are attached to a bar (horizontal) to practice “curls” – “upright rowing” – triceps extensions, etc. This equipment was sold by different companies i.e. Weider, York Barbell Co. in US, etc.

I’m not aware that it was ever related to our history.

All the best,
J. L. Fontaine
Reg. No. 18774 0.979”

“Email dated October 23, 2008

Subject: WHAT IS IT? ISSUE 4 FALL 2008 VOLUME 18; Page 4.

I believe I saw one of these while in training at Depot; G Troup 1959 - 1960. Whether it was at the R.C.M.P. Museum or during a class at Model Detachment. It is a “come along” designed in such a way that the chain portion is placed over the thumb of the prisoner and below the knuckle of the thumb. The arresting police

officer, or escorting guard, then holds the other end (that has the appearance of a pair of stirrups) together and the chain squeezes down on the thumb. If the prisoner tries to escape the tugging motion causes the handles to squeeze further which causes excruciating pain. It would have been effective to move prisoners short distances such as changing cells or visiting the loo (whether indoor or out).

C. N. Kittle #21159”

DAYS GONE BY – NOSTALGIC MEMORIES



Sgt. Steve Smedley, of the capital projects unit at “Depot” Division, received this photo from some old comrades of the Surrey Constabulary, England. The photo is believed to have been taken at the Guilford County Show on May 24, 1969 when the Musical Ride was touring the UK (Winter 2007 Issue of the *Friendly Notes*). The photo depicts several Surrey Police Officers with two members of the RCMP. The member on the right is believed to be S/Sgt. Ralph Cave. If any readers can identify the second RCMP member in the centre or the members of the Surrey Constabulary, we would be pleased to hear from you. Responses can be sent to bobc@accesscomm.ca or to The Editor, *Friendly Notes*, c/o RCMP Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 0P4.

Photo courtesy of Sgt. Steve Smedley

REMEMBERING MY LIFE IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE – 1941 TO 1970: ITUNA – PART IV

by James R. Zavitz, Sergeant –Major (Rtd.)

The Winter 2007 Issue of the *Friendly Notes* invited any retired Members to share their memories about arrival at their first posting or of their first assignment/adventure. In 2002, Retired Sergeant-Major Jim Zavitz, of Ilderton, ON, after years of coaxing from his children, wrote a book of his life and experiences in the Force from 1941 to 1970. Jim then gave his book to family, friends and neighbours. We thank Jim for sharing his memories of his first posting at Ituna, SK and of providing a copy of his book (through a CD) for the library of the RCMP Historical Collections Unit in the RCMP Heritage Centre. This is the fourth instalment from the chapter.

“The railways probably had more to do with the opening up the west than any other single factor, although many people blamed the C.P.R. for everything that went wrong. It didn’t make any difference whether it was drought, early frosts, an infestation of insects or if the farmer’s wife ran off with the hired man, it was always the C.P.R.’s fault. “Damn the C.P.R.” was the most often heard solution to everything. Even though the nearest C.P.R. tracks were at Regina, a hundred miles from Ituna, it was always the C.P.R. that was damned.

The Liberal government of Wilfred Laurier used the C.P.R. as its main advertising tool to attract settlers to the west. They tried to entice settlers from the British Isles or from south of the border to come to Canada but without much success. Then Clifford Sifton, Minister for the Interior, launched an ambitious campaign aimed at attracting settlers from eastern Europe. He reasoned these people had been farmers all their lives, were not used to all the amenities of life, were hardy and hard workers. They flocked by the tens of thousands to the west until the First World War ended it.

By the time I got to Ituna the majority of the people were one or two generations removed from the original immigrants but the old international grudges and prejudices still existed. Neighbours despised neighbours just because their parents and grandparents did, almost like a family tradition. Several threshing machines were burned during the harvest seasons when they were left in the fields unattended overnight. The wooden machines burned like a torch, only the metal parts were left among a pile of ashes. Another trick was to stick a piece of iron or a rock in a sheaf of grain, knowing it would tear holes in the screens and sieves in the machine. We often had a good idea of who the culprits were, but never were able to get enough evidence to take the culprit to court.

Poisoning wells was another favourite trick. The wells were hand dug, about 3 feet in diameter down to water level and shored up with logs or stones. The water was hauled up in a bucket on a windless. One farmer complained that someone had poisoned his well. The water smelled especially putrid. We dangled a hook on a length of rope and pulled up the hind leg of a neighbour’s dog. There were hard feelings between these families but unless we got a confession we didn’t have any evidence to justify a prosecution. When we spoke to the dog’s owner he immediately claimed his neighbour had stolen the dog, killed it and thrown it in his own well.

Highway 52 was surveyor-straight for the whole fifty miles between Ituna and Yorkton. At night it was most difficult to tell just where we were, it always seemed we were closer to our destination than we actually were. Three men had gone missing near Nanton School, just on the edge of our area, about four years previously and no trace of them had ever been found. Foul play had not been ruled out as it was regarded as a rather tough rural area. This lent a spooky aspect to the trip after dark. I always had a feeling of relief when we got through that part of the trip.

I was flattered, and flustered, by all the smiles and looks I got from the girls in town. I was eighteen and didn’t know the signals or the wiles and guiles of women yet, and besides I was happy with Mil and my future centered on her. As time passed I realized that a Mounted Policeman is regarded as a good catch for the local girls, otherwise their choice for a husband is largely limited to a farmer, mechanic, store keeper or elevator operator and a future stuck in these small towns did not appeal to them. It deflated me a bit when I learned this. *(In the mid-1950s Shirley and I attended a friend’s promotion party. There were seventeen couples present and in each case the wife had come from an area where the man had been stationed.)*”



In Jim Zavitz’s words: “My best friend, mentor and idol - Reg. No. 10529, Cpl. A. J. (Jack) Haddon”
Photo courtesy of Jim Zavitz

FEATURED ARTIFACTS FROM THE RCMP COLLECTION: PART 1 - THE RNWMP DETECTIVE SERVICE BADGE #1 - CATALOGUE No. 2008.86.1

This Royal North West Mounted Police Detective Services badge belonged to Assistant Commissioner Frank H. W. Zaneth. Born F. Zanetti in Gambolo, Italy, on December 12, 1889, he would make his way to Canada via the United States to become a naturalized citizen in 1915. Zaneth's journey truly began when he decided to join the Royal North West Mounted Police in 1917. He was subsequently recruited soon after his graduation into the newly formed Detective Service (also known as the Canadian Secret Service) by Commissioner A.B. Perry.

Zaneth rose to prominence in the Force with his infiltration into a coal miners' labour movement in Drumheller, Alberta in 1917. The group was believed to be a threat to the Canadian World War I effort. More famously, it was his undercover work in the radical labour movement during the Western Conference of Labour in Winnipeg – which culminated with the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike – that cemented his legend within the Force. Zaneth assumed the name of Harry Blask and infiltrated the movement as its secretary. During the trials, Zaneth would present damaging evidence against the accused, because of his position within the organization.

Zaneth went on to serve in Montreal, Regina, Vancouver, Calgary, Quebec City, Toronto and Niagara Falls. He infiltrated the Communist Party of Canada in the 1920's, helping to break up a drug smuggling movement (sometimes dubbed the first "French Connection") between France and North America in the 1930's. He was then involved in the draft riots of 1945. During his service, he was known in his reports only as "Operative No. 1."

A/Commr. Zaneth retired from the RCMP on August 11, 1951 and passed away in New Glasgow, Quebec in 1971.



A/Commr. Zaneth and his RNWMP Detective Service Badge #1
Photo courtesy of RCMP Historical Collections Unit

PRESENTATION TO THE RCMP HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS UNIT



On November 28, 2008, Tony Wachowicz, RCMP (Rtd.), Saskatoon, SK presented a knife he made to Rhonda Lamb, Manager of the Historical Collections Unit. The knife handle was made with wood taken from the St. Roch when it was refitted in the mid 1950's. This unique object bears RCMP motifs and those of the famous ship.
Photo by Shannon Cunningham, RCMP HCU



Close-up showing the great degree of detail in Tony's knife.
Photo by Shannon Cunningham, RCMP HCU

NORTHERN LAW AND ORDER:

PART IV

Garth Hampson of Ottawa, Ontario was doing some cleaning up and sent a package of “things” from the past. Garth writes: “When I was stationed in the north, I became very good friends with Magistrate Phinney and the controversial judge of the day, Judge Sissons. I spent many hours with him and his wife at their home in Yellowknife. You may recall that he had all his famous Inuit murder trials sculpted in soapstone. They are located in the Justice building in Yellowknife, at least they were on my last visit in 1989. Sissons allowed me to write the details of the murders and then gave me photos on the soapstone sculptures. I have kept these for the past 48 years but thought maybe they should be recorded at the museum. Sissons made some very important decisions to benefit the native peoples in his judgements over the many years he was in the north country.”

Garth has provided his write-ups and the photos, for four cases. The write-ups retain the term of the day for Aboriginal People of Arctic Canada as Eskimo. Eskimo is the term once used by European explorers. It is derived from an Algonquin term meaning “raw meat eaters”, and many people find the term offensive. The modern day term would be Inuit. Inuit live primarily in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and northern parts of Quebec and throughout most of Labrador. They have traditionally lived north of the tree line. The word Inuit means “the people” in Inuktitut and is the term by which Inuit refer to themselves.

The following is of a fourth case chronicled by Garth:

“Regina vs. Kogogolak

The charge against the accused was that he did, on or about the 5th of February 1959, shot a Musk Ox at or near Cape Colborne, contrary to the Game Ordinance.

The Court would not accept a plea of guilty and directed the Clerk of the Court to record a plea of Not Guilty. The Territorial Court is chary of pleas of guilty by Eskimos as well as of statements taken from Eskimos.

The accused has a good defence.

Musk Ox are protected under the provisions of the Game Ordinance and must not be shot by anyone except in case of starvation.

Kogogolak was out on the land hunting with a number of other Eskimos. They ran out of food and shot several musk ox and ate them.

The Royal proclamation of 1763 issued following the Treaty of Paris conserved the hunting rights of Eskimos and is the Charter of Eskimo Rights. This proclamation appears in the Statutes of Canada as the first of the constitutional enactments.

The lands of the Northwest Territories beyond the tree line are traditionally the land of the Eskimos – the Inuit, i.e. the People (par excellence). From time immemorial the Eskimos have lived by hunting and fishing.

The Royal Proclamation reserved these lands to the Eskimos as their hunting grounds and forbade on pain of the Royal displeasure any purchases or settlements or taking possession of lands reserved without special leave or licence. If there were to be any sales they were to be made by the Eskimos in assembly and only to the Crown.

It is the Royal will and pleasure that the Eskimos “should not be molested or disturbed in the possession of these lands”.

There has been no treaty with the Eskimos and the Eskimo title does not appear to have been surrounded by treaty or extinguished by legislation of the Parliament of Canada.

The Eskimos have the right of hunting, trapping and fishing game and fish of all kinds, and at all times, on “these lands”.

The accused was found Not Guilty.”

This case involved the shooting of a musk ox near Cambridge Bay. Justice Sissons held that the Game Ordinance did not apply to Eskimos and their hunting rights could not be extinguished except by act of the Parliament of Canada.

The Government of Canada later changed the Northwest Territories Act to make Eskimos subject to the Game Ordinance. The carving is only the carver’s impression and actually Kogogolak shot the musk ox with a gun, not a bow and arrow. Photo courtesy of Garth Hampson



WHAT IS IT? PART II

The Historical Collections Unit would like to thank all the readers who responded to their last posting. Your help with this continuing endeavor of proper identification of artifacts is greatly appreciated.

The latest item is an interesting one. It is a wooden cylinder 8 ½” (21.6 cm) long with a diameter of 2 ¼” (5.8 cm) that has the exterior covered with a semi-tanned hide with hide stitching. There are markings on one side of the hide which read “I 9 PrM 1 ¾ LB - RAL”.

If any reader has an insight as to what this item is, please contact the RCMP Historical Collections Unit at: Depot_Historical_Collections@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Your continued help with this is deeply valued.



The RCMP Historical Collections Unit would appreciate the help of readers in identifying this item.
Photo by Tim Hersche, RCMP HCU

FRIENDLY NOTES BY EMAIL

Would you like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically? This e-mail delivery allows you to view the *Friendly Notes* online rather than through the mail. If so please provide your email address to bobc@accesscomm.ca and a mail-out list will be created. The *Friendly Notes* will be sent in the Adobe Acrobat pdf format.

The benefits of taking advantage of this include:

- convenience and timely access to the *Friendly Notes* – you receive the *Friendly Notes* a week to ten days earlier,
- environmentally friendly, and
- reduces costs of printing and mailing.

It's easy! All you need is access to the Internet and an electronic mail address.

Thanks to those Members of the *Friends* who have already indicated they would like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically.

WHO ARE THE RCMP HCU, THE RCMP HC AND THE FRIENDS

The **RCMP Historical Collections Unit** (RCMP HCU) collects, preserves and interprets the RCMP artifacts relating to the history of the Force. All artifacts are the property of the RCMP. All staff are RCMP employees and are supervised by a Unit Manager who reports to the Support Services Officer, “Depot” Division. The Unit occupies space leased from the RCMP Heritage Centre.

The **RCMP Heritage Centre** (RCMP HC) exists to tell the RCMP story, including the critical role the Force plays in addressing contemporary issues. The Heritage Centre is a unique mix of educational institution, museum and tourist attraction. The Centre is owned and operated by a nationally registered non-profit corporation, the Mounted Police Heritage Centre Inc. The Centre is located on the grounds of the RCMP Academy, “Depot” Division in Regina, Saskatchewan. The RCMP HC leases this land from the RCMP.

The *Friends* is a non-profit national organization dedicated to the enhancement of the RCMP Historical Collections Unit and the RCMP Heritage Centre. As members of this organization, we promote the interests of and assist the RCMP Historical Collections Unit and the RCMP Heritage Centre, and encourage and support research into the study of the history of the Force.

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

The following changes/additions to the “Donor Wall” have been made since our last issue.

Donor Wall in Memory of:

- \$1,200 Ken and Joyce Fader, Regina, SK - in memory of #21064 L. E. Bennion
- \$300 Gloria Silcox, Regina, SK - in memory of C/ Supt. Lynn Silcox
- \$100 Jean Thue, Regina - in memory of Ivan Thue

Life Members (\$1,200 to \$2,999)

- Ken and Joyce Fader, Regina, SK
- Gloria Silcox, Regina, SK

Friends (\$500 to \$1,199)

- Don and Joyce Callbeck, St. Albert, AB
- Al H. Pidt, Eastend, SK
- Frank Richter, Kelowna, BC
- Dave and Carol Slinn, Regina, SK
- Hazel N. Thiel, Winnecone, WI-USA

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the *Friends* during the period from September 22, 2008 to December 2, 2008 :

Tom Ashcroft, Yorkton, SK
 Leigh Bishop, Southey, SK
 Jean Claude Cloutier, Mississauga, ON
 James Corson, Cochrane, AB
 Robert Duff, Brechin, ON
 Ken and Joyce Fader, Regina, SK
 William Goobie, Fredericton, NB
 Larry Henderson, Dauphin, MB
 James B. Heyland, Nelson, BC
 Lawrence J. Hok, Richmond, BC
 Donald B. McGinnis, Bridgewater, NS
 Richard McLaren, Calgary, AB
 Leonard Minion, Dapp, AB
 Gordon D. Penner, Innisfail, AB
 Melvin Ryba, Calgary, AB

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Immediate Past President (ODS) | Tom Light, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Past President | Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.) |
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| Historical Collections | |
| Unit Observer. | Rhonda Lamb |
| Heritage Centre Observer. | Karen Dackiw |
| <hr/> | |
| Historian Committee | Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Membership Committee | Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Newsletter Editor | Bob Cocks |

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER/RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTED POLICE HERITAGE CENTRE

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.

Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

My membership/donation will be paid by:

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

(Visa, Master Card or American Express)

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Return or Mail:

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