



KAMSACK RCMP

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RCMP is integral to the Kamsack and District Community and members will be participants in the 2010 Homecoming Events.

For over 100 years the RCMP has been marching through history in the Assiniboine Valley. Continuing in the hoof prints of the Northwest Mounted Police, whose first headquarters were based in Fort Livingstone in 1874, our national force has always been a partner in crime fighting in this area.

The original mission of the famous 'March West,' as conceived by Sir John A. Macdonald, was to forge friendly relations with First Nations people and to contain the bloodshed wrought by American whiskey traders and wolf hunters in southern Alberta. From then on its primary role was law enforcement across the Northwest Territories, which encompassed Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Duties included: ensuring the welfare of immigrants, enforcing prohibition, supervising treaties between the Federal Government and First Nations, and fighting prairie fires, destitution, and disease.

In 1904 the word 'Royal' was added to NWMP, the year before it was contracted to police the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The federal force was re-organized into the modern RCMP in 1920 when the RNWMP absorbed the Dominion Police, a small security force in Ottawa. By 1966 recruits were no longer trained to handle horses; other than for ceremonial functions and the Musical Ride, the Mounties' loyal mounts have been replaced by cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles, ships, and aircraft. Over the past century new operations have developed in the fields of fingerprinting, crime index, forensics, DNA data banks, illicit drugs, economic, organized, and cyber crimes, peacekeeping, and terrorism. In 1974 women were first accepted as uniformed officers.

The Saskatchewan connection has endured through the RCMP Training Academy in Regina. Each of its 20,000 members has experienced at least six months in our fair province.

The Mounties have been a strong presence in Kamsack since 1891 when a single constable was stationed here for the benefit of a handful of agricultural settlers. By 1892 there were two constables. In a book of reminiscences M.N. Campbell writes: "The mounted police played a colourful part in the early life of Kamsack. Often bachelor homesteaders, injured or ill, were rescued or assisted by the police, who kept vigil in the coldest weather over a very large territory. Early settlers in isolated districts owed a great deal to these fearless riders who exemplified the highest





degree of devotion to duty." [Spinning Stories: A Woven History]

One of the early RCMP detachments was a house rented from Mrs. Kinnear on the corner of Windsor and Saskatchewan with a metal cage in the parlour as a jail and a barn for the horses in the back. In 1932 they moved into the federal building on Main Street, sharing quarters with the Post Office, and using the basement of the Town Office for cells. By 1960 they had their own brick detachment on 3d Street (now occupied by Northern Quinoa Corp) where Archie Kayseass became the first Special Constable in 1976, followed by Nancy Desmarais as first female, also a Special Constable.



The existing facility was opened July 2001 on Queen Elizabeth Boulevard. With 18 members, 4 clerical staff, and a Victim Services Unit, the Kamsack RCMP are in charge of a large region: Kamsack, Togo, Runnymede, Veregin, Arran, Duck Mountain Provincial Park, the Cote, Keeseekoose, and Key Reserves, the RMs of Cote, Calder, Livingston, Sliding Hills, and St. Phillips.

Beyond their professional services RCMP families have always been a valuable resource in our town. Members and their wives contribute generously as volunteer coaches, fundraisers, actors, committee executives, and golf tournament organizers. Because of their many transfers they bring adaptability and a willingness to build a thriving community wherever they find themselves.

We thank the RCMP for their long participation in this district and for their sponsorship of the 2010 Homecoming.

May the Force be with us all the weekend of July 30-August 2, 2010.

Because Once Wasn't Enough!