

Larry Burden's – This Day in the RCMP

Former RCMP Larry Burden, Sgt. (Rtd. #35982), has spent over ten years researching and summarizing these achievements/events by specific date.

In an effort to share his research to a large group, Larry has agreed to permit the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division to share his work on our digital platforms (Facebook and our website).

If you wish to contact Larry Burden or provide additional information about his research, please email him at larryburden8@gmail.com.

September 2nd

1752 – This marks the last day the Julian calendar was used in Britain and the Colonies. The Gregorian calendar was designed to correct the fact that under the Julian calendar there was a problem with having an extra leap year. The new calendar went into effect the following day, with the date being adjusted to September 14, dropping 11 days from this year for the adjustment. Most other countries made the adjustment over 200 years earlier in 1582!

1874 - On this day during the march west the first buffalo were encountered and shot. Commissioner French noted in his diary “a very fine beast about 10 years old; he made, when dressed, 953 lbs. ration meat” again on Wednesday, September 23rd 1874 he noted— “Saw immense quantities of buffalo, estimated at 70 or 80 thousand by Macleod and I”.

1912 – Members of the Royal North West Mounted Police participate in the first Calgary Stampede parade.

1925– The new Friml-Hammerstein-Harbach Operetta “Rose Marie” opens on Broadway in New York to rave reviews. The cast features a group of baritone Mounties and smash hit song, “Indian Love Call”. In 1936 the production is made into a Hollywood movie starring Nelson Eddy as Sergeant Bruce and Jeanette Macdonald as Marie de Flor. Other big names in the movie include James Stewart as John Flower and David Niven as Teddy. A remake of the movie, this time filmed in Jasper Alberta was made in 1954.

1942– #11371 Corporal Laurence P. Ryder was attacked from behind by Arnold Blaney and received a heavy blow to the head and then struck his head on a car bumper, as he was falling. The subsequent attack led to his death several months later from a

stroke caused by a cerebral hemorrhage. (See January 20, 1943, Honour Roll Number 105)

1976– Fifty years to the day from when it opened, the Detachment at Moose Factory, Ontario was closed.

1985– #35327 / O.1820 Constable Dwight William Robinson earned both the Commissioner’s Commendation for bravery and the Medal of Bravery while working at Stettler, Alberta. When without regard to his own safety he rushed into a burning building and saved the life of Miss Rita Anderson.

After arriving at a two-story building that had a fire burning at the rear of the structure, Constable Robinson used his police car loud hailer to alert the occupant of the house and learned from her that her apartment was at the end of a long corridor that could only be accessed by an enclosed staircase. He then told her to wait for him by the door of her apartment and he would come get her. Then braving the toxic fumes that were coming from burning plastics in the toy store on the ground floor, Cst. Robinson rushed up the stairs, found Miss Anderson and escorted her to safety.

September 3rd

1894–The new public holiday “Labour Day” is officially celebrated in Canada for the first time.

1970– The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police presented the RCMP’s first Commissioner’s Tipstaff to Commissioner W.L. Higgitt

The tradition of the tipstaff dates back to 16th century England. Then a “tipped staff” was the symbol of authority for a variety of law enforcement officials and evolved into a badge of the King’s authority for law enforcement. Eventually the staves evolved into hollow tubes, with a tip that could be unscrewed and serve as a receptacle for transporting arrest warrants and other legal documents. Today the Commissioner’s Tipstaff is a symbol of the solemn responsibility and authority for law enforcement borne by the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and it has been passed from every outgoing Commissioner to the new Commissioner at the change of command ceremony.

1978 – Around 8:00 pm the Detachment at The Pas, Manitoba, received a call from a woman regarding two men and a four-year-old girl who were adrift on a makeshift raft on Lake Winnipegosis. The lake was nearly 100 kms (60 miles) south-east of The Pas, and it was becoming too dark to conduct an effective search.

Thinking quickly, Detachment constables #31696 Kenneth G. Gallant and #34400 / O.1831 J. W. Richard Roy contacted Mr. Chris Duncan a local pilot and were soon enroute to the scene by float plane. After landing in the dark on rough water, the trio were pointed in the direction that witnesses had last seen the missing group. After taxiing over a mile from shore with the two constables calling out into the darkness while standing on the aircraft's floats, they found the trio clinging to a partially submerged air mattress.

As Constable Gallant was pulling one of the men onto the airplane float, he saw the other man and the child lose their grasp on the air mattress and then the child slipped below the surface. Passing the first man to Constable Roy, Gallant and the pilot dove into the water and fortunately Constable Gallant was able to locate the child and returned her to the airplane. Mr. Duncan managed to get hold of the other man but had difficulty swimming the man back to the airplane because the wind was blowing the craft away from them. Constable Gallant then dove back into the lake and assisted the pilot in swimming the man back to the plane.

In recognition of their courage under hazardous conditions in saving the lives of three individuals, Constable Gallant and pilot Chris Duncan were awarded the Commanding Officer's Commendation and Constable Roy received a letter of commendation from Officer Commanding Thompson Sub Division.

September 4th

1909 – Major General Robert Baden-Powell presides over first Boy Scout rally at Crystal Palace in London England. This was the first world Scouting event of its kind and was funded in part by Canadian High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona, Donald A. Smith. Throughout the history of the Canadian Scout Movement the RCMP has played a vital role, providing support and volunteers at every level of Scouting in Canada. In the 1980's Scouts Canada and the RCMP combined efforts and created the RCMP Venturer and Rover programs for youth between the ages of 14 – 19.

1939 – #09119 Corporal David Rennie had neither plans, nor any thought of coming back to work after he retired in May of 1939. But thanks to World War Two, he and many other retired members of the Force were recalled to active duty.

1977 – Honour Roll Number 157.

#28632 / #S/1692 Special Constable George David Foster age 26 was killed when his aircraft, crashed on a flight from Vancouver to Victoria, B.C.

George Foster had originally joined the RCMP as a regular member and converted to a Special Constable in 1975 when he was accepted into the RCMP Air Section as a pilot.

Foster had been working in the Vancouver area on September 3rd and was unable to return to his home base in Victoria due to poor weather conditions. Though the weather was still poor early the following morning he was cleared for take-off at 2:30 am. During his flight across the Georgia Strait in a Cessna 182 he established radio contact with the Victoria Tower at 3:46 am but was never heard from again.

The wreckage of the RCMP Cessna aircraft was not located until Monday September 5th, Labour Day. The investigation determined that Constable Foster had erred when he programmed his plane's automatic direction finder to hone in on Victoria. The setting should have been 278, but he mistakenly he dialed 378 which took him on a collision course with Mount Tuam on Saltspring Island, instead of towards Victoria.

Believing that he was flying a direct course to Victoria, he flew his plane at an altitude 100 feet below the summit of the mountain and with poor visibility flew directly into the side of the mountain.

George David Foster joined the RCMP on January 6, 1971 and never married. His body was returned to his family where he was buried in Sussex New Brunswick.

1991– When #29852 Constable Ron A. Angell attended a complaint of a disturbance at a local bar in Dawson Creek, BC, he didn't expect to find a man wielding a chainsaw threatening the patrons. Constable Angell took control of the situation and forced him to put down the chainsaw and took him into custody. For his courage and presence of mind he was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation.

September 5th

1945– Canada is thrust into the international limelight when Soviet cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko (1919-1982) defects from the USSR Embassy taking with him more than 100 secret documents hidden under his coat. The documents detail the inner workings of a major Soviet spy ring in Canada that reach into the Department of External Affairs code room, the British High Commissioner's Office and the Chalk River nuclear facility. After the RCMP concludes their investigation 20 espionage trials are held resulting in nine criminal convictions, including a Member of Parliament. Gouzenko is given a new identity and lives out the rest of his life in Canada and dies in 1982.

1986– Canada Post Corporation unveils a new 34-cent stamp commemorating Assistant Commissioner James Farquharson Macleod at a satellite ceremony in the foyer of RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa. The official launching ceremony occurred at Fort MacLeod Alberta where the stamps honouring MacLeod and Chief Crowfoot were

unveiled. Present for the unveiling ceremony in Ottawa were the Honorable Jude Rene' J. Marin, Deputy Commissioner J.F. J. Bosse' and Sergeant Carl Stoski and Corporal Pierre Belanger.

1991– After a drunken, agitated man went on a shooting rampage in Igloolik, NWT (now Nunavut) #32100 Corporal Dean E. Taylor confronted the man and ordered him to put down his .303 caliber rifle. Eventually the gunman calmed down and surrendered his weapon and was arrested. In recognition of his courage and presence of mind Corporal Taylor was awarded the Commissioners Commendation.

September 6th

1921– #7684 Constable Francis Boucher hung up his spurs and put on a pair of hockey skates, when he purchased his discharge from the RCMP to play for the New York Rangers in the National Hockey League.

1945– The Member of Parliament for Montreal-Cartier and leader of the Canadian Communist Party, Fred Rose (1907-1983), was arrested for communicating official secrets to the USSR. After a sensational trial involving the Soviet cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko who defected and testified about Soviet espionage tactics in Canada, Rose is convicted and sentenced to 6 years in prison and then deported to Poland.

1977– The Metric System arrives on the highways in Canada as most Provinces, except Quebec and Nova Scotia adopt the system of measurement. Eventually all Canadian provinces convert their highway signs to kilometers.

1995– Honour Roll Number 191.

#44134 Constable Joseph Ernest André Claude Gagné age 30 was killed on duty in a police car accident on Highway 217 near Seabrook, Nova Scotia.

After a report of a serious car crash was received at the Digby Detachment Cst. Gagné got into a police car driven by Cst. Russell Manderville and they proceeded to the scene at a high rate of speed. As they approached the area known as Seabrook, an elderly driver pulled out in front of them. To avoid a collision Cst. Manderville moved into the opposite lane to pass the car, unfortunately the elderly driver who despite the siren and flashing lights was unaware of the overtaking police car, veered his vehicle to the left because he had seen a cyclist riding on the shoulder of the road.

That resulted in the police vehicle being forced toward the opposite ditch causing the police vehicles left wheels to drop off of the pavement. When #44684 Cst. Manderville attempted to steer his car back onto the pavement, the edge of his left front tire caught the

edge of the asphalt, tearing it from the rim. The car then began fishtailing and while he attempted to bring his vehicle under control the damaged wheel dug into the pavement and sent it into the ditch where it rolled over several times and flattened the roof of the car, crushing both occupants. Cst. Gagné did not survive his injuries. Cst. Manderville suffered multiple injuries to his head, ribs, kidneys, and spleen and was later transferred to hospital and eventually recovered.

Claude Gagné was originally from Quebec City and joined the RCMP only three years earlier and served all of his field service at Digby Detachment. A memorial service was held the day after his untimely death at a funeral home in Digby and then his remains were transported to Quebec City. His funeral mass was attended by a massive crowd of family friends and RCMP Police personnel. Afterwards his remains were interred in a crypt at the St. Charles Cemetery near Sainte-Odile parish.

September 8th

1890 – Honour Roll Numbers 15 and 16.

#02439 Constable George Quiqueran Rene Saveuse DeBeaujeu age 18 and **#02162 Corporal Harry Oliver Morphy** age 30 were killed when the Mounted Police vessel “Keewatin” capsized on Lake Winnipeg during a storm.

In 1890 the NWMP purchased the Steam Ship Keewatin for use in trying to control illegal liquor movement on the 300-mile-long Lake Winnipeg. The two policemen were assigned to the vessel and made patrols throughout the summer. When the vessel failed to return from a patrol after a heavy storm, word of the ship’s fate filtered in from local natives reporting that the boat had been wrecked on the eastern shore of the lake. Eventually searchers located wreckage half way up the lake hull at Rabbit Point with the unconscious civilian Ship’s Captain; Matthew Watts lashed to the Keewatin’s hull.

When the Captain was taken to hospital in Selkirk Manitoba he was interviewed by Commissioner L.W. Herchmer. From him they learned that the ship had left Spider Island on the morning of September 7 in strong winds. Later that afternoon they had anchored off of Swampy Island to ride out the storm, but around 7:30 pm, the boat’s anchor chain broke and the ship was cast adrift. Unable to re-anchor the ship, they tried to ride out the storm while Constable DeBeaujeu and Corporal Morphy spent the night bailing water in an attempt to prevent the ship from being swamped. At day break the following morning the ship lost its centerboard when it struck a submerged reef and then capsized.

The three men clung desperately to the hull but late in the day Constable DeBeaujeu, overcome by exhaustion and hypothermia slipped off the hull and drowned. Corporal Morphy succumbed to the same fate the following morning. Captain Watts managed to lash himself to the hull and slipped in and out of consciousness until he was rescued 13 days after the disaster. Sadly Watts died a few days after the Commissioner interviewed him.

An extensive search was conducted as soon as the wreck was located, but neither body was found. Two months later the body of 18-year-old Constable Rene DeBeaujeu washed up on shore.

The remains of George Quiqueran Rene Saveuse DeBeaujeu were returned to his parents, where he was buried in Montreal. He had only been in the NWMP less than five months.

Corporal Harry Oliver Morphy had joined the Force in Toronto and had only served 2 years and 89 days. The accepted belief is that Corporal Morphy's body was never recovered. But confusion exists to this day because of two separate memos that report that his body was recovered. One memo dated March 21, 1891 states that his body was found by Indians and was buried on Tamarac Island. Another memo dated September 16, 1891 states that Morphy's body was recovered is buried in his family plot in Toronto.

1935 – The newly constructed Honour Roll monument listing the names of all of the men who had been killed in the line of duty was unveiled at Depot in Regina. The memorial was unveiled by the Honourary Chaplain of the Force Reverend Hendy assisted by Constables #09267 Robert Rathbone and #10958 / O.458 Herbert Robertson.

1990– Whitehorse Yukon member #33497 / O.1801 Corporal Andrew S. Lathem was awarded the Commissioners Commendation for Bravery and his partners Corporal #36263 Rick D. T. Noack, Sergeant #30153 Phil Humphries and civilian Mr. G.R. Nowell were awarded Commanding Officer's Commendations for their roles in apprehending an armed man who possessed unusual strength and was acting in an uncontrollable rage.

September 9th

1890– Driving a horse team and wagon, #02012 Constable Robert Mathews completed a 60 mile round trip from Fort MacLeod to Pincher Creek Alberta in one day! His task was to retrieve the body of #02022 Constable James Vaughan who had died two days earlier so he could be buried at Fort MacLeod.

1948– Honour Roll Number 85.

#11645 Constable Carl Frizzle Wilson age 38 was killed while directing traffic at the scene of a motor vehicle collision near Portapique, N.S.

On the night of September 8, 1948, Truro Detachment Constables #11645 Carl Frizzle Wilson and #13499 Donald Black were dispatched to a collision near Portapique, 22 miles from Truro. While Constable Black was interviewing the drivers in their police car, Constable Wilson directed traffic with his flashlight when he was struck by a car at full

speed driven by 25-year-old Harry McLeod. The force of the impact broke both of his legs and propelled him over 50 feet across the highway, rendering him unconscious.

Constable Black rushed him to the Colchester Hospital, but he never regained consciousness and he died early the next morning.

Carl Frizzle Wilson had been a member of the Nova Scotia Provincial Police and became a Mountie when that agency was absorbed into the RCMP in 1932. Constable Wilson had served in several Nova Scotia Communities over his 18-year career. He was buried in the Belmont Cemetery in Colchester County with full honours and was survived by his wife Sadie and their four daughters.

1973– While he was still in basic training at Depot in Regina, #30414 Constable R.B. Dennis earned a Commanding Officers Commendation. Dennis was off duty at the time he encountered an emotionally disturbed woman who was threatening to jump from high construction crane. Under very hazardous conditions and at great personal risk to himself he succeeded in rescuing the woman.

1984– Pope John Paul II arrived in Quebec City to begin a 12-day tour. He is the first Pontiff to visit Canada and begins his tour by attending a three-hour mass at the Laval Stadium attended by over 250,000 people. His itinerary includes stops in Trois-Rivières, Montreal, St. John's, Moncton, Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver and Ottawa-Hull. Accompanying him on the exhausting tour are select members of the RCMP motorcycle escort teams from across the nation. Their grueling schedule requires them to leap frog across the country often going without meals in order to be in position for the Papal convoy.

September 10th

1876– Chief Big Bear returns from a Buffalo hunt to discover that the plains Cree had signed Treaty No. 6 the day before at Fort Pitt. He is furious and believes they have given up their valuable hunting lands for very little.

1881– The Governor General the Marquis of Lorne met with a delegation from the Blackfoot nation led by Chief Crowfoot. Dressed in ragged robes Chief Crowfoot plead for additional rations and help his people who were starving due to the loss of the buffalo. He was advised to take up farming because the old ways were now dead.

1941– The government of Alberta orders all schools in the province closed because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) and encephalitis. During the school closure student lessons are published in the newspapers.

1977 – At 3:00a.m. Special Constable L. Good Eagle responded to a house fire on the Blackfoot Indian Reserve near Gleichen AB. He entered the burning house and searched all of the rooms and found Wesley Drunken Chief unconscious and dragged him from the house. For his actions he was awarded the “Certificate of Merit” by the Royal Canadian Humane Society.

1986 – Medal of Bravery Recipients:

- #27703 Corporal Brian Robert Douglas, MB
- #31716 Constable Craig Allan Gates, MB
- #33530 Constable Philip David Morris, MB
- #34680 Constable Thomas Richard Hansen, MB* (*Bar to The Medal of Bravery. First MB See October 28, 1981)
- #37194 / O.2066 Constable Robert Douglas Hagymasy, MB

Five members of the North Vancouver Detachment responded to a report of a hostage taking and upon their arrival they discovered that a mentally deranged man armed with several handguns was threatening to kill his children. The members attempted to reason with the gunman but he was determined to either kill himself or die in a “shoot-out” with the police. When the policemen saw smoke and flames inside the residence, they decided to enter the building in an attempt to save the lives of the four children trapped inside.

#27703 Corporal Brian Douglas and Constables #31716 Craig Gates, #33530 Phil Morris, #34680 Thomas Hansen and #37194 / O.2066 Robert Hagymasy then broke into the residence and proceeded to fight their way through the thick black smoke crawling on their hands and knees searching for the occupants. After searching the main floor they regrouped outside and concluded that all of the occupants were upstairs. Then Constable Hagymasy, Gates, and Hansen obtained air packs from the Fire Department and proceeded up the burning staircase with their guns drawn. When they reached the top of the stairs they found the body of the gunman with three pistols. Constable Hagymasy and Hansen then dragged him out of the house to a waiting ambulance and Cst. Gates continued searching for the children. Tragically, all four children had been shot before their father had set the fire.

September 11th

1885 – At one time Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear) was the leading chief of the Prairie River People and headed a camp of 65 lodges comprised of over 520 people. Initially he refused to sign Treaty No. Six and was steadfast in his refusal for six years. Faced with destitution and starvation, and a camp that had dwindled to 114 people, Mistahimaskwa finally signed an adhesion to the treaty in December 1882. Mistahimaskwa’s influence over the band’s warrior society began to fade because the government refused to negotiate with him, after he tried to create a political confederation of native nations that

would be able to force concessions from the government and create an Indian territory in the Northwest.

Despite his efforts to prevent his son his son Ayimisis and their war chief, Kapapamahchakwew (Wandering Spirit), members of his band attacked and massacred nine people at Frog Lake on April 2nd 1885.

Although he was no longer in control of the band, he continued to counsel for peace during the rest of the rebellion and when Kapapamahchakwew attacked Fort Pitt on April 14th 1885, Mistahimaskwa intervened and was successful in negotiating the surrender and evacuation of 44 civilian inhabitants along with the police.

Despite the fact that he did not participate in the fighting at Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake Mistahimaskwa was brought to trial in Regina on this day after he surrendered at Fort Carlton on in July. It only took the jury fifteen minutes to find him guilty on a charge of treason-felony for his part in the North West Rebellion and he was sentenced to three years in the Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

He was released half way through his sentence because of poor health, and died on the Poundmaker reserve on 17 January 1888.

1942– Honour Roll Number 73.

#12130 Master, Navy Lieutenant Commander #07480 John Willard Bonner age 44 was killed in action when his ship, HMCS "Charlottetown", was torpedoed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

John Willard Bonner joined the Preventive Service in 1929 and became a member of the RCMP when the Preventive Service was absorbed in 1932. His career in the Force saw him rise to the rank of Skipper – Lieutenant where he sailed from Halifax to Vancouver via the Panama Canal aboard the "P.V. Adversus" and he became the first commander of the RCMP Ship "French".

When War was declared in 1939, he along with all members of the RCMP Marine Section was transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1941 he was given command of the "HMCS Charlottetown" and in 1942 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

The HMCS Charlottetown (K-244) was a Flower Class Corvette and was built by Kingston Shipbuilding Co. in Kingston, Ontario, one year before she was sunk. The Corvettes short length (205') and shallow draught made them uncomfortable ships to live in as they pitched and rolled terribly giving them the reputation of being able to roll on wet grass. When torpedoed, they usually sank in seconds due the few compartments below the water line, but for all their faults, Flower class corvettes were formidable U-boat hunters.

The Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence was part of the larger Battle of the Atlantic and was the only time since the War of 1812 that enemy warships wreaked havoc and death in Canadian inland waters. Between 1942 and 1944 German U-boats penetrated the Cabot Strait and the Strait of Belle Isle and came as close as 300 kilometers to Québec City. During the campaign 23 allied ships were sunk.

After successfully escorting convoy SQ-30 to Rimouski Quebec the Charlottetown and the HMCS Clayoquot were returning to their base at Gaspé. At 12:33 hours in broad daylight two torpedoes fired from a German Uboat near Cap Chat hit her.

Uboat U-517 captained by Paul Härtwig and Uboat U-165 had been on a hunting mission had wreaked havoc in the gulf for weeks. When Härtwig sighted the Charlottetown and the Clayoquot steaming east at a speed of 12 knots he fired two torpedoes in quick succession and hit the Charlottetown on her starboard quarter while Lt. Commander Bonner was on the bridge. The ship began to sink immediately and Bonner ordered the crew to abandon ship. As the crew rushed to the escape the sinking ship he remained on the bridge until the ship's bow lifted out of the water and pointed to the sky. Being the last man to abandon ship, he slid down her upturned hull and began swimming furiously away from the suction of the sinking ship as an oil slick quickly spread from the wreckage. As he and his executive officer, Lt. George Moors rushed to stay ahead of the rapidly growing oil slick several underwater explosions occurred sending violent shock waves through the water. After the shock waves passed Lt. Moore looked back at Captain Bonner and saw him floating lifeless in the water. Moors then helped pull Bonner's body on board a lifeboat, but because it was seriously overcrowded they put the body back in the water. They then tied a line to his life jacket and attached it to the rudder so they could tow it to shore. After an hour of exhausting rowing in rough swells the rudder tore away from the life boat and it along with Lt. Commander Bonner drifted off into the dark water of the gulf and he was never found.

Bonner, along with five of his crewmen was lost at sea and three other members of the Charlottetown's crew died from their injuries.

John Willard Bonner was born in Sydney Mines Nova Scotia in 1898 and was survived by his wife Mary. Like so many Cape Bretoners, he spent most of his life on the sea.

Uboat U-517 managed to escape several depth charge attacks and succeeded in sinking 9 ships on her first patrol. On November 21, 1942, just four days after departing on her second patrol she was sunk by depth charges dropped by an Albacore aircraft from the British aircraft carrier HMS Victorious southwest of Ireland. Her Captain Paul Härtwig and 51 members of his crew were taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in captivity. Härtwig retired a Vice Admiral in the German Navy in the 1970's.

1985 – When #35820 Constable Maria Collodel heard a knock at the back door of the Newton sub office of the Surrey British Columbia Detachment, she opened the door expecting to let a police officer in. To her shock and dismay, she found herself facing a man pointing a loaded rifle at her. As she backed down the hallway #35868 Constable

Douglas Gambicourt who was out of sight drew his revolver and was waiting for the opportune time to shoot the suspect when #37024 Constable Allan. J. K. Ross came passing by and saw what was happening and was taken prisoner as well. When they arrived at a second security door, he knocked on the door Cst. Collodel activated the electric lock. When the door was yanked open Ross grabbed the gunman's rifle and punched him in the face. Constable Gambicourt jumped into the struggle and helped Ross subdue the gunman.

1995– During the armed standoff with Native Protestors at Gustafsen Lake near 100 Mile House, British Columbia, an armoured personnel carrier (APC) became immobilized with several police officers trapped inside. Despite taking heavy gunfire from the protestors three members of the Emergency Response Team: Constables #30697 Wilby, #33939 Douglas Maze and #42154 Neil Smyth managed to secure a tow bar to damaged APC so it could be towed to safety. The three member's actions resulted in the vehicle being removed from the line of fire that saved the lives of the men inside the vehicle. All three were awarded the Commissioner's Commendations for Bravery.

1999 - Inspector Gordon Black, M.S.M., Richmond, B.C., Corporal Jaime Victor Sebastian, M.S.M., Bogotá, Colombia, Meritorious Service Medal (civil division)

In September 1999 seven Canadians and one American citizen were kidnapped in Ecuador and held for ransom. Negotiations with the kidnappers were complicated due to the rivalry between the Ecuadorean military and the national police force. The Canadian Ambassador in Ecuador requested assistance for the RCMP and #37805 / O.1936 Inspector Gordon Black and #40702 Corporal Jaimie Sebastian became involved and through their efforts they established and facilitated inter-agency cooperation between the military and the police. Inspector Black, being a trained and experienced negotiator, established and maintained contact with the kidnappers and he and Cpl. Sebastian provided valuable advice to the Ambassador, facilitating the cooperation with all parties involved in the investigation. Through their expertise, Insp. Black and Cpl. Sebastian succeeded in obtaining the release of the kidnap victims and building good relations with the Ecuadorean authorities. As a result both men were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on June 25th 2001.

2001– The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and downing of United Airlines Flight 93 result in the shutting down of air space over the United States of America. This results in dozens of aircrafts being re-routed to airports all across Canada. The resulting security alert mobilizes members of the RCMP's emergency response teams (ERT) in nearly every region of the country. No passengers are allowed to leave the aircraft until every passenger has been identified and the planes searched. Once cleared, communities all over the country open their homes and hearts to the stranded, exhausted travelers.

September 12th

1921– Constables #9171 Albert Cook, #9165 George Levy and #9168 Raymond Swinimer received commendations for their devotion to duty after an explosion at the Imperial Oil Plant, at Port Royal Nova Scotia.

The heavy betting by two men and a woman at the Covehead racetrack near Charlottetown P.E.I. attracted the attention of other track enthusiasts who reported the matter to the RCMP. Acting on a hunch that the trio may have been involved in a series of bank robberies in Ontario, Constables #12963 William H. Warner and #13610 Thomas J. Keefe decided to check on the trio, little did they realize that it would lead to a brush with death at the hands of two fugitives wanted in five Provinces.

1945– Two constables earn the King's Police and Fire Medal for Bravery.

The policemen quickly located an out of Province Ford Coupe and decided to observe it until the owners returned. Shortly before the end of the last race of the day the trio approached the car and was confronted by the two officers. They claimed to be Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jensen of Halifax and Walter Peter Kerr of Chatham, Ontario, and produced what appeared to a legitimate registration certificate. But the men seemed evasive in answering questions about the car and their identities, so they were advised that they would have to accompany the police to Charlottetown for additional questioning with the two unarmed policemen.

Cst. Warner got into the coupe with the Jensen's, and proceeded towards the city while Cst. Keefe and Kerr followed in the police car. Two miles down the road Jensen pretended to lose control of the car and ran it into the ditch causing his pregnant wife to smash her head into the windshield. While Constable Warner attempted to assist the unconscious women, his partner pulled up behind them and rushed to the vehicle to see what was wrong. As Warner backed out of the car he found himself and his partner facing the two men with drawn revolvers and being ordered to lie face down on the ground. Instead of ceding to the gunmen's demands Cst. Keefe began slowly advancing towards the captors and when both gunmen turned their revolvers towards him, Cst. Warner rushed forward diverting their aim at him. Jensen then pulled the trigger four times at Warner but the gun sounded with four hollow clicks! Cst. Warner then tackled Jensen and knocked the gun from his hand. As he struggled with Warner, Jensen screamed at Kerr to shoot the two police officers. Kerr hesitated and Cst. Keefe continued his advance and calmly reasoned with him, telling him that if he killed the policemen they could not escape because they were on an island. Warner believing the second gun wasn't loaded urged his partner to rush the gunman because the gun wasn't loaded. Kerr replied by firing a shot between the two constables. Seeing that Keefe's reasoning with the gunman appeared to be working so he joined in convincing him to drop the gun and give up. After several tense minutes Kerr gave in and dropped the weapon. When the officers checked the two handguns they found them both loaded but the first had been loaded with the

wrong kind of ammunition. The first gun was a centre fire revolver and had been loaded with rim fire ammunition. Had the right ammo been used the outcome would have been certain death for the two policemen.

Investigation revealed that the documents the officers had been provided were forgeries and the suspects were identified as Ulysses Lauzon age 23, who had escaped from the county jail in Kitchener Ontario and Walter Koresky age 22. The search of the two men and their cabin at Cavendish resulted in the recovery of over \$8000 in cash and Victor bonds that they garnered in a series of bank robberies in Ontario and Quebec.

The pair admitted to investigators how they planned to murder the two policemen and dump their bodies to make their getaway.

On January 22, 1946 both constables were presented with the King's Police and Fire Medal at a ceremony in Charlottetown. At the time this was the highest award given for bravery.

William H. Warner served in the RCMP from 1937 to 1961 retiring as a Corporal; Thomas J. Keefe served from 1940 to 1964 and retired as a Staff Sergeant.

1983– Canada expels 2 Soviet diplomats for trying to obtain prohibited high technology equipment.

1986– Medal of Bravery -# 30615 J. L. Régis Bonneau, M.B

While off duty a woman who saw two masked men armed with a sawed-off shotgun leave their getaway vehicle and enter a grocery store in Chicoutimi, Quebec approached Constable Régis Bonneau.

He then sent her to call the local police and though unarmed, went over to the suspects' vehicle that was still running, turned off the ignition and removed the keys. He then hid behind another vehicle and waited for the robbers to return. Shortly thereafter the two suspects rushed out of the store and jumped into their vehicle but then got out and began looking for the keys.

Still alone and unarmed, Cst. Bonneau identified himself as a policeman and displayed his police badge shouting to the men to put up their hands up. Emerging from his hiding place Bonneau then attempted to take away the driver's gun but he resisted and a struggle ensued. When the second robber realized that Bonneau wasn't armed, he rushed to his partner's assistance. During the struggle Cst. Bonneau succeeded in removing the mask of one of the suspects, who then ran off while he struggled with the second man. With the assistance of three other men he succeeded in overpowering and arresting him. When the Chicoutimi municipal police arrived Cst. Bonneau got into a patrol car and with the local police caught the first robber who escaped on foot.

On August 18, 1988, J. L. Régis Bonneau was presented the Medal of Bravery.

1989 – After pursuing a vehicle in a high-speed chase near Mayo, Yukon, Constable #34203 Mike E. Loerke working alone found himself with a fully loaded rifle pointed at his head by one of the occupants of the vehicle. Loerke grabbed the barrel of the weapon and pulled from the grasp of his assailant. After arresting all of the occupants he found a second loaded rifle inside the vehicle. For his courage and presence of mind he was awarded a Commanding Officers Commendation for Bravery.

1999 - Michael Gerald Stanford MB, Patrick Maurice LePage MB, Medals of Bravery

Constables #37504 Michael Stanford and #42385 Patrick LePage from the Kimberley, British Columbia detachment were dispatched to a fire at a residence in an apartment building. When they arrived on scene they were advised that a mentally disturbed man was still inside his basement apartment. Ignoring the risk to them the two policemen went into the burning building crawling on their hands and knees through the smoke and flames. Overcome by the acrid smoke, Constable Stanford made his way back to the front door only to find that it had closed behind the officers.

Cst. LePage continued to battle the smoke and flames and soon found the unconscious man lying on his smoldering bed in a back room. Barely able to breath, LePage pulled the man off of the bed and following his partners voice succeeded in dragging the unconscious victim through the smoke to the front door where Constable Stamford helped him get the man up the stairs and out of the building. Both Constable LePage and the victim were then taken to hospital and treated for burns and smoke-inhalation.

Both Patrick Maurice LePage and Michael Gerald Stanford were awarded the Medal of Bravery for their actions.

2017 – Honour Roll Number 239

Constable #51654 Frank Bertrand Deschênes, a 12-year RCMP veteran stationed in Amherst, Nova Scotia died when a utility van collided with his police car and an SUV shortly after 6 p.m. Tuesday on the Trans-Canada Highway near Memramcook, N.B.

Cst. Deschênes, was returning from Moncton NB when he encountered a SUV that had a flat tire and he decided to stop and help them out. While he was helping a passing utility, van collided with the police car, killing him instantly and sending the two passengers to the hospital.

September 13th

1882– O.40 Supt Samuel Steele was given the tasking to construct a new headquarters outside the new capital renamed “Regina” from its former name “Pile of Bones”. The site is still in use today as the Training Academy for all new recruits to the Mounted Police. For most of its history it was known a “Depot Division”.

1909– As a result of arresting several cattle thieves who had been rustling cattle throughout the district near Red Deer Alberta. Constables #4245 Robert Ensor, 1709 John Nicholson and #4259 Charles Martin were awarded \$100 from the Fine Fund. A tidy sum when the men were earning a paltry \$1.00 per day!

1982– After completing an 18-month international undercover drug operation that resulted multiple charges related to the seizure of 71 kilos cocaine in Venezuela and nine 9 kilos of cocaine in Buffalo, New York, #27513 / O.1540 Dennis Massey was awarded the Commissioners Commendation. Superintendent Massey was killed on duty in 2002 while serving in Calgary Alberta. See December 18, 2002.

1996– While exercising his police dog #PDS/462 “Chip”, on his day off #34521 Constable Doug Lewis received a call advising him that a man had run the toll booth on the Coquihalla highway near Hope BC and after a criminal pursuit had fled on foot into the bush. Constable Lewis and Chip were not far from the scene and upon arrival were advised that the suspect was only wearing shorts and a t-shirt and was believed to be unarmed. Though Lewis did not have his duty equipment with him he decided to conduct the track unarmed with two backup officers providing him cover. During the 3.2km track of the suspect, the backup officers became separated from Lewis and Chip in the dense bush.

While running on 30’ lead Chip located Robert Petrus hiding behind a tree, and attacked and bit him on the arm; the suspect then pulled a knife and stabbed the dog in the throat. The dog then backed off to gain momentum for a second charge but in the process tangled the lead around his handler’s legs as Petrus rushed and attacked Constable Lewis stabbing him several times in the arms chest and face. Though fatally wounded Chip rallied and continued to attack his assailant until he bled to death. Petrus and Lewis continued to fight for the knife until the attacker ran off into the bush.

Though seriously wounded, Constable Lewis removed his shirt and wrapped it around his partner’s throat in an attempt to stem the bleeding but soon realized that Chip was gone. As he stared into his partner’s lifeless eyes Lewis realized that Chips last dying act saved his life but he now needed to get medical help for himself and reluctantly left his dog behind and staggered back to the highway where he flagged down a passing motorist.

Shortly thereafter an intense manhunt involving seven dog teams and a helicopter ensued resulting in Petrus being captured 7kms away by Corporal George Beattie, and his police dog. While the search proceeded Constable Lewis was rushed to hospital by helicopter where he underwent surgery and received over 50 stitches.

Robert Petrus was charged with attempt murder but was found mentally unfit to stand trial.

In recognition of Chip's heroism in saving Constable Lewis life the Town of Hope commissioned local chain saw carver to carve a statue of Chip. Hundreds of members of the RCMP and other agencies attended a ceremony at the town park in Hope on a brutally cold day in December to unveil the statue of Chip and honour their fallen comrade.

In recognition of his heroism and commitment to duty Constable George Douglas Lewis was awarded his second Commissioners Commendation for Bravery.

September 14th

1874– On this day #392 Sub Constable Elliott Thornton decided to leave the detachment to hunt for fresh game. He ended up getting lost and his horse collapsed from exhaustion and malnutrition. He eventually found his way back to camp five days later. The hard life in the fledgling Mounted Police Force was not to his liking and he left the Force after only a year.

1906– The very first automobile in Yorkton, Saskatchewan was owned by the local doctor, Dr. Thomas V. Simpson. The good doctor gave the local detachment commander a ride in his new car. As they sped through town at a whopping speed of 15 miles per hour, the terrified Staff Sergeant #3430 / O.149 Christen Junket pleaded "For God's sake stop or we'll be killed!"

September 15th

1874– Treaty #4 is signed by members of the Cree, Saulteaux Assiniboine nations near modern day Qu'Appelle Saskatchewan. Other native nations in Southern Saskatchewan and Alberta sign on to the treaty as well. The terms of the treaty involve; 120,054 sq km of land and provide \$12 per person plus the guarantee of schools, farm instruction and land for farming. Descendents of the native communities involved in the treaty along with members of the RCMP to this day participate in a ceremony to commemorate the event and receive the stipend of cash.

September 16th

1891– The first Ukrainian settlers arrive in Edmonton Alberta.

1960– RCMP Air Division pilot Staff Sergeant #15969 / O.633 Robert Lorne Fletcher responded to a mayday call of a United States Air Force Otter. The bush plane that was carrying eight people had developed engine trouble and was forced to make an emergency landing in rugged terrain near the mouth of Knegland Bay in the NWT. Flying a floatplane, Fletcher rushed to the scene and battling poor visibility and piloting an overloaded aircraft succeeded in rescuing the crash victims. In recognition of his meritorious service the US Air Force awarded him with ‘a scroll of appreciation’.

1974– The first 32 women sworn into the RCMP as regular members began their training at Depot. All of the women were sworn in at exactly the same time in every Province in Canada except Prince Edward Island. The first female troop was Troop 17/1974 and 32 years later on December 16, 2006 one of its members Deputy Commissioner Beverly Ann Busson LLB, COM, OBC was appointed the RCMP’s interim Commissioner following the resignation of Commissioner Zaccardelli.

September 17th

1954– Honour Roll Number 109.

#15802 Constable Douglas Earl Ferguson age 26, died of carbon monoxide poisoning aboard a boat near Cape Alexander, N.W.T.

Constable Douglas Ferguson had joined the RCMP in 1949 and after serving for two years on the East Coast of Canada, applied for northern service. The day before his death he boarded the 40’Hudson Bay trading boat “Kingalik” along with four other men at Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island. He was traveling to Bathurst Inlet to work on a number of files.

Early the next morning Lorne Woodward discovered Constable Ferguson along with Peter Natit and Asger “Red” Pedersen unconscious in the cabin below deck. Suspecting carbon monoxide poisoning, he shut off the main engine and assisted by Jack Ehakataitok pulled the men out of the cabin. Peter Natit and “Red” Pedersen quickly regained consciousness and survived. Unfortunately Constable Ferguson could not be revived after 20 minutes of artificial respiration.

The Coroner’s investigation determined that Ferguson had died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to a defective engine exhaust pipe that allowed the odourless gas to leak inside the vessel.

Constable Douglas Earl Ferguson’s remains were returned to his mother where he was buried in his hometown of Brockville Ontario.

1961– Honour Roll Number 114.

#20958 Constable Wayne Sinclair age 24 died of internal injuries received in a traffic accident near Regina, Saskatchewan

Constable Wayne Sinclair a member of the Regina Highway Patrol was patrolling on his police motorcycle on Highway #6, twenty miles south of Regina. Sinclair had only recently passed the police motorcycle course and was on his fourth patrol on the bike. Traveling in good weather at approximately 45 miles per hour he lost control of the motorcycle when he came to a slight curve in the road and his front tire left the pavement onto the gravel shoulder. Unfortunately he overreacted when he applied the front brakes too hard and somersaulted into the ditch and failing to let go of the handlebars. He received massive internal injuries when the motorcycle crushed his chest when it rolled over on him and he died en-route to the hospital.

Constable Sinclair had only two years' service in the Force when he was killed. His remains were returned to his parents in St. Vital Manitoba where he was buried with full honours.

1976– RCMP Air Division pilot #22499 S/Sgt. Karl-Inge G. Gschwind was awarded the Commanding Officers' Commendation for courage and exceptional capabilities as a result of completing two hazardous landings in CF-MPF during a rescue operation at Foxe Basin on Baffin Island.

1988– The St John Meritorious Certificate was awarded to RCMP Constable #34752 Gary J. Clarke and Delta Municipal Police Constable Kerslake for saving the life of a automobile accident victim by performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR on the Deas Island Highway at, Delta, BC.

The conflict was a result of some members of the Shuswap Nation believing that property on a privately-owned ranch belonging to the James Cattle Company was unseeded land and a sacred space. A few years earlier Faith Keeper Percy Rosette and some other Shuswap elders had a vision that the site was sacred and they approached the ranch owner Lyle James for permission to hold a Sun Dance on his property. He agreed to let them hold ceremonies at the site for four years so long as they did not erect any permanent structures on the property. Instead of honouring the agreement, Rosette and his partner Mary Pena set up a permanent residence on the property and refused to leave. In June 1995 a fence was erected to supposedly keep cattle from the ceremonial area so the group was served an eviction notice while they were preparing for another Sun Dance. In response to the eviction notice an occupier named Splitting the Sky called for an armed defensive stance and press releases were sent out by the occupiers in which they claimed their right to practice their religion on unseeded indigenous land. Soon shots were fired and the RCMP was brought in to secure the area.

On August 18, 1995 a native Indian group calling themselves the Ts'peten Defenders believed that a police invasion was imminent and shot at some RCMP Emergency

Response Team (ERT) members who were discovered on the property. Throughout the standoff the RCMP conducted negotiations with the leaders of the group and the standoff eventually ended peacefully on September 17 when the remaining occupiers left the site under the guidance of medicine man John Stevens.

Fourteen indigenous and four non-native people were arrested charged following the siege, of which fifteen were found guilty and sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to eight years.

1995 – After 31 days, the armed standoff at Gustafsen Lake, BC ends. The \$5.5 million operation was one of the largest such police operations in Canadian history involving the deployment of four hundred tactical assault team members, five helicopters, two surveillance planes and nine armoured personnel carriers (APC) and support from the Canadian Armed Forces.

September 18th

1874– The men of the March West had their first view of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains over 100 miles away from the Sweet Grass Hills of Alberta.

1875– Canada's 15th Prime Minister John George Diefenbaker (1895-1979) was born on this day in Neustadt Ontario.

1947– #10700 / O.439 Rene Carriere received a Commendation for his outstanding work on an investigation involving the Wartime Prices & Trade Board Orders.

1990- After responding to a complaint of assault at Igloolik, NWT, (now Nunavut) #33661 Corporal Eric R. Streeter & #35784 Constable John D. J Ennis were shot at shot at by the suspect when they approached the house. While the two policemen negotiated for over four hours with the suicidal suspect, Mrs. Denise Ennis handled the detachment radio and telephones. The suspect eventually surrendered and was safely taken into custody. For their role in successfully apprehending the gunman without incident both policemen were awarded Commissioners Commendations for Bravery and Mrs. Ennis was given a Letter of Appreciation.

2004– #45370 Constable Craig Andrew Thur MB, Medal of Bravery.

Earlier in the evening police responded to a complaint of a noisy bush party, where nearly 200 youths had been partying at the snow dump near Porter Creek Pond in Whitehorse, Yukon. After the majority of partygoers left the scene, Constable Craig Thur remained to conduct a foot patrol of the area and heard someone calling for help. Constable Thur

followed the sound to the edge of the pond where he found a hypothermic 15-year-old boy in the water, barely managing to hang on to the edge. While Thur was pulling the boy out he heard a muffled gurgling sound coming from further out in the pond. Realizing that another person was in trouble Constable Thur scanned the surface of the pond with his flashlight and spotted a second teenager struggling to stay afloat. Thur alerted #29237 Corporal Ken Putnam and had him care for the first boy while he proceeded to wade out into the pond.

Initially he thought the pond was shallow but he soon found himself swimming in deep water being weighed down by his uniform and equipment. Struggling to swim with his flashlight in one hand, while being hampered by submerged tree stumps and hanging branches he kept the 14-year-old boy illuminated until he slipped below the surface. Having witnessed the youth submerge, Constable Thur was able to quickly find the boy's body and grabbing hold of the victim's jacket pulled him to the surface. The boy had only been submerged for approximately 30 seconds and immediately began breathing. Thur then towed him back to shore where the boy was transported to hospital by ambulance to join the first who had been taken in a police car.

Had Constable Thur not bothered to remain at the scene and do a follow-up patrol of the party area, both boys would likely have perished.

For his actions Constable Craig Andrew Thur was awarded Commissioners Commendation and later the Medal of Bravery.

September 19th

1941– “It was the finest thing I ever saw” was how John MacKenzie the one-legged Captain of the “Pink Star” described the actions of second officer James Howard Cassidy, after their ship had been sunk by a torpedo attack.

Former Marine Division Able Seaman #12314 James Howard Cassidy's tale of self-effacing heroism has been lost in the annals of WW2 and he was all but forgotten by his country. Born in Newcastle, New Brunswick, Cassidy enlisted as a mess boy on the R.M.S. Bayhound a vessel in the RCMP Marine Section in 1933 and re-engaged as an ordinary seaman in 1934. He served in Marine Section until the outbreak of war in April 1939, when he joined the Merchant Navy as a third mate aboard the “Lord Kelvin” eventually ending up as the second mate on the “Pink Star” in 1941.

The story of the Pink Star reads like a novel that should have been made into a movie.

She was originally named the “Saga” when she was built in 1926 by Nya Varvs A/B Oresund, Landskrona in, Denmark. The 4.150-ton steam merchant ship was re-named the “Lunby” in 1931 for A.E. Reimann Stensved. In 1941 the United States government seized all foreign ships in US waters and transferred them to the US War Shipping Administration and the Lunby was assigned to the US Lines Inc. and re-named the “Pink

Star”. The Danish crew was asked to continue to serve aboard her for the war effort, which they agreed to do because their homeland was then under Nazi control.

Cassidy was assigned to the Pink Star after spending eight months at sea working on coastal vessels around the United Kingdom. He had survived previous attacks from U-Boats and German cruisers and recovered from wounds he received when he was struck by a shell fragment.

On her final voyage the Pink Star was traveling in convoy SC-44 from New York to Liverpool steaming in calm seas 275 miles northeast of Cape Farewell off the southern tip of Greenland. When German U-Boat, “U-552” captained by Erich Topp encountered her. Topp fired two torpedoes at the convoy but only the Pink Star was hit. She sank quickly after breaking in two in only eight minutes.

Only 23 of the 36-man crew survived the five-hour ordeal before a British Man O War picked them up. Most of the survivors managed to crowd into the only remaining lifeboat. When Jim Cassidy made it to the life boat, his shipmates reached out to pull him aboard, but he realized that the lifeboat was dangerously overcrowded and that if he tried to climb aboard her it would likely capsize and endanger his shipmates. Cassidy, a strong swimmer swam around the boat for a couple of minutes and over the protests of his mates he then waved farewell to the crew and said “Go on, I’m all right, so long”, then turned and swam off into the dark, never to be seen again.

The wooden legged Captain of the Pink Star was later quoted in the press “Cassidy swam up as cool as you please, saw the situation and swam away, we never saw him again. It was the finest thing I ever saw”.

When word of his heroism hit the press, there was talk that he should be recommended for the “George Cross” but it appears he never was. James Howard Cassidy’s sacrifice eventually faded away in to the annals of history like he did in the cold waters of the North Atlantic.

1980 – Honour Roll Number 166.

#33580 Constable Thomas James Agar age 26 was killed on duty inside the City Detachment at Richmond, BC.

As a result of injuring his back, Constable Tom Agar was assigned to light duties and was working the front counter at the Richmond City Detachment. As he began his shift at 8:00 pm he had no idea that he would be killed ten minutes later. Less than an hour before a local criminal, Steve LeClair had gone on a rampage in a Vancouver bar and murdered three people. LeClair had been drinking in the pub at the Palace Hotel and had been thrown out by the manager. LeClair’s parting words was that he was going to come back with a gun and kill him and at 7:30 pm he did just that. LeClair entered the Vancouver Bar and opened fire killing the bartender, the manager and a 72-year-old woman who happened to stop in for a beer. LeClair then left the bar and hijacked a car

and ordered the occupants to drive him to the Richmond RCMP Detachment because he wanted to kill a Cop.

When he arrived at the detachment at 8:10 pm, he let his hostages go and he walked calmly into the detachment office with his .45 caliber revolver stuffed in his waistband under his coat.

Constable Agar went to the front counter to deal with LeClair and asked how he could help. LeClair responded by asking him his name and when he replied "Constable Agar", Steve LeClair pulled his revolver and said, "How fast can you draw" and shot Agar in the chest.

#35115 Constable Wayne Hanniman was in the nearby radio room heard the shot drew his revolver and rushed out to see LeClair turn to face him and he was shot the shin breaking his leg. Hanniman went down on his knees and fired two rounds one of which hit LeClair in the chest a few inches from his heart. At the same time #22667 Corporal Peter Lucas came onto the scene from another part of the office and pointing his revolver at the wounded gunman ordered him to drop his gun and surrender.

Constable Tom Agar, a native of Montreal, Quebec had only four years' service. His wife Joyce was eight months pregnant with their second child when he was murdered. Joyce and their one-year-old daughter Samantha along with over 1000 people attended his funeral where he was buried with full honours at the Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby BC.

Steve LeClair was convicted of the multiple murders and sentenced to life imprisonment. Constable Hanniman and Corporal Lucas were awarded Commissioners Commendations for their actions and Letters of Appreciation were presented to municipal employees Sheila Wilson for rendering aid to Constable Hanniman and to Irene Truba for her role in staying calm throughout the incident and dispatching members to key areas during the attack.

September 20th

1924– Arguably the greatest unsung heroes of the RCMP have been the wives of detachment men. Thousands of women have given up the comforts and luxuries of larger communities to follow their husbands into some of the most remote locations in Canada to live often dull and laborious lives providing unpaid services to the Force. The sacrifices of these women have gone largely unacknowledged and some have lost their lives in the process.

One of the most tragic events happened to a wife of a member happened to 32-year-old Margaret (Maggie) Agnes Clay, wife of #4279 Sergeant S. G. Clay the Detachment commander of Chesterfield Inlet NWT (now Nunavut).

On September 17th while her husband was away on patrol in the Thelon District, Mrs. Clay was attacked by a pack of sled dogs and knocked to the ground while she was walking on the beach near the detachment. By the time Constable #6316 Henry W. Stallworthy beat the dogs off of her they had managed to strip most of the flesh from her right knee to her ankle.

Stallworthy and #5718 Corporal Oliver George Petty carried her back to the detachment house where they did their best to treat her wounds, but little could be done to save her leg. Throughout the night Maggie Clay begged the men to amputate her leg and by morning they realized that gangrene was going to set in and it would have to be removed. Unfortunately the closest medical doctor was over 1000 miles away, so the men asked by the local Roman Catholic priest who had some medical training and the Hudson's Bay Company manager to perform the operation.

At the insistence of Mrs. Clay, the two men agreed signed a statement in which Corporal Petty assumed full responsibility and then hastily reviewed a book on surgery, while the two policemen sterilized the surgical instruments and dressings. The twenty-minute operation went successfully and Mrs. Clay rested easily after the surgery and got good night's sleep. To all she appeared to be recovering from the ordeal and was in good spirits throughout the day but towards evening she slipped into a coma and died shortly before midnight.

The men held off burying her for three days in hopes that Sergeant Clay would return. He arrived back at the detachment three weeks later, unaware that his wife had died.

1972 – RCMP bomb squad defuses a letter bomb in a park after removing it from the Israeli Consulate. At the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, the RCMP find explosives in one of six envelopes arriving from Amsterdam. Arab terrorist group Black September believed responsible; Israeli official in London, England, killed a day earlier after opening a letter.

1977 – Sometimes proper recognition is delayed, as was the case for #18449 Staff Sergeant Patrick J. Dunleavy, who on this day received one of only two Merit Award and certificates issued by the Commissioner of the RCMP for work he had pioneered in 1958. Dunleavy, the NCO in charge of the Field Identification Support Services was the first person to record different facial features on transparencies so they could be combined to create a composite drawing of a suspect. The initial kit was produced and distributed by the RCMP throughout Canada and to foreign police agencies. In the 1970's he updated the kit because hairstyles, facial hair and eyeglasses had changed. The RCMP then licensed the kit to a commercial firm in the United States and the "Identi-Kit" became a global success. In addition to the Merit Award Staff Sergeant Pat Dunleavy was presented a cheque for \$1500.

1984 – Retired S/Sgt. #9912 W.L. Kennedy age 92 received a blessing from His Holiness Pope John Paul II when he was visiting the Mother of Sisters of Charity in

Ottawa. Sitting in his wheelchair after receiving the blessing he remarked with a note of satisfaction "This is the first time I've see a pope". Kennedy served in the RCMP from 1923 to 1949.

September 23rd

1872 – #3058 Arthur Herbert Lindsay Richardson VC is born in Southport, Lancashire, England. Richardson a Sergeant in the NWMP took a leave of absence to serve with the Lord Strathcona Horse Regiment in the Boer War. He later received the Victoria Cross the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. (See July 5, 1900) After the war returned to the NWMP and retired a Sergeant Major. He returned to his native England and died on December 15th 1922 and is buried in Liverpool.

1904 – The Royal North West Mounted Police establish a post at Fullerton on Hudson Bay near Chesterfield Inlet.

1907 – After two years of hard work the Mounties complete a 2.5-meter wide trail that ran from Edmonton, Alberta to Dawson, Yukon.

1964 – The end of an era occurred when Constables #21481 James Innes and #21750 / O.1164 Robert Hannam locked the doors to Herschel Island Detachment. The Mounted Police first established a detachment there with #2218 / O.156 Sergeant Francis Joseph Fitzgerald. (See Lost Patrol December 21, 1910) on August 7, 1903 the police presence was sent their primarily to investigate reports that American whalers were debauching local Eskimos with liquor and to assert Canada's sovereignty at the western gateway to the Canadian Arctic. Herchel Island was the favored wintering location for American whaling fleets and Canada was concerned about the activities of American whalers after the judicial council arbitrating the border dispute over the location of the Alaskan border ruled in favour of the United States. The original detachment was two rented sod huts. The detachment may be gone but the grave of Constable # 5548 Alexander J. Lamont remains. He died from typhoid he contracted while caring for the northern explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson who survived and lived for another 44 years. (See February 16, 1918)

1974 – FLQ (Front de libération du Québec) terrorist Bernard Lortie was found guilty of the 1970 kidnapping of Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte. He was later sentenced to twenty years in prison but was paroled only seven years later. Laporte was found murdered and dumped in the trunk of a car.

1974 – While patrolling south of Nelson BC #26104 Constable John E.A. Nykiforuk and Auxiliary Constable Ron Giffen were dispatched to the scene of a stabbing. Upon their arrival they were advised that there was no stabbing but instead a four-year-old girl named Corinne Phillipoff had died. Constable Nykiforuk rushed to the child and examined her for a pulse and found a very faint heartbeat. He immediately cleared her airway that resulted in her breathing again. She was then rushed by ambulance to the Kootenay Lake District hospital where she made a complete recovery. The erroneous report of a stabbing had been made by the child's Russian grandmother who was in a state of shock over the ordeal and in her broken English mistakenly told the dispatcher that someone had been stabbed. Constable Nykiforuk's clear thinking and prompt action saved the child's life and as a result he was awarded the Priory of St. John Ambulance Meritorious Certificate.

1976 – In the early morning hours of his shift #27681 Constable Raymond S. Steen heard gunshots near the Detachment in Steinbach, Manitoba. When he went to investigate he found a well-known local criminal who had recently been released from prison wandering the streets with a stolen .308 caliber rifle and taking random shots. Taking cover under a small footbridge Steen identified himself as a police officer and ordered the gunman to drop his weapon. The gunman's response was that he wanted to kill a "pig" and had no intention of throwing down his weapon. With his revolver drawn, Constable Steen continued to talk to the gunman who continued to advance towards him. When the suspect was only 30 feet away he ceded to Steen's reasoning and put down the rifle. When he was taken into custody Constable Steen seized over 60 rounds of ammunition from him.

For displaying courage, tactfulness in apprehending an emotionally disturbed man without incident Constable Raymond Steen was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation.

September 24th

1886 – The first steamship the "Wrigley" begins regular service on the Mackenzie River.

1903 – The NWMP establishes a detachment at Cape Fullerton on Hudson Bay.

1942 – The Alaska Highway is opened at Contact Creek, Yukon 305 miles north of Fort Nelson, BC.

1988 – Star of Courage, #38476 Troy Duane Gross, SC

When Constable Troy Gross arrived at the scene of an overturned tanker truck near Wainright, Alberta he realized that the unconscious driver was trapped inside, with gasoline flowing from the damaged tanker. Constable Gross smashed the windshield and reached inside and turned off the ignition. He then proceeded to remove the windshield from the cab and climbed inside to assist the driver. With the help of another constable and two ambulance attendants who had arrived on scene, he began to maneuver the driver out through the smashed windshield opening. During the extraction the victim became lodged in the opening but was eventually removed and transported to safety.

For his heroism in the face of grave danger Constable Troy Duane Gross was awarded Canada's second highest medal, the Star of Courage.

1990– Parrsborro Nova Scotia constables, M.W. Johnson and C.C Morton earned Commanding Officers Commendations for bravery after a three-hour standoff with an armed and emotionally disturbed man who was threatening to kill himself. The two constables eventually convinced the man to turn over his weapon and surrender.

September 26th

1903– Honour Roll Number 27.

#1102 S/Sgt. Arthur F.M. Brooke age 37 drowned when fording the Bow River on the Blackfoot Reserve, N.W.T.

Sergeant Brook and Indian Scout, Special Constable Frank McMaster known as “Red Wolf” were traveling with interpreter J.A. Beaupre and Justice of the Peace J. Didsbury to Dunbow from Gleichen. The men were looking for evidence in the death of an Indian named “Wolfchild” who was a suspect in a horse theft case involving Mr. John Clarke of Crowfoot.

At approximately 6:00 pm the group decided to ford the river near “Axes Camp” instead of taking the ferry over the river in order to save ten miles of travel.

When they approached the river S/Cst. Red Wolf riding his own horse entered the water ahead of the wagon team driven by Beaupre. Staff Sergeant Brook was sitting beside him and JP Didsbury was riding in the back of the wagon. As they proceeded across the river, Red Wolf yelled back to Beaupre that the river was rising and Brooke told them to continue because they had to get across. When Red Wolf got to the middle of the river his pony stepped into a deep hole and he fell off but managed to catch hold of the animal's tail and held on until the pony swam to shore. While he was struggling to stay afloat, Red Wolf heard shouting from the men in the wagon but when he made it to shore and looked back there was no sign of the men or the wagon team.

The wagon and its drowned horses were found three miles downriver the following day. It appears that all three men drowned when the wagon reached deep water and the wagon began to lurch and the men fell into the river and were swept away. On October 27, 1903, the body of Staff Sergeant Arthur Brooke was found two and a half miles downstream by a native named "Two Guns" who received a \$20 reward. Brookes pocket watch had stopped working at 6:10 pm.

Brook had twenty years' service with the Mounted Police and was married with two young children.

1957 – Honour Roll Number 115.

#18200 Joseph Thor Thompson age 27 was killed as a result of a passenger aircraft landing at Lethbridge Airport and crushing his police car.

Constables #18200 Joseph Thor Thompson, #19621, Eugene Oleksiuk, #16784 Edward Mueller and #14042 Corporal Harold Berry were traveling from their detachment at MacLeod Alberta in a police car to their annual revolver qualification shoot in Lethbridge. The weather was and road conditions were good for what should have been an uneventful trip. Constable Thompson was driving with Oleksiuk beside him while the other two officers rode in the back seat. As they proceeded south on Highway #5 by the Lethbridge Airport they had no way of knowing that a Trans-Canada Airlines DC 3 was on approach to the airport coming in for a landing over their heads. For reasons unknown, the aircraft was flying lower than it should have been and as it passed over the police car, the landing gear crushed the roof and the drivers' door of the passing police car. The damage was so severe that the entire drivers' side of the vehicle was compressed to the top of the front seat. The car spun out of control and ended up in a ditch a half mile down road from the point of impact. Constable Thompson received a fractured skull and a broken neck. Constable Oleksiuk was knocked unconscious and went into shock but soon revived. Neither policeman in the rear seat was injured.

Thompson was rushed to the hospital in Lethbridge where a Calgary neurosurgeon did his best to stabilize the young man. He was then transferred to the Colonel Belcher Hospital in Calgary where he remained in a coma for over two and a half months. When he woke from the coma it was apparent that he had suffered severe irreversible brain damage and was classified "wholly incapable of looking after himself" and permanently disabled.

In May of 1958 Constable Thompson was transferred to the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg so he could be closer to his parents and siblings who lived in Gimli. He was eventually moved to the Selkirk Mental Hospital where he died in his sleep on December 18, 1961, two days after his 27th birthday.

Joseph Thor Thompson had joined the RCMP on May 11, 1953. He was fluent in Icelandic and had a promising career ahead of him. He was buried in the Community Cemetery in Gimli Manitoba. His three companions returned to duty and all eventually retired from the RCMP, each having achieved the rank of Sergeant.

1959 – A Pair of British Empire Medals (BEM) and two Queens Commendations were awarded on this day.

Awarded the BEM was:

- #18160 Alvin Thomas Millhouse BEM (See November 3, 1955)
- Constable Hugh Dickson Bowyer BEM, (See November 29, 1955)

Recipients of the Queens Commendations were:

- #16513 Laurence Martin (See November 3, 1955) and
- # Corporal Kenneth Marshall McHale (See November 29, 1955)

1963– FLQ terrorists hold up a branch of the Royal Bank in Montreal.

1971 – Honour Roll Number 145.

#22976 Constable Harold Stanley Seigel age 28 was shot and killed at a barricade incident at a private residence, at Iles des Chenes, Manitoba.

A twenty-one-year-old mentally disturbed man named Jean Charles D'Auteuil had locked himself in the bathroom of his parent's house with a .22 caliber rifle. After refusing to come out of the room and firing a shot through the door, his father phoned the police. Constables Seigle and #? Floyd Rushton and # Staff Sergeant Edward Webdale rushed to the scene and Webdale proceeded to try and reason with the gunman over a loud hailer. After trying to reason with the deranged man for over two hours and then decided to fire a canister of tear gas into the house in hopes of getting D'Auteuil to surrender. As the Staff Sergeant prepared to fire the tear gas canister, the two constables positioned themselves around the house. Webdale fired the tear gas into the house and moments later D'Auteuil responded by firing a shot from his rifle. Shortly thereafter Constable Seigel was found lying face down by the garage with a bullet wound to his head. He was immediately carried to a police car and rushed to hospital but he died en-route.

Jean Charles D'Auteuil was taken into custody several hours later and was charged with murder but was found mentally unfit to stand trial.

Cst. Harold Stanley Seigel was born in Pembroke Ontario, and he and his wife Gail were expecting their second child when he was killed. He was buried at the Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Winnipeg.

Born at Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, England, Bard came to Canada after serving in the Boer War where he met up with a war buddy and began working in the coalmines near Estevan Saskatchewan. After witnessing and reporting a shooting he accepted the advice

of the investigator and joined the RNWMP on February 20, 1905. He resigned after two years' service so he could get married but reenlisted in 1914 and was promoted to Corporal shortly thereafter. After failing to get sent overseas to fight in WW1, Bard purchased his discharge for \$100 and enlisted with the Lord Strathcona Horse and served in France. After recuperating from being wounded in action, Bard became the tail gunner for Flying Ace Billy Bishop VC. At wars end he re-engaged in the RNWMP but left shortly thereafter to seek better a better paying job as a cook so he could support his growing family.

1978– Former Corporal #4332 Frederick Bard celebrated his 100th birthday.

1981– Only 20 Crosses of Valour have ever been issued and #26112 Corporal Robert Gordon Teather, CV is the only member of the RCMP to have been awarded Canada's highest civilian medal for valour.

On this day, in the early morning hour's two members of the "E" Division (British Columbia) Underwater Recovery Team, corporals Robert Teather and #26483 Timothy J. Kain rushed to the scene of an overturned sixteen-metre fishing vessel. The "Respond" had collided with a freighter near the mouth of the Fraser River, and capsized in the treacherous waters of the Georgia Strait with two crewmen trapped inside the vessel.

The two police divers were transported to the scene in a Coast Guard hovercraft and immediately conducted an exploratory dive in the dark to assess the situation. What they found was a treacherous labyrinth of nets, cables and debris restricting access to the boat. It was determined that only one man could enter the sinking vessel and attempt a rescue. Though neither experienced diver had ever been faced with this type of rescue, they quickly formulated a plan. Today, "Octopus regulators" are commonplace, but in 1981 they were not. So the men cannibalized Corporal Kain's regulator and attached his second stage mouthpiece and hose to Teather's regulator, so it supply air to a rescue victim. After modifying his regulator Corporal Teather returned to the water and crawled his way past the debris and entered the boat and then worked his way up to engine-room in the bottom of the vessel in nearly zero visibility to the anxious crewmen.

Teather located the frightened men in an air pocket that was fouled by diesel fumes and explained how he intended to rescue them by swimming each one out of the boat using the modified "octopus" regulator. One of the crewmen was a non-swimmer and was extremely frightened so Teather took some time to calm him down and reassured him that he would get him out safely. Once the man calmed down Corporal Teather had him put the regulator in his mouth and had him hang onto his back and then proceed to swim him through the boat. Half-way to safety, the crewman panicked and began to flail about and, in the process, knocked Teather's face mask off and ripped his regulator out of his mouth. Corporal Teather managed to maintain his own composure and proceeded to physically fight the panicked man the rest of the way through the boat and up to the surface. On the surface Corporal Kain took charge of the excited man and swam him back to the hovercraft.

Though he was nearly drowned in the process, and had ingested a belly full of diesel laden sea water, Corporal Teather immediately returned to the engine-room and repeated the process with the second survivor.

The two fishermen would likely have perished from drowning or asphyxiation had Corporal Teather not undertaken this exhausting and perilous rescue. After the rescue Teather had to be hospitalized for several days, due to his ingesting the diesel and seawater. The sad irony was that this was the last time Bob Teather would ever dive. He developed diabetes shortly thereafter and had to cease scuba diving. Teather went on to author several books on diving and his adventures in the RCMP. His knowledge of underwater forensics and recovery procedures was acknowledged internationally and he went on to become one of the foremost experts in the world in the field of underwater search and recovery.

Both policemen were later recognized for their heroism, when on June 24, 1983 Corporal Robert Gordon Teather was awarded the Cross of Valour and Corporal Timothy J. Kain was awarded the Medal of Bravery.

Bob Teather continued his career with the RCMP, but his battle with diabetes forced him to take a medical pension and retire after 28 years of service. He died at the age of only 56 on November 15th 2004 from a heart attack, the result of complications with his diabetes. Tim Kain continued with the RCMP explosives disposal section until he retired in 2005.

In addition to receiving Canada's highest award for bravery Bob Teather was an accomplished author whose works included *On Patrol with the Royal Canadian Mounted*, *The Scarlet Tunic*, and *Mountie Makers*. He was also considered by most diving professionals to be the leading expert in the field of police diving procedures. He published two books on the topic; *The Underwater Investigator* and *The Encyclopedia of Underwater Investigations*, the latter having become part of the course training standards for most police divers. In 2011 in honour of his service to Canada, the government announced that one of the nine new Canadian Coast Guard Hero Class patrol vessels would be named after him.

The Hero Class vessels were named for decorated soldiers, veterans and police officers and employees of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard. The CCGS *Corporal Teather C.V.* was built by Irving Shipbuilding Inc. and is 47 meters in length and has a displacement of 257 tons with a top speed of 25 knots. It was placed into service on Feb. 8th 2013.

September 27th

1901– The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York made an official visit to the Northwest Territories (then Saskatchewan and Alberta). At Regina the Royal couple was met at the train station by a guard of five noncommissioned officers. They were then

escorted to Government House in an entourage of eleven carriages by a troop of 33 men commanded by Superintendent Morris and Inspector Demers. Inspector Cuthbert acted as the orderly officer and Sergeant Major Church as orderly N.C.O.

In his report to the Governor General H.R.H. stated "I am especially anxious to record my appreciation of that splendid force, the Northwest Mounted Police. I had the pleasure of inspecting a portion of the corps at Calgary, and was much struck with the smart appearance of both men and horses, and with their general steadiness on parade. They furnished escorts throughout our stay in Western Canada; frequently horses for our carriages, and found the transport, all of which duties were performed with ready willingness and in a highly creditable manner."

1941 – Honour Roll Number 69.

#10982 Sergeant Louis Romeo Dubuc age 34 was killed in action, while flying an R.C.A.F. bomber to England from Ireland.

After serving as a regular police constable for two years Louis Romeo Dubuc accepted a transfer to the Preventive Service patrols as an air observer in Atlantic Canada in 1933. When the RCMP created its own Aviation Section in 1937 Dubuc jumped at the chance to become one of its first members and as a pilot he worked all across the country. When war was declared in 1939, Sergeant Dubuc along with the rest of the RCMP Air Division was transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force. In the RCAF he was given the rank of Flight Lieutenant and in September 1941 he was assigned to Atlantic Ferry Command. On September 26, 1941 Dubuc was flying a bomber to England from Newfoundland. The flight was plagued with severe weather that deteriorated further upon reaching Ireland where he encountered heavy fog. As he attempted to circle the landing strip at Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland he hit an obstruction and crashed. All three men aboard were killed. He was buried with full military honours at the Old Chapel Roman Catholic Cemetery in Newry, County Louth.

1971 – Any time you walk away from a plane crash it can be considered a good day. The RCMP Otter "CF-MPZ" experienced a low-level engine failure while flying near Hind's Lake, Newfoundland. The pilot #22129 / O.1552 Donald Klancher did his best to find a decent landing strip to put his plane down on but there was none to be had. The plane went down into the forest and slammed into a tree. Fortunately he and his three passengers #21300 Bernard Johnston, #23796 Robert MacKinnon and #27561 Cst B.S. Sibley all survived. The Otter was completely destroyed in the fire caused by the crash.

1996 – Residents of British Columbia were shocked when the media reported that someone had gone into the Kelowna General Hospital and kidnapped a newborn baby boy. The day after the Kelowna Detachment received a tip and Police Dog Handler #31413 Constable Gerald Guilteneane and his partner 'ARGO' located the three-day-old infant, Denver Giroux in a wooded area near Westbank, BC where his kidnappers had

abandoned him. Darlene Hucal and two male young offenders were subsequently charged with kidnapping.

Six years later Guilteneane lost his home in the Okanagan Mountain Park fire that destroyed 244 homes in the Kelowna area.

September 29th

1902– After concerns that area gold miners were losing money on purchases and transactions because gold dust particles were being lost in handling, all of the banks in Dawson City, Yukon announced that they would no longer accept gold dust as legal tender.

1931– The Estevan Coal Miners’ Strike

Due to a series of wage cuts combined with deplorable working and living conditions, miners at Bienfait Saskatchewan joined the militant “Mine Workers’ Union of Canada” and a struggle to get the mine owners to recognize their union ensued. When the owners refused to deal with the union, tensions began to build.

Judge E.R. Wylie, district court judge at Estevan was named commissioner and given full power to make inquiries into the dispute within the coal mining fields of the district, and make recommendations to the Honorable Gideon R. Robertson, the federal minister of labour. But before he could act the miners decided they were going to hold a protest march in the nearby town of Estevan on Tuesday September 29th and followup the march with a public meeting at the Town Hall where Anna Buller, a well-known woman union organizer from Winnipeg, strike would speak on “The Truth About the Strike.” Union officials announced that the miners would gather at Bienfait at 1:30 in the afternoon, and then move through the area mining districts and pick up more protestors en route to the town.

Fearing that a protest parade would lead to violence, a hastily called meeting of town council was held. The meeting resulted in Mayor D. Bannantyne and the members of the Estevan Town Council going on record that they would not allow any protest parade in their community. The matter was then handed over to Police Chief, MacCutcheon who in turn phoned James Sloan, the president of the Miners’ Union, and advised him that no parade would be allowed to enter the town limits.

Chief MacCutcheon then contacted RCMP in Regina and asked for men to augment his small police force. Having anticipated the growing unrest in the area the RCMP led by Inspector #5100 / O.206 William J. Moorhead, mobilized a troop of 45 men of which 32 of them had only two months service or less. The men were stationed in the vicinity of the Truxa Traer mine, the only large mine still in operation. Additional transportation was

arranged so they could quickly rush reinforcements to any place in the sector should trouble should arise.

When James Sloan announced to the miners that the Mayor had forbade a protest parade, the mob of nearly 600 people decided to march on the town anyway. As trucks of people arrived within a block of the town hall, the miners were met by a row of police. The procession then circled around the block, and moved up to the town hall. At 3:20 pm the police armed with rifles and revolvers drawn ordered the crowd to disperse. Instead of heeding the order several miners jumped out of their vehicles and rushed the police line and began hurling stones and clubs at the policemen. The men did not fire but slowly retreated to the Town Hall and called in the Fire Department to help quell the mob with fire hoses. At 3:30 the fire hoses were turned on the mob and the crowd began attacking the Firemen. Inspector Moorhead then gave the order to fire over the heads of the rioters.

With their backs literally to the wall of the Town Hall and blood streaming down their faces from wounds caused by stones, bricks and debris the policemen continued to fire over the crowd until another squad of sixteen policemen armed with rifles rushed into town. With the arrival of additional men, the mob broke up and began running away. In the aftermath of the riot three protestors lay dead 23 others including several policemen were wounded. The following week saw a heavy police crack down and the prosecution of 14 ringleaders. Understandably the miners accused the police of firing on a peaceful protest but the Royal Commission cleared the police of any wrongdoing and eventually brought an end to the dispute.

History seldom records the names of the ordinary men who do their duty especially if the duty is unpopular. The 45 members of the RCMP who did their duty on that fateful day included:

#4748 William G. Mulhall, #5111 Staff Sergeant Charles Richardson, #10425 Walter M. Mortimer, #10426 John Molyneaux, #10434 Robert Edmund Thrussell, #10564 Joseph Augustus Aloysius Kirk, #10634 Edward Arnold Chamberlain, #10650 Reginald Philip Gowanlock, #10755 John William Harvey Waddy, #10848 Donald McLay, #10875 W.J. Tyne, #10920 Arthur Stoddart, #10923 Thomas Andrew Edmund Overend, #10925 John Cecil Nash, #10929 Malcom Alexander Sutherland, #10934 Alexander Stewart Cameron, #10937 Alexander Lockwood, #10938 Paul Syrotuck, #10939 Kenneth Richard Ruddick, #10941 Earle Carter Clendenning, #10943 Albert William Parsons, #10944 Dalton Mahlon Beach, #10947 William Henry Billington, #10948 E.A. Wakefield, #10949 Peter Petworth Nightingale, #10950 Harry Allen #10951 J.I. Palmer, (wounded) #10956 A.W. Hubey, #10961 David Henley Beeching, #10953 Raymond Leslie Woodhouse, #10958 Herbert Robertson, #10962 John Bigham Kerr Osborne, #10969 Frank Martyn, #10972 Horace Walter Taylor, #10973 G.G.F. Hart, #10995 P.W.E Harcourt, #10996 Lorne William Hopkins, #10998 H. Lister, #11006 T.W. Thomas, #11011 Angus Morrison, #11018 D. Bird, #11020 Jeffrey Raymond Vidal, #11021 H.S. Steele and #11024 H.S. Wilson.

1968– #23307 Constable Joseph Blackman received a complaint that a woman in Carcross, Yukon had threatened to kill her husband with a rifle. When he attended to the scene, he found the woman standing in yard with rifle waiting patiently for her husband to return home. Keeping his cool Constable Blackman quietly talked to the women for about twenty minutes and when she was momentarily distracted he grabbed the loaded rifle from her and took her into custody earning himself a Commanders Commendation.

1974– Honour Roll Number 150.

#27160 Constable John Terrance Draginda age 24 was killed in a police motor vehicle accident, in Surrey, British Columbia.

At approximately 1:00 am Constable Dragina and Auxiliary Constable Kenneth Hughes were dispatched to a serious motor vehicle accident in Surry BC. Dragina activated his emergency lights but did not turn on his siren and then raced down 152ndstreet towards the scene of the accident. As he approached the intersection at 96thAvenue, Dragina slowed his vehicle down because he had a red light in his direction and thinking it was clear proceeded through the intersection and crashed into the side of a pickup truck that was traveling through on the green light. Dragina was killed instantly; unfortunately Donald Bahme and his wife Lorreine were killed as well. The Bahme's 12-year-old daughter and A/ Constable Hughes survived the tragedy.

Constable John Terrance Draginda was single and had five and a half years' service in the RCMP. He was buried at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Edmonton Alberta.

1995– #36715 Constable Robert Hart was working in his police car while parked on the side of the highway in Saskatchewan. Without warning, a loaded gravel truck smashed into and ran over his car. Hart survived the incident but he received multiple internal injuries and almost lost his left foot when it was nearly severed. He attributed his survival to the fact that Kevlar bulletproof vest absorbed much of the trauma.

September 30th

1899– #10407/ O.346 Henry Asbjørn Larsen FRGS, one of the RCMP's most famous men was born this day on the east coast of the Oslo Fjord at Fredrikstad, Norway.

Larsen joined the RCMP as a Constable in 1928 and retired as a Superintendent in 1961. Larsen gained worldwide fame as the Captain of the RCMP St. Roch that saw him travel from west to east through the Northwest Passage in 1940-42 and then returning east to west in only one season. He commanded the supply boat for 12 summers and seven 7 winters patrolling the Western Canadian Arctic, supplying northern detachments. He was the recipient of several awards including the Polar Medal and Bar.

1905– Charles King was executed for murder thus ending one of the most famous murder investigations in Saskatchewan history. In the fall of 1904 a well-to-do Englishman; Edward Hayward disappeared from his camp on Lesser Salve Lake. His partner Charles King became the prime suspect when local Indians reported seeing him with all of Hayward's equipment and horses.

Upon receiving the information from the Indians, #2353 Staff Sergeant Kristjan Fjeldsted "Andy" Anderson tracked King and arrested him on the suspicion of murder. King claimed that he and Hayward had separated and were to meet again at Sturgeon Lake. Not believing his story Anderson conducted a painstaking investigation that included tracing King's trail from their base camp and sifting through the fragments of a huge camp fire and finding fragments of bone. At his own expense, Anderson hired Indians to drain a nearby slough and sift through the muddy bottom. There he found; several buttons, a belt buckle, pocketknife and a piece of spinal vertebrae with a bullet embedded in it. He then compared the bullet to his suspect's personal revolver and found that they were the same caliber. When the victim's brother traveled from England to testify at the trial he identified the knife as the one he had given his brother as a gift, and that the buttons were similar to those used by a tailor in their home town.

Anderson who was born in Iceland in 1866 and came to Canada in 1887 was one of the most experienced and respected policemen in the Canadian North. He joined the NWMP in 1889 and retired to pension in 1921. Both of his sons became members of the RCMP; #12655 Norman Anderson and # 12045 Charles Anderson. He died at the age of 82 in 1949.

1974– The RCMP riot squad officers are mobilized on Parliament Hill in Ottawa and stop 200 Native Indian protestors from entering the Parliament Buildings during the official opening of first session of the 30th Parliament.

1994– Retired Corps Sergeant Major Eric B. Young becomes the first Mountie to be awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. C/S/M Young spent 41 years in the RCMP, 21 of which was at the rank of Sergeant Major.