

Regina, Saskatchewan – The Home of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Regina, SK, February 4, 2010 - The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is Canada's national police force, and it's one of the most respected and well-known law-enforcement agencies in the world. Referred to colloquially as Mounties, nothing quite says Canada like the image of Mounties clad in the Force's traditional scarlet tunic. The RCMP will have a strong presence at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, leading the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit, bringing together RCMP, municipal police, military and private security personnel. Interestingly, the nearly 4000 RCMP officers deployed to Vancouver will share more in common than a commitment to keeping the peace. As recruits, they all will all have lived in Regina, Saskatchewan during their training. The RCMP's "Depot" Division located in Regina is considered the "Cradle of the Force," because nearly all RCMP members received their training here. 2010 is the 125th anniversary of "Depot", the RCMP's historic academy.

The stunning RCMP Heritage Centre, located adjacent to the academy, chronicles the story of the Force from the lawless days of the old west, to the challenges of policing in the north, and modern forensic technology. Opened in 2007, the Centre is a stunning glass and stone facility designed by world-renowned architect Arthur Erickson. State-of-the-art technology and multimedia rich galleries educate visitors about the vital role the RCMP has played in shaping Canada's past and present. A 27-minute visual presentation titled *Tour of Duty* is shown in a 124-seat surround sound theatre.

"The RCMP is a national icon and we are so proud to be able to showcase the home of the RCMP and world renowned RCMP Heritage Centre here in Regina," said Robin Etherington, President and CEO, RCMP Heritage Centre. Robin also noted that "the RCMP Heritage Centre served as the official send-off venue for the Olympic Torch Relay in Regina. The event was magical with troops of cadets and RCMP officers in Red Serge in attendance, as well as Elders blessing the Olympic Torch as it was lit. We want everyone who visits the Heritage Centre to experience a magical moment as they learn about the proud history of their RCMP."

On Tuesday evenings from July to mid-August, visitors are invited to join the cadets as they participate in the dazzling RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremonies, presented by "Depot" Division. Experience a true slice of Canadiana as troops in Red Serge take part in this 45-minute ceremony featuring cannon firing, a troop drill display, and the lowering of the flag, followed by the March Past. The RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremonies have been repeatedly named to the American Bus Association's prestigious *Top 100 Events in North America* list. In celebration of the 125th anniversary, a special Sunset ceremony is planned for July 6 in partnership with Forts Walsh and Battleford, Depot, the RCMP Pipe Band and First Nations dancers.

For additional information about the RCMP's Depot Division and the RCMP Heritage Centre, visit:
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/depot/index-eng.htm> and <http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com/>.

For more information about the Saskatchewan Pavilion at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, visit www.saskpavilion.ca. For Saskatchewan travel information, visit www.sasktourism.com.

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