

'COURAGE IN RED'

An inside look at the Mounties

By SHERI LEVINE
Canwest News Service

The men and women in red; Mounties with the funny hats; Musical Ride — just a few things commonly associated with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. But Canadians are about to get to know the RCMP beyond the uniforms, hats and horses in the television documentary series, *Courage in Red*.

The 13-part series, premiering Sunday on the Outdoor Life Network, is an unprecedented look at how these officers in red operate, what they're doing to keep Canadians safe and the dangers they face every day in this post-Columbine-9/11 world.

"It was a huge journey of discovery for myself and my team," says executive producer Colin McKeown. "I didn't realize how many jobs they had. The breadth of their missions is quite huge. It's staggering what they do."

Each episode of *Courage in Red* focuses on a different aspect of the RCMP; topics include the training involved in protecting foreign dignitaries visiting Canada, international peace keeping missions, Emergency Response Teams and the handling of meth and ecstasy labs.

This is the first time the RCMP has allowed such exclusive access. McKeown, who has security classification from his days in the Navy, says his opportunity came out of a combination of good timing, and the credibility he earned from his documentary series *Truth Duty Valour*, which looked at Canada's military and had been viewed by several members of the RCMP. In the end, the Mounties got their man and, in return, allowed McKeown to showcase Canadians the RCMP without any spin or negative connotations.

As McKeown explains, the RCMP has realized the importance of being less mysterious to the public.

"The RCMP is evolving in a very positive way and realizes they need to communicate (more) with Canadians and let them know how they're protecting them," he says. "Five years ago they didn't want to do that because they felt that would be a breach of security and they're a more



Crew member Brian Morris films RCMP members at The Francophonie Summit in Quebec City for an episode of *Courage in Red*.

secretive culture. Wherein today, they want to get that message out."

McKeown adds that it just seemed like an appropriate time to make such a series.

"Everybody knows the RCMP, but people don't know the RCMP," says McKeown.

"They really don't understand all the tasks they have, all the missions they have, all the units they have across Canada and overseas."

Despite the unprecedented access McKeown and his team were given, the RCMP is still very much a covert operation.

"Trust me, there were things we obviously couldn't tape or training they wanted us not to show, but they still need to tell Canadians what some of the units are that

they have and how they're protecting (Canadians). I think they've realized that," says McKeown, citing Episode 12 as just one example. "Clan Labs" focuses on how the RCMP are tackling the country's meth and ecstasy problem.

Out of the 13 episodes, the ones which struck a personal chord with McKeown are "Clan Labs" and "Safe" (Episode 10), because he has children. "Safe" is the name of a strategy developed to provide vital information to RCMP upon arriving at the scene of a school shooting.

"Any parent that watches ('Safe') will be deeply moved," he says. "It hits close to home."

Filming *Courage in Red* was an "eye-opening" experience for McKeown.

"I really didn't understand how much they were involved and in how many things ... They work long past their normal work hours to make sure things happen," says McKeown.

"They're really concerned. I mean, how can you not be if you're in the RCMP because you're exposed to so many bad things? They have a professionalism and dedication that, quite frankly, I haven't seen in too many places."

Courage in Red premieres Sunday on Outdoor Life Network.

STUDY

Genes linked to hoarding

Reuters

NEW YORK — People who have a compulsive urge to collect and clutter their homes with junk can partly attribute their problem to genes, according to a British study.

Researchers from King's College London used a twin study to find that genetic predisposition explained a large amount of the risk for compulsive hoarding — a mental health problem in which people have an overwhelming desire to accumulate items normally considered useless, like old newspapers or junk mail.

Of the more than 5,000 twins in the study, roughly two per cent showed symptoms of compulsive hoarding and genes appeared to account for half of the variance in risk.

The study, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, included both identical and fraternal twins. Identical twins share all of their DNA while fraternal twins share roughly half of their genes, making them no more genetically similar than non-twin siblings.

"Superman Blue to Barbie Pink"

Choices of Shag Carpets are endless

THREE EASY WAYS TO SHOP.

IN-STORE ONLINE IN-HOME

1580 Albert Street • 525-9125
www.carpetone.com

Casino Regina

Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers

November 6 • \$50 & \$45

Memorable harmonies from country's famous brothers.

For tickets visit our Box Office, casinoregina.com, or call 1-800-555-3189. Full entertainment listings available at casinoregina.com

<p>Matt Dusk with Theo Tams November 7 \$30 & \$25</p>	<p>Wayne Lee Live the Laughter Comedy Hypnosis Show November 20 & 21 \$25 & \$20</p>
<p>John Mayall November 17 \$35 & \$30</p>	<p>Michelle Wright I'm Dreaming of a Wright Christmas 2009 Tour November 26 \$30 & \$25</p>

Must be 19 or older • Entertainment subject to change • Prices subject to GST
Bet on a Balance. If you gamble, make it only one of the activities you enjoy.

Early detection saves lives

Your health matters.
Regular Pap tests are important for the early detection of cancer.

For more information call
(306) 359-0550 or 1-800-667-0017.

PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR CERVICAL CANCER



www.saskcancer.ca

SHOWCASE MOVIE

Vacancy
Tonight 11pm
starring Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale



showcase.ca