

September 13, 1996 - Hope, British Columbia

RCMP Constable Doug Lewis was off duty when the call came in – highway patrol had stopped a car for running a tollbooth and the driver had fled into the woods. Lewis had been out exercising his partner PSD Chip, a two-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd Dog, and the pair immediately rushed to the scene.

Lewis was without his bullet-proof vest, gun and radio – but the two Emergency Task Force officers backing him up were well-equipped to deal with any situation. So he clipped the 20-foot longline to Chip's tracking harness and the team headed into the bush.

Nose to the ground and pulling hard, Chip followed the track up the mountainside. The going was rough, the incline steep, and their backup - weighed down with 50-pounds of tactical equipment each - soon lagged behind. Twice they had to shout for Lewis to wait up – the third time, Lewis didn't hear them.

Suddenly, Chip raised his head and looked to the side. Following his partner's gaze, Lewis spotted the silhouette of a man hiding behind a tree. Chip charged, latching onto the man's left arm - but the suspect had a knife in his other hand and, before Lewis could react, he plunged it deep into the dog's neck.

With no weapon to defend himself, and no radio to call for help, Lewis did the only thing he could - he dropped the leash and charged at the suspect. Knocking the officer to the ground, the suspect began stabbing him in the face, arms and chest. Desperate to protect his partner, Chip continued to fight even as he succumbed to his injuries. "I saw Chip standing there – glassy eyed and bleeding heavily from the wound in his neck," Lewis recalls of the last time he saw his partner alive.

When the suspect finally fled into the woods, Lewis ran to the aid of his fallen partner. "I took my t-shirt off and tried to stop the bleeding. I raised Chip's head and he let out a gasp. And there was nothing else there."

Police departments across Canada use specially trained dogs to assist in tracking and apprehending suspects, building and evidence searches, and narcotics detection. A police dog can find a suspect hiding in a building in a fraction of the time it would take human officers, and can quickly locate evidence in a forest or field that would take a team of officers hours to find.

Thirty-two police service dogs have lost their lives in the line of duty in Canada, and although there have been some local tributes, their sacrifice has largely been overlooked. Canadian Pacific Railway Police Constable Doug Marianchuk, who was with Saskatoon Police Canine at the time, felt that Canada fell short when it came to honouring its fallen police dogs. So, in 1998, he founded the Canadian Police Service Dog National Monument Society. "The police service dogs that have paid the supreme sacrifice certainly deserve to be remembered for eternity for what they have done for

society. This monument will do just that,” says Marianchuk of the project that would take the next nine years to complete.

January 23, 2006 – New Westminster, British Columbia

Constable Howard Rutter of the Vancouver Police Dog Squad was taking part in a training exercise with his partner PSD Nitro, an eight-year-old German Shepherd Dog, when they were dispatched to assist stopping a stolen car. As Rutter followed the vehicle into New Westminster, they came upon a railway crossing - finding their path blocked by a passing freight train, the two suspects bailed out of the car and fled, running alongside the train as it slowed to a crawl.

“The train was moving – I knew it was risky,” recalls Rutter of his decision to send Nitro after the fleeing suspects. Running full out, Nitro quickly closed in. Realizing that the dog was gaining on him, one of the suspects turned and leapt onto the train - Nitro leapt after him, catching him by the leg. But the train suddenly lurched as it began to pick up speed and the dog lost its grip. As his partner watched helplessly, Nitro fell onto the tracks and beneath the wheels of the train. He was killed instantly.

Most Canadians would be surprised to learn that, under the Criminal Code of Canada, the most severe charge for intentionally injuring or killing a police dog is cruelty to animals - a summary conviction offence carrying a maximum penalty of six months in prison and/or a \$2000 fine.

Ten years ago, Durham Regional Police Constable Dave Mounstevan’s partner PSD Chase was viciously beaten while protecting his handler. “They kicked him and punched him. He was badly hurt,” recalls Mounstevan. Although Chase recovered from his injuries and eventually returned to work, Mounstevan was frustrated by the fact that the offenders were not punished.

Mounstevan joined forces with RCMP Sergeant Pete Nazaroff, who was encouraging high school students to lobby their Members of Parliament to recognize police service animals under the Criminal Code of Canada. Over the next decade, with the help of Durham Crown Prosecutor John Scott, M.P. Mark Holland and lawyers from the Canadian Professional Police Association, they crafted a bill, traveled to Ottawa, and met with M.P.’s and Cabinet Ministers. Halfway through the process of becoming a law, Parliament was dissolved and the bill died. It recently resurfaced as “Brigadier’s Law” – named for the Toronto Police horse who was killed in the line of duty in February 2006 – and passed first reading last October.

July 22, 2006 – Baltimore, New Brunswick

RCMP Corporal Pierre Gardner and his partner PSD Hrain, a three-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd Dog, had responded to a call about a twenty-five-year-old male, high on crystal meth, who had barricaded himself inside his house and was threatening to commit suicide. As they waited for the Emergency Response Team to

arrive, Gardner and Hrain carefully made their way around to the back of the house. As they reached the backyard, Hrain indicated on a track. Gardner noticed fresh footprints leading from the house to the woods.

Placing Hrain in a down, Gardner stood on the dog's leash as he radioed the E.R.T. Suddenly, Hrain bolted, yanking his leash out from under Gardner's boot. Gardner gave chase, but the dog disappeared into the forest. "I called him, but he never returned," recalls Gardner. A man shouted somewhere in the woods - then silence.

When the E.R.T. team arrived and searched the house, they found a man inside, a fresh dog bite on his leg. With the suspect now in custody, the officers turned their attention to finding their missing comrade - but Hrain was nowhere to be found.

The next day, a search and rescue party was dispatched to comb the woods. At 2:00pm, they discovered Hrain's lifeless body, 150-feet from where his handler had stood calling for him. The post-mortem report concluded that the suspect had strangled Hrain with his collar before beating him to death.

In 2001, Marianchuk, Nazaroff and Mounstevan met in person for the first time at the memorial service for Saskatoon PSD Cyr, who had been shot and killed while apprehending an armed suspect. The three officers worked together to make the monument a reality, but progress was slow. Nazaroff eventually moved on, and was replaced by Sergeant Gord McGuinness of the Vancouver Police Dog Squad. (McGuinness's canine partner, PSD Sabre, had been killed en-route to a call in 1989, two days before Christmas.)

Funding for the project, which is expected to top \$30,000, has come from supporters across Canada. The first donation came from a pre-school class after Marianchuk made a presentation with his partner PSD Foxx in 2003. Singer Shania Twain, an affirmed dog-lover, donated \$5,000. Purina contributed an impressive \$15,000. And the Edmonton Police Service Canine Unit gave \$6,000, donated by the public in memory of PSD Caesar who was shot point-blank in the face as he tried to apprehend a shotgun-wielding man who was making his way towards a schoolyard where children had been celebrating the beginning of summer break.

The search for a suitable location for the monument proved to be the most challenging task – until Marianchuk wrote to Inspector Lawrence Aimoe, Officer in Charge of the RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre in Innisfail, Alberta. "He contacted me the day he received my letter," recalls Marianchuk, "and offered a place at the training centre."

The monument features a life-sized bronze sculpture of a German Shepherd Dog by Alberta artist Diane Anderson. The sculpture sits on a base of exposed aggregate and polished granite, constructed by Alberta stonemason Dave Jardine, on which are inscribed the names of all police dogs killed in the line of duty in Canada, along with their department's crest, partner's name, and the date they died. It also features the poem

“The Working Dog” – an anonymous but heartfelt tribute to the bond between a working dog and its handler.

On a sunny afternoon this past June, the thirty-two fallen dogs were officially remembered when the monument in their honour was unveiled in the memorial garden at the RCMP Police Service Dog Training Centre. Police officers, civilians and canine handlers from across Canada attended the event, along with many of the handlers whose dogs were being honoured. It was a fitting tribute to these brave canine heroes.

Side-Bar 1 - “Honour Roll”

1. PSD CINDY #300T – RCMP (British Columbia)
Killed May 25, 1965
Handler: Cst. R. Stephens
2. PSD REX II #310U – RCMP (Saskatchewan)
Killed June 26, 1966
Handler: Cst. S. Dowich
3. PSD VALIANT #6117 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed December 18, 1967
Handler: Cst. M. Wellman
4. PSD KENO – RCMP (British Columbia)
Killed June 18, 1971
Handler: Cst. W. Buck
5. PSD CLOUD II – Ontario Provincial Police
Killed August 31, 1975
Handler: Cst. R. Carson
6. PSD CZAR – RCMP (Alberta)
Killed March 31, 1976
Handler: Cst. Georgeson
7. PSD JUSTIN #7054 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed May 11, 1976
Handler: Cst. G. Foster
8. PSD PAX #7473 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed July 30, 1977
Handler: Cst. M. Harrower
9. PSD PAT #148 – RCMP (Alberta)
Killed October 6, 1977
Handler: Cst. Georgeson

10. PSD SMOKEY #141 – RCMP (Quebec)
Killed April 6, 1978
Handler: Cst. D. Jean
11. PSD BUZZ #138 – RCMP (Manitoba)
Killed August 30, 1979
Handler: Cst. Coaghie
12. PSD CONAN #8216 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed June 12, 1984
Handler: Cst. S. Gibson
13. PSD GENE #221 – RCMP (British Columbia)
Killed January 8, 1985
Handler: Cst. A. Soneff
14. PSD BOBBY II #7991 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed December 13, 1986
Handler: Cst. E. Petit
15. PSD MECCA #8407 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed October 24, 1988
Handler: Cst. M. Lynch
16. PSD BRIX – Edmonton Police Service
Killed December 5, 1988
Handler: Cst. G. Cook
17. PSD TITUS – Edmonton Police Service
Killed August 27, 1989
Handler: Cst. R. Schreiner
18. PSD SIRK – Calgary Police Service
Killed December 13, 1989
Handler: Cst. Blais
19. PSD SABRE #8720 - Vancouver Police Department
Killed December 23, 1989
Handler: Cst. G. McGuinness
20. PSD ARRY – Edmonton Police Service
Killed July 4, 1990
Handler: Cst. D. Day
21. PSD TROY – Hamilton-Wentworth Police Service
Killed February 25, 1992

- Handler: Cst. P. Johnston
22. PSD AXEL – Regina Police Service
Killed January 3, 1994
Handler: Cst. D. Fedor
 23. PSD CHASE – Victoria Police Department
Killed September 16, 1994
Handler: Cst. B. Clark
 24. PSD CHIP #462 – RCMP (British Columbia)
Killed September 13, 1996
Handler: Cst. D. Lewis
 25. PSD BRANKO #430 – RCMP (New Brunswick)
Killed September 30, 1997
Handler: Cpl. P. Gardner
 26. PSD CAESAR – Edmonton Police Service
Killed June 23, 1998
Handler: Cst. R. Goss
 27. PSD BANDIT #533 – RCMP (Nova Scotia)
Killed June 25, 2000
Handler: Cpl. R. Mosher
 28. PSD CYR – Saskatoon Police Service
Killed May 21, 2001
Handler: Cst. S. Kaye
 29. PSD MASE #546 – RCMP (British Columbia)
Killed May 4, 2002
Handler: Cst. M. Landry
 30. PSD GINO – Calgary Police Service
Killed August 31, 2003
Handler: Cst. D. Leggatt
 31. PSD NITRO #9755 – Vancouver Police Department
Killed January 23, 2006
Handler: Cst. H. Rutter
 32. PSD HRAIN #669 – RCMP (New Brunswick)
Killed July 22, 2006
Handler: Cpl. P. Gardner

33. PSD ROCKY #K9-16 – Medicine Hat Police Service
Died July 29, 2007
Handler: Cst. Darcy Brandt
34. PSD FRED – RCMP (Nova Scotia)
Killed April 16, 2008
Handler: Sgt Marcel Guilbault

“The Working Dog” (engraved on the monument)

My eyes are your eyes,
To watch and protect you and yours.

My ears are your ears,
To hear and detect evil minds in the dark.

My nose is your nose,
To scent the invader of your domain.

And so you may live,
My life is also yours.

Author Unknown