



## Marine Services

### Historical Overview

#### Quick Facts

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has used water transport since the late 1800s.
- The RCMP's role in Canada's marine security is the enforcement of offences related to national security, organized crime, and other federal statutes such as those involving smuggling, illegal drugs, and immigration.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has used water transport since the late 1800s when the sailing vessel *Keewatin* was purchased in 1890 to patrol Lake Winnipeg. Steam-operated boats were used on the Yukon River for patrol and supply transport. The *St. Roch*, built for the RCMP in 1928, was designed for Arctic service as a supply vessel and floating detachment. It was the first ship to navigate the Northwest Passage from Pacific to Atlantic and to circumnavigate the North American continent.

In 1932, the Marine Section was formed when the RCMP took on Department of National Revenue Preventive Services' duties and vessels. With 35 ships (11 seagoing craft), its primary duty was to curtail smuggling in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the east and west coasts. At the start of WWII, the personnel and ships of the RCMP Marine Section were transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy until the end of WWII in 1945.

In 1947, the RCMP Marine Section was officially made a Division with headquarters located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its responsibilities included enforcement of the *Customs and Excise Act*, the *Canada Shipping Act*, and other federal statutes and rescue operations. RCMP Marine Division Headquarters was later transferred to Ottawa, Ontario.

In 1970, RCMP Marine Division was discontinued and various regional divisions took over the operational responsibilities of providing marine services within their boundaries. Implementation and administration of policy was retained at headquarters under a Marine Services Directorate until 1974 when it was transferred to the new Transport Management Branch, Services & Supply Directorate.

In 1994, the Transport Management Branch was reorganized and officially incorporated with the Materiel Management Branch.

# RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Marine Services - Summer 2004

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### Present Duties

The RCMP continues to contribute to national security and to protect Canadians from terrorism, organized crime and other border related criminality, specifically at the ports.

### Marine Security

As of March 8, 2004, the Marine Security and Ports portfolios now fall under the new ***RCMP Marine and Port Initiatives Branch*** within RCMP Border Integrity. The RCMP's role in Canada's marine security is the enforcement of offences related to national security, organized crime, and other federal statutes such as those involving smuggling, illegal drugs, and immigration.

For more information, please visit [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

**RCMP**



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