

Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

Edmonton

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street Edmonton AB T5J 3P4 Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

Commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood

Stuart Taylor Wood was the eighth Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, following in the footsteps of his father who served the Royal North West Mounted Police.

Commissioner Wood was born on October 17, 1889 near Napanee, Ontario. He attended the Upper Canada College in Toronto, Ontario and later attended the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, from where he graduated in 1912.

Shortly after graduation, Wood secured a commission in the Royal North West Mounted Police. During the First World War, Wood served in France and Belgium as a lieutenant of a cavalry squadron, and upon returning to Canada in 1919, he served at various posts in the Yukon. He also held the appointments of Justice of the Peace, Coroner, Sheriff, Game Inspector and Customs Officer.



Following his northern service, Wood was posted to western Canada. In 1935, he attended a four month course at Scotland Yard studying police methods of France, Belgium and the United States. Following the course he was appointed Director of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the RCMP with the assignment to modernize police operations and techniques.

Following the death of Commissioner Sir James MacBrien, Wood was appointed Commissioner in 1938. As Commissioner during the Second World War, he helped form the First Provost Company known as the Canadian Provost Corps for overseas service, helped establish a system of registration for immigrants, and dealt with the espionage cases of 1945 to 1946. He opened up new detachments in the North, organized a permanent RCMP Band, established the first RCMP scientific laboratory and museum in Regina, along with the first RCMP horse breeding station at Fort Walsh, improved wireless communication and broadcasting, instituted a preventive policing program directed towards youth, and negotiated provincial policing contracts for Newfoundland and B.C.

In 1943 Commissioner Wood became a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and in 1947, was awarded the Medal of Freedom with Silver Palm by the United States Government.

Commissioner Wood retired from the Force on May 1, 1951. He died on January 4, 1966 in Ottawa and is buried in the RCMP cemetery in Regina.





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Information compiled by: Danielle Ferchoff April 2013

CITATION ON FILE

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "RCMP Commissioners. Stuart Taylor WOOD." Accessed 23 April 2013. http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/hist/comms-lst-eng.htm

The British Empire. "Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Stuart Taylor Wood." Accessed 23 April 2013. http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/canadiancavalry/rcmpwood.htm



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