

Cst. Diotte C.E.



DIOTTE, CHRISTINE ELIZABETH - CST. Regimental No. 45279
March 12, 2002 - Banff, Alberta Age: 35

Christine Elizabeth Diotte was born on September 15, 1966, at Fort William, Ontario. She attended Fort William Collegiate High School, graduating in 1985,. Post secondary education included a Bachelor of Arts (Geography and Psychology) from University of Manitoba in 1989, and a Cartographic Technician Diploma in 1991, from Sir Sanford Fleming College, in Lindsay, Ontario. Christine held a life long dream of joining the RCMP. This dream came true on October 20, 1995, as Christine began cadet training in Depot. Upon successful completion on May 6, 1996, Cst. Christine Diotte was engaged as a Regular Member of the RCMP, and posted to "K" Division, Hinton Municipal Detachment. She was ecstatic about her first post, given her love for the majestic Rocky Mountains.

In short order, Christine became a very active community member, volunteering countless hours to the Hinton Victim Services Unit. She became a very strong and valued role model to the students she mentored in community DARE classes. Her determination, personal commitment, and enthusiasm shone, in doing a job she loved to do.

While posted at Hinton, Christine came to meet Cst. Mario Diotte, and on March 17, 1998, she and Mario exchanged their vows at Magens Bay Beach, US Virgin Islands. The couple transferred to Banff Detachment on June 29th, 2001, very pleased to receive another post in the Alberta Rockies. Christine gave of herself unselfishly, for the betterment of her community and the RCMP. She continued to instruct DARE, as well as undertaking to train a cadet, Constable David Davis.

On March 12, 2002 at approximately 08:30, Cst. Diotte and Cst. Davis set out to investigate a roll over motor vehicle accident eight kilometers west of Banff. Weather conditions were poor and deteriorating, as a snow storm set into the Rocky Mountain range. The highway was extremely icy. Upon arriving at the scene, the members parked the police vehicle on the shoulder of the highway, and were in the process of setting up warning equipment.

Cst. Diotte was at the rear of the police vehicle and Cst. Davis was on the passenger side as a Ford Excursion was traveling westbound, in a group of four vehicles, approaching the scene at estimated speed of 90 km ph. The driver lost control on the icy highway, sending the Excursion into a passenger side slide. The vehicle collided with the rear of the police cruiser. Cst. Diotte was initially pinned between the vehicles, then thrown further west onto the highway. Cst Davis was struck by either the PC or the Excursion and thrown approximately 90 meters into the North ditch.

Two doctors happened to be traveling by at the time and immediately attended to the injured. Attempts were made to transport the severely injured members to Calgary via STARS Air Ambulance, but due to inclement weather this was not possible. Both members were

transported to the Banff Hospital via road ambulance, where they were met by S/Sgt MacDonald, the NCO i/c Banff Detachment, and Cst Mario Diotte.

Cst. Christine Diotte succumbed to her injuries, with her husband at her side. Cst. Davis sustained serious internal injury, was stabilized at Banff Hospital, and transported to Calgary Foothills via ground ambulance. There was only one reported injury in the Excursion, that being a passenger who received a very minor facial injury.

A full regimental funeral was held in Banff on 2002-03-18, one day after Christine and Mario's fourth wedding anniversary. Despite the extensive pain that Cst. Davis suffered as result of his injuries, he courageously donned his Red Serge and was transported by ambulance from the Foothills Hospital, Calgary to attend his trainer's funeral. He valiantly rose from his wheelchair to pay respect to his fallen colleague and confidante, giving her one final salute during the pass by. Cst. Christine Elizabeth Diotte was laid to eternal rest in the Field of Honour in Canmore, deep in the heart of the Alberta Rockies.

Christine is survived by her loving husband, Reg. No. 39932, Cst. Mario Diotte; step daughters, Amy and Gina; parents, John and Maryanne Fish, sister Lesley, Brothers Jonathan(Michelle) and Matthew , and a myriad of friends and colleagues.