

Jubilee medal for superintendent

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"If I was awarded this medal it's on account of the efforts of a lot of people, not just my own."

Donald Griggs, superintendent of the Monteith Correctional Centre is another recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal--the medal awarded to outstanding citizens in 1977 in honour of Her Majesty's 25th anniversary on the throne.

Mr. Griggs, who has been at the Monteith Centre going on ten years has spent 30 years working with the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. He started with them at the Ontario Reformatory in Mimico where he progressed to becoming the superintendent of the Alex G. Brown Memorial Clinic.

It was in Mimico where he also developed the Ontario program for sexual deviates. He said of his arrival in the north, "Imagine my shock when I was transferred here and there were no programs at all."

Since his arrival here ten years ago an entire agenda of new programs have been instituted for the inmates. These include day care programs, therapeutic programs, and in particular liaison with Northern College in Timmins. In this latter program 24 inmates are bused in to the college in Timmins for courses to further their education.

"With the new permissive legislation we may now send people out in volunteer programs," said Mr. Griggs. "Among these, many inmates have shared in planting trees, in work parties at Camp Wasquesiu painting at St. Mark's Anglican Church and assisting with renovations at Trinity United Church to name a few."

"In other words," said Mr. Griggs, "we are now permitted ventilation where we can invite the public to come into the centre, and we have outreach going out of the institution."

"Within the institution itself, there has been expanded trade

training in the Adult Training Centre to include painting, decorating, quantity cooking, small motors, oil burner course, trowel trades and carpentry."

Mr. Griggs, who is one of five superintendents in the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services to receive the Silver Jubilee Medal, added, "A superintendent is only as good as his staff and in these past ten years, I certainly have been blessed with an excellent staff."

"I'd like to say how much I've enjoyed my work in the north and how I have appreciated the way the staff rose to the challenge of new ideas and new programs."

*Mr D. Griggs. N.C.C
Super, receives recognition
for his many years of
service*