

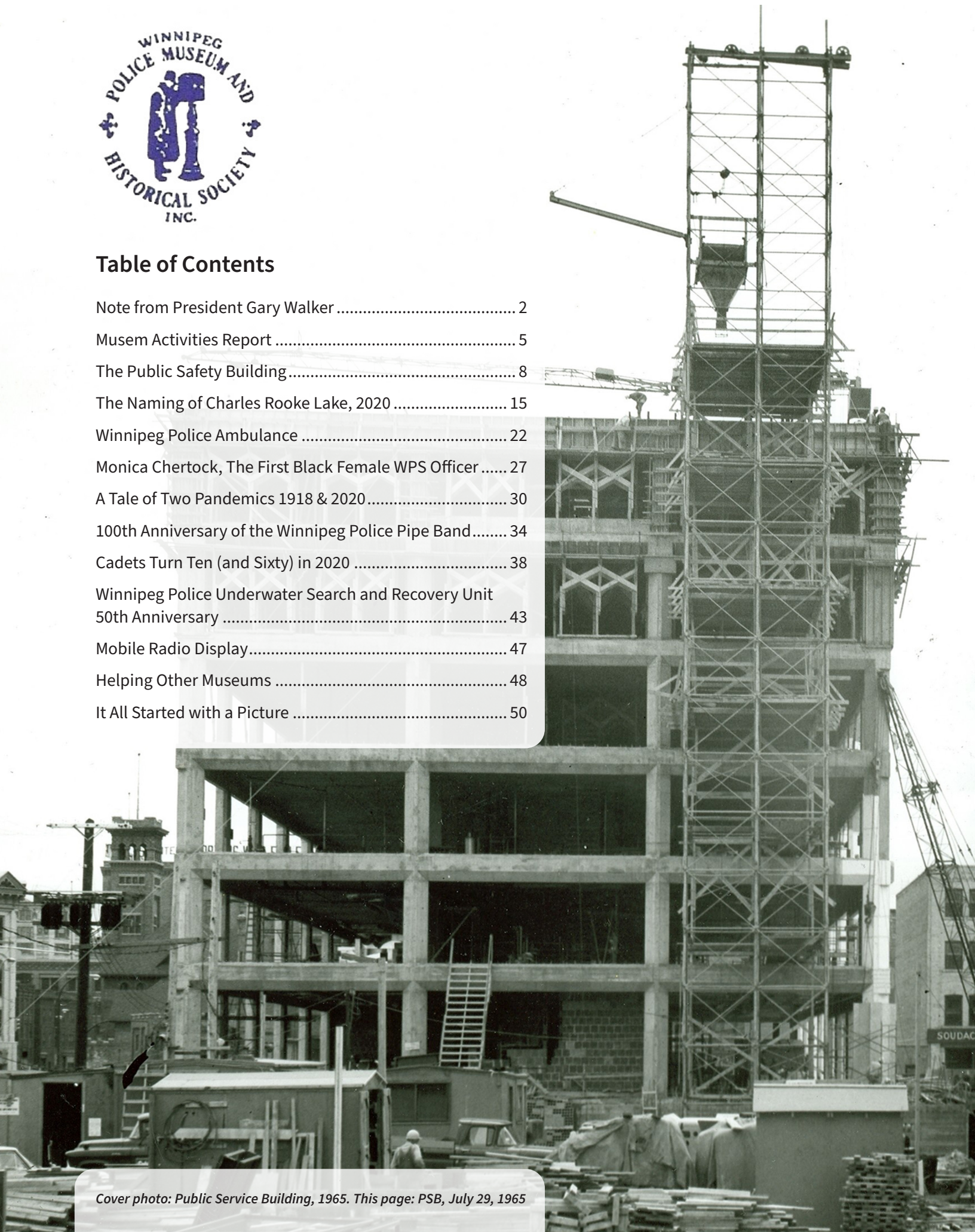


Winnipeg Police Museum  
& Historical Society Inc.  
2020 Annual Report



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# Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society

## Note from President Gary Walker

I would first like to acknowledge the support of the Board Members who generously give of their time. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (see John Burchill's story on the pandemic later in the report) we had less than six Regular Meetings this past year and fewer Executive Meetings were needed. However there is much more to being on the Board than just meetings. John Burchill managed to finish two books on the Provincial Police in 2020, including a story on Charles Rooke (later in this report) who John successfully lobbied to have a lake named in his honour.

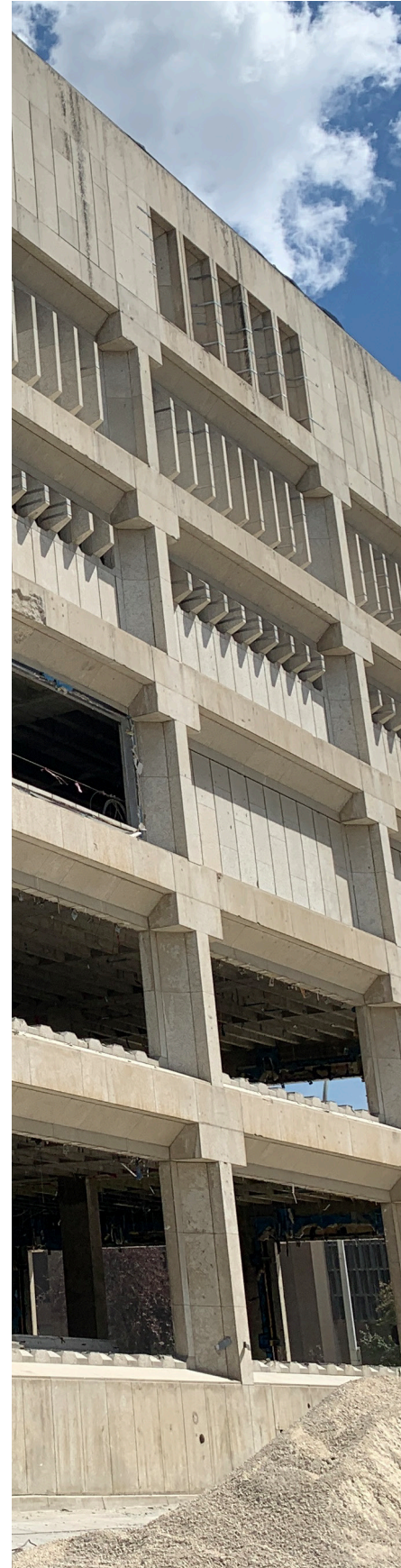
Although the Museum was closed for half of 2020, members of the Board emailed extensively regarding issues needing to be addressed or implemented and often much more. The Board continues to be guided by its strategic and business plans developed in 2019 to promote the preservation, collection and exhibition of artifacts related to policing in Manitoba for the future. The Board is very much responsible for the oversight of the Museum including the financials, of which we have a fiduciary responsibility and are indeed liable. This is not taken lightly. So... I thank you all for your efforts and involvement.

Also at this time I would like to acknowledge on behalf of the Board and myself personally, all the incredible support we receive from our Volunteers who often donate not just time but often perform the real 'grunt' work, especially Peter Korzeniowski, Rod Hutter, and Tammy Skrabeck in acquiring and assembling shelving for our storage facilities. While the Board values all of our volunteers, I would be remiss if I did not once again single out Derk Derin. He is our "go to" person for just about everything that needs repairing and/or restoring. Thank you Derk.

I want to thank our major sponsors as well; The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) for their support in providing a phenomenal space for the Museum, the Winnipeg Police Association for its ongoing support of the Museum, and the Winnipeg Police Credit Union whose continued and long-time support is very much appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge all of the retired WPS members and the current serving members who support the museum through payroll deduction.

A huge thank you goes to our Curator Tammy Skrabeck. The Museum has gone through many challenges and changes since its inception and will continue to do so. Tammy has embraced the museum with a keen eye and vision for the future which she demonstrates almost daily in planning displays. The Board feels the Museum is in very good hands. Thank you Tammy.

The Board published a 2019 Annual Report in 2020 and it is available on the webpages for those who want to peruse same. It is an excellent read and an impressive document. Thanks again to John Burchill and Rod Hutter for putting it together.



In recognition of Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2020 saw the creation of a display remembering the Manitoba Provincial Police, which existed from Manitoba's entry into Confederation until 1932. The Museum honoured the members of this force which was absorbed into the RCMP during the Great Depression in 1932. Exhibits were collected and showcased from surviving family members. It was supplemented by several videos and magazine articles prepared by John Burchill. This exhibit received rave reviews from the many people that managed to see it and indeed was a 'must see' during Open Doors Winnipeg held during the summer. As the Museum was closed for much of 2020, the display will remain up for 2021.

In addition, Tammy completed an exhibit honouring the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WPS Pipes and Drums. Pipe Major Doug Roxburgh contributed an article for this year's report on the history of the pipe band starting in 1920.

This past year saw the demolition of the Public Safety Building. Originally built in 1965, it was the headquarters for the Winnipeg Police from 1966 until 2016. Pictures of the construction and demolition of the building grace the cover of this year's annual report.

The Museum has a fleet of 20 vehicles which includes trailers. This did not change since 2019. Not all are operational due to a myriad of circumstances and some indeed won't ever be, i.e.: Hovercraft. We do take two of our operational cruiser cars on activities as required. This could be funeral requests and or weddings. We still have two Cushmans that



*Manitoba Provincial Police Display at Winnipeg Police Museum 2020*

are being restored. This is in partnership with MITT who has students assigned to the project. Due to COVID, however, there was no work done on them in 2020 as many schools were closed in the province.

In keeping with vehicles, Tammy has written an excellent article for this year's report on the Police Ambulance, which operated from 1911-1975. Practically unthinkable today, especially as we read about the Fire Paramedic Service trying to disengage from providing ambulatory service, it was just one of the many things that was (and is) expected of the police to do on a daily basis.

Although closed, the Museum has continued to run its Gift Shop virtually. Thanks really go out to Board Members Chris Lundgren and Ernie Tomchuk and again Tammy for keeping it operational. The shop has seen an increase in sales activity and clothing items available. The Museum doesn't make a lot of money on these sales but it indeed increases virtual traffic and interest in the Museum and our history.

We look forward to 2021 which will no doubt see further changes and advancements for your very progressive Winnipeg Police Museum!

## Winnipeg Police Museum 2020

# ACTIVITIES REPORT

Secretary Rod Hutter

### 2020 AGM & Elections

The Winnipeg Police Museum hosted our Annual General Meeting inside the main Museum on January 20. This year the Board had 4 Director positions that expired upon completion of the regular 3-year terms, and two additional positions where one Director left the Board to assume the Curator's position, and one Board member resigned.

Incumbent Board members John Burchill, Gord Perrier, Ernie Tomchuk and Peter Korzeniowski were all re-elected to 3-year terms, while new members Larry Rea and Norm Rimmer were elected to fill the separate 2-year and 1-year terms.

The AGM also sees the appointment of the auditor, and once again Mr. Ron Storozuk was chosen to oversee the Museum's financial affairs. Mr. Storozuk is a retired partner of the firm Deloitte & Touche and has been assisting with the Museum's Financial Reporting for many years.

### Executive Appointments

In accordance with the Museum's Bylaws, the Board Executive Members are normally appointed at the next regular meeting after the AGM. This was held on February 10, 2020 with the following appointments being ratified:

- President – Gary Walker
- Vice-President – John Burchill
- Treasurer – Joe Gallagher
- Secretary – Rod Hutter

### Cushman Servi-Car Project

The Museum previously entered into a partnership with the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (M.I.T.T.) to restore 2 Cushman Servi-Cars. M.I.T.T. students were going to restore one to its original condition which would be used as an

exhibit, and the other they proposed to convert to an alternative fuel source which could be used for events such as parades.

Though limited by the pandemic, work continued on these vehicles during 2020. As one Cushman would be converted to an alternative fuel source, many original parts were removed and used to restore the better one to its original running condition. This involved swapping the fuel tank and installing a new fuel sending unit and gauges. Other repairs included the carburetor, clutch, electrical system, braking system, rear axel, and new tires.

Upcoming work will include replacement of the exhaust system and repairing the front suspension where a steering arm was found to be excessively worn.



### PSB Monument Relocation

Work continued with the relocation of the PSB Courtyard monument which consisted of the quarystone lintel from the original Rupert Street Police Headquarters, along with a Fire Department call box and a Police Department call box. The lintel was removed and held in storage by the demolition contractor and the call boxes were removed and stored in the Museum warehouse.

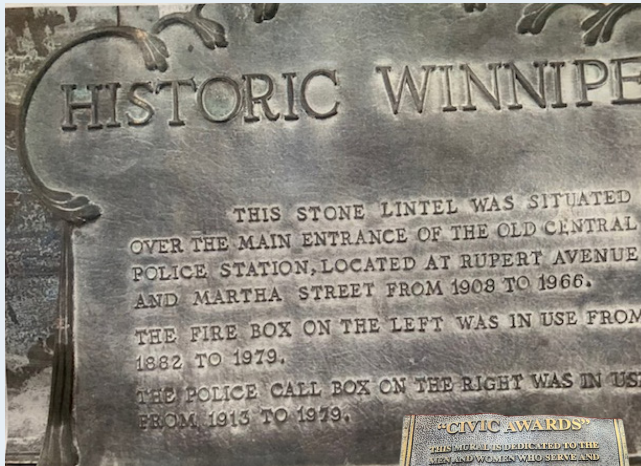
Derk Derin restored both call boxes which were disassembled, sandblasted and repainted. Each

breaks down into 3 main components consisting of the base, centre post, and the signal box.

Through consultation with the WPS Executive and the City of Winnipeg PSB demolition Project Lead, it was decided to place the monument at the south-west corner of the HQ Building (St. Mary Avenue side). Piles were added and a contractor poured a lower concrete base. As suggested by the contractor and accepted by the City, instead of pouring a secondary base (sometimes referred to as a plinth) for the lintel to sit on, large quarrystone blocks were cut instead.

Though it took additional time to cut the blocks, the monument was assembled in the late fall. From here the 2 call boxes will be installed in the early spring of 2021 when the weather starts to warm up.

The Museum would like to thank The WPS Executive, Fast Track Construction, and the PSB Demolition Team Project Manager Brent Pinuta, for all their help and assistance with this project.



## Plaque Rescue from the PSB

A number of bronze dedication plaques were removed from the Public Safety Building by the demolition contractor and turned over to the Police Museum for safekeeping. One for the PSB courtyard monument was reinstalled upon the monument's relocation to the HQ building.

## Pipe Band Project

Planning for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band partnered with the Museum in 2018 to research and assemble their history over the last 100 years. The Museum assisted with successful grant applications from Heritage Manitoba and the project was finally completed in 2020. Congratulations to the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band on achieving 100 years of rich history and heritage!



## Radio Display

Derk Derin concluded another long-term project where he assembled a large display of mobile and portable radios known to be used by the Winnipeg Police. Being a radio enthusiast himself, Derk possesses considerable knowledge of the radios and how they evolved over the years.

All this categorized equipment can now be viewed in the main Museum and is one of the most extensive collections around.



## Winnipeg Archives Shelving Donation

What started at the end of 2019 came to a conclusion during the summer of 2020, with Museum volunteers removing the last pieces

of a large donation of commercial grade shelving from the City of Winnipeg Archives Building.

The Police Museum was included with many other City Departments to receive a portion of the decommissioned shelving after Archives moved to their current location at 50 Myrtle while the building at 380 William was being renovated.



for years by Derk Derin, who was very excited at the prospect of receiving another one to work with.

The robot was turned over to the Museum in September, and an assessment determined it required a new car battery to make it operational again. The Museum would like to thank the WPS Executive, Inspector Brian Miln (former Bomb Unit Coordinator and Inspector of Division 50 operational Support) and Sgt. Ari Berdesis (current Bomb Unit Coordinator) for their consideration with turning over this valued historical equipment to the Museum.

## Museum Warehouse upgrades

In 2020 the Police Museum installed a state-of-the-art camera surveillance system at our storage warehouse to augment the alarm system, increase security, and help protect the materials, artifacts and equipment stored within. We would like to thank Al Gural from the City of Winnipeg Radio Shop for his expertise and assistance with this endeavour.



## Bomb Robot Donation

The Winnipeg Police Bomb Unit had an old Bomb Robot in storage that had been decommissioned for many years. They contacted the Museum to see if there was any interest in the equipment which included a separate control centre. Naturally the

Museum was ecstatic at the prospect as we already restored the original Police Bomb Unit truck, and possessed the first bomb robot that was purchased as surplus from the Canadian Military. This first robot has been maintained and kept operational



# PSB

## The City of Winnipeg Public Safety Building

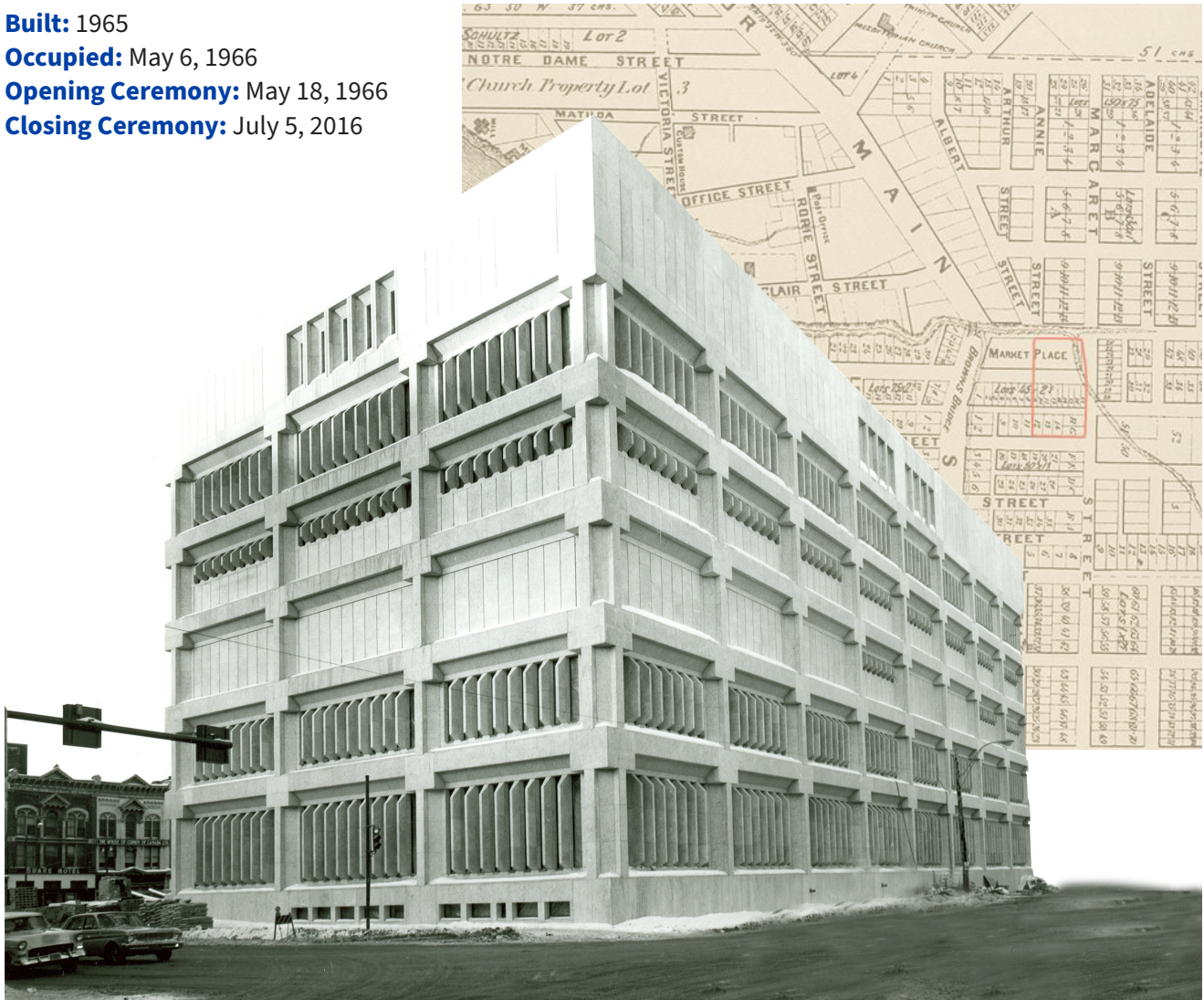
By Secretary Rod Hutter

**Built:** 1965

**Occupied:** May 6, 1966

**Opening Ceremony:** May 18, 1966

**Closing Ceremony:** July 5, 2016



In 1908, the Winnipeg Police Force moved into their new Central Police Headquarters (A Division) located on the SW corner of Rupert Street and Louise Avenue. They worked out of this building for many years as the force increased in size to meet the demands of a rapidly growing city. By the early 1960s, the station had become overcrowded and dilapidated with numerous complaints about the terrible conditions both the officers and arrested

persons had to endure. Though money was tight, the City commenced planning for a new building with the concept of amalgamating all emergency services into one location, on land adjacent to the City Hall Council and Administration buildings.

This considered property was originally owned by the family of Alexander Ross, a Scottish-born fur trader who emigrated to Upper Canada (Ontario) somewhere around 1805. Ross was prominent in





establishing trading posts for the John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company (1811), which was acquired by the North West Company (in 1813), and later merged with the Hudson's Bay Company (in 1821). After exploring large territories for the Hudson's Bay Company in both the present-day USA and Canada, ROSS eventually settled in the Red River Colony where he served as the Sheriff, Postmaster and member of Council.

From our own history, Winnipeg was incorporated as a City on November 8, 1873, however elections were not actually held until January 5, 1874. It was later, on June 7, 1875, when 3rd generation members of the Ross family donated a one-half hectare portion of their original 100-acre river lot to the fledgling city for the purposes of establishing a market. The donation came with a condition, that the land would always be kept and used for civic purposes, otherwise ownership would revert back to the family. This land, bounded by present-day William

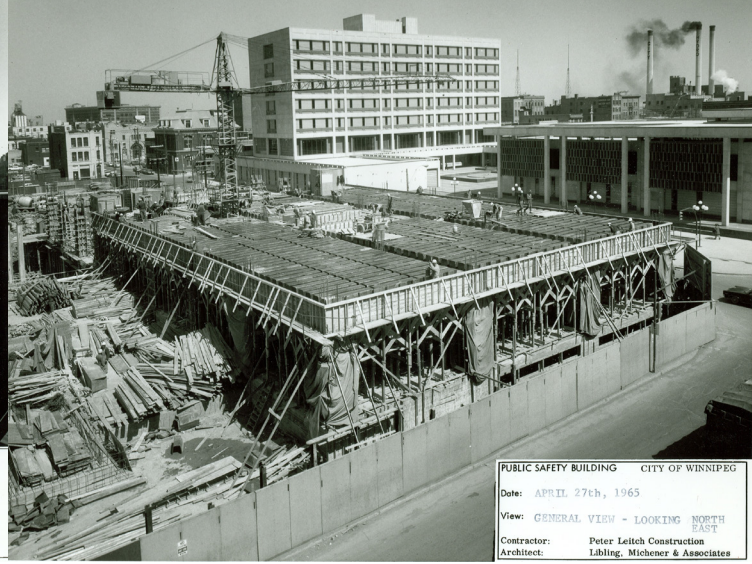
Avenue on the south, Princess Street on the west, Main Street on the east, and what used to be Market Avenue on the north, initially became home to the second City Hall (planned in 1883 and built by 1886), and the "Old Market Square" (built in 1889 where the PSB was later constructed). The market building was torn down in 1964/1965 when the area was restructured for the Public Safety Building.



The second City Hall was a large Victorian style building fraught with structural problems and would often be referred to as the "Gingerbread House". This was demolished in 1962 to make way for the current City Hall Building that was



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
 Date: January 25th, 1965  
 View: EXCAVATION, LOOKING EAST  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CITY OF WINNIPEG  
 Date: APRIL 27th, 1965  
 View: GENERAL VIEW - LOOKING NORTH EAST  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates

completed in 1964 at the cost of about 8.2 million dollars. Afterwards on December 21, 1964, Winnipeg City Council awarded a contract for the construction of the new Public Safety Building and Civic Parkade at a cost of \$4.8 million.

The PSB was designed by Libling Michener & Associates and the majority of its construction occurred throughout 1965. The building architecture was classified as the “brutalist style of modernism”, a design starting to emerge with other prominent Winnipeg buildings of that time. Similar structures in this classification included the new City Hall, the Centennial Concert Hall, the Museum of Man and Nature/Planetarium, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Royal Canadian Mint, and the original Winnipeg International Airport. Emulating this style, the PSB was designed as a fortress and certainly looked like one.

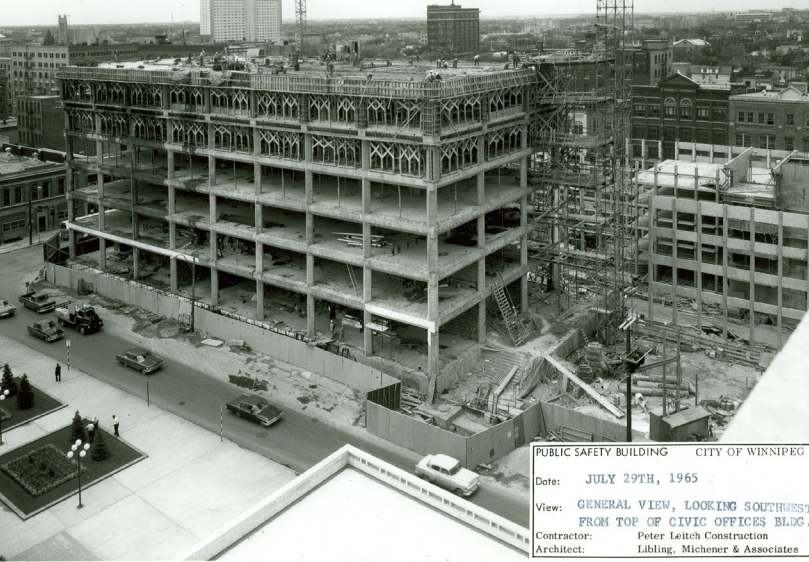
The PSB contained the new “999” emergency service, along with modernized Police Communications and the municipal fire-alarm dispatch centre, which all combined to provide emergency servicing for the whole Metropolitan area of Greater Winnipeg.

In addition, the building also contained 4 court rooms, cell block/detention areas for 145 men and 32 women, a modern garage, and crime investigation facilities. The 6-storey “airconditioned offices” accommodated the Detective, Morality, Traffic and Patrol Divisions, along with the Central Registry, Court offices, Fire and Police administrative offices, Signal Department, Corps of Commissionaires, and an office set aside to

accommodate a proposed new Juvenile Division. The new building was considered to be “well located, well designed, and functionally planned to meet Police requirements” in a modern time.

Initially, the PSB floorplan and occupancy consisted of:

- 7th Floor: elevator Penthouse
- 6th Floor: mechanical/ventilation and maintenance offices (west side), storage rooms (east side)
- 5th Floor: Police Executive, administration and internal affairs (east side), Fire Executive, administration and Fire Prevention (west side), and Cafeteria (NE corner)
- 4th Floor: men’s Jail (ranges and pens), intake, and drunk tank
- 3rd Floor: Court Rooms x 4 and Women’s Jail
- 2nd Floor: Bureau of Police Records (BPR-south end from elevators), Crime Division (west side), Vice Division (known as the Morality Division-east side) which also included offices for the proposed Juvenile Division)
- Main Floor: Station Duty, 999 emergency Services, Superintendent and Inspector offices (south end), Traffic (east side from elevators to north end), Fire communications (SE corner), Police communications (SW corner), Clerk of the Courts, Magistrates and cashiers (west side from the elevators to the north end)
- PSB Basement: Locker rooms (NE corner and east side), Div 11 (north end), City Signals (south end) Electrical Rooms – SW corner,



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CITY OF WINNIPEG  
 Date: JULY 29TH, 1965  
 View: GENERAL VIEW, LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM TOP OF CIVIC OFFICES BLDG.  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CITY OF WINNIPEG  
 Date: FEBRUARY 28TH, 1966  
 View: 5TH FLOOR - SOUTH END - OFFICES  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates

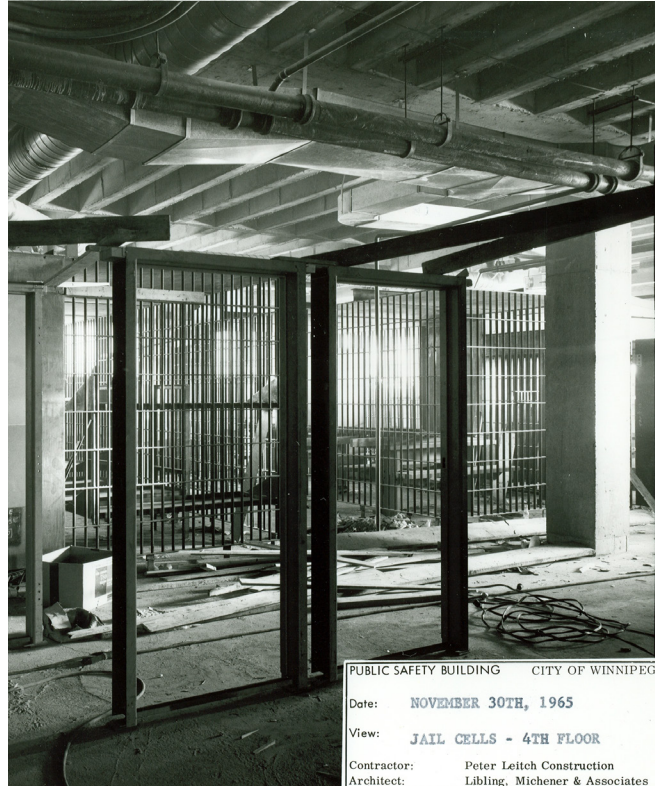
Caretakers – South end Quartermaster stores (west side)

- Parkade Basement: vehicle Parking, shooting range, garage staffed with mechanics and city signals (north end)

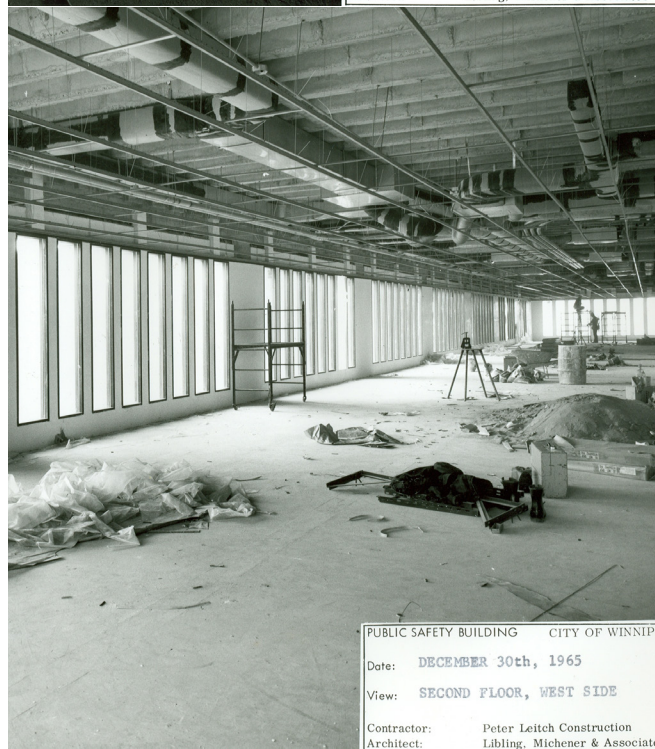
As all the civic departments moved into the PSB after its opening, the building instantly filled to maximum capacity - right from the very beginning.

Over the next few years profound changes occurred within the building which remained congested. The Police Garage relocated to 55 Princess. The Signals department moved out as well and the Police Court Unit eventually took over their offices. The communications centre moved to the 6th Floor, and growing reliance on computers and related systems gave rise to the I.T. department who also set up within office space on the 6th floor.

The opening of the new Provincial Remand center in October of 1992 sealed the fate of the jails located on the 3rd and 4th floors which were decommissioned. After a massive renovation during 1999/2000, the 4th Floor became home to the Bureau of Police Records (south end), the new Communications Centre (west side), and Direct Voice Entry, along with administrative offices and a boardroom (east side). The third floor became Division 11 General Patrol (west side), and Division 41 (east side) which consisted of Youth Division, Sex Crimes, Child Abuse and Missing Persons. Traffic Division took over the entire east side of the main floor while the west side became station duty, the Police Information Offices/Media Room, and Division 30 Building Services.



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CITY OF WINNIPEG  
 Date: NOVEMBER 30TH, 1965  
 View: JAIL CELLS - 4TH FLOOR  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CITY OF WINNIPEG  
 Date: DECEMBER 30th, 1965  
 View: SECOND FLOOR, WEST SIDE  
 Contractor: Peter Leitch Construction  
 Architect: Libling, Michener & Associates



Quartermaster Stores moved out into a satellite building on Notre Dame, and the Tactical Support Team took over their former offices in the basement. The Fire Department also moved from the 5th floor, and their executive office spaces were taken over by the WPS Street Crime Unit along with the Internet Exploitation Unit (ICE).

Aside from overcrowding and congestion, the PSB also suffered from another design shortcoming that ultimately marked the beginning of its end. In reality, the building was actually doomed right from the start and saw the exterior limestone cladding degrading over the years. Due to moisture seeping in between the cladding, and the relentless freeze-thaw cycles of the Winnipeg climate, the steel anchors holding the limestone sections began to corrode, break, and separate the exterior panels from their braces. Stone sections began to fall away resulting in the application of steel strapping to help keep the panels in place. To eliminate the immediate risk of persons being struck by falling stone, in 2006 the city enclosed the sidewalk around the PSB with a sheltered walkway at the cost of \$100,000.

Several factors complicated the PSB problem and limited options for the property that could be explored or considered by the city.

### **Construction**

The PSB had 2 significant problems, the corroding steel anchors holding the limestone cladding on the exterior, and the levels of asbestos used within the interior. To renovate the building would be extremely expensive, complicated, and time-consuming.

### **Civic Parkade**

The Civic Parkade also suffered from design flaws. Over the years the concrete began to delaminate, fall apart, and become unsound. This required the installation of heavy steel bracing to maintain structural integrity of the parkade. The rate of degradation however began to surpass the shoring efforts which resulted in the eventual closure of the parkade and ensured its future demolition. Concrete issues also affected the tunnel system which joined the parkade to the PSB, Council Building and Administration Building. Cracks and leaks were constantly repaired, however the tunnel eventually became unstable and had to be closed down.

### **Campus Concept**

What was supposed to be a great strength turned out to be a weakness for development. City Hall was built based on the campus concept where buildings and infrastructure were all linked together. Backup heating and electrical systems for the PSB, Council and Admin buildings were located in the Parkade basement and upper floors. The PSB and Civic Parkade were directly adjoined by the common underground garage and tunnel systems. No one area could be severed from the other without extensive (and expensive) changes to key infrastructure and renovation.

### **Land Donation**

As the land was originally donated to the city with the condition it always be used for civic purposes, and since both the Council Building and Administration Building were already situated on this land, it would have to be sub-divided to



separate it from the PSB and parkade. Any division and offer for sale would need to involve the Ross family descendants of which there were 19 identified members.

It is interesting to note, where many buildings in the exchange and market districts were over 100 years old, structurally sound, and being extensively renovated and repurposed, the Public Safety Building and Civic Parkade reached the end of their viable lifespan within 50 years.

In 2009, the City purchased the former Canada Post Building at 245 Smith Street with the intention of renovating the warehouse and mail processing plant to become the next Police Headquarters Building. This endeavour would later see its own fair share of rising costs and controversy.

The building and redevelopment of the HQ building neared completion in 2016 which saw the gradual migration of Police units to their new Headquarters. As in the past, satellite offices were closed and everything moved into the one central location. With all transitions completed, the PSB officially closed with a ceremony held on July 15, 2016.

It took another 4 years to clear out and prepare the PSB and attached Civic Parkade for demolition. The asbestos abatement and demolition contracts were awarded to Rakowski Cartage and Wrecking.



## Winnipeg Police Headquarters since inception:

### Winnipeg Police Station

William/Main  
1874 - 1883

### Winnipeg Police Court Building

223 James  
1883 - 1908

### Winnipeg Police Central Police Station

Rupert/Louise  
1908 - 1966

### Winnipeg Police Public Safety Building

151 Princess  
1966 - 2016

### Winnipeg Police HQ Building

245 Smith  
2016 - Present



## Demolition of the Civic Parkade and PSB proceeded with the following timeline:

### MAY 6, 2019

Demolition permit secured for the Civic Parkade and PSB. Overall costs to demolish the Civic Parkade and PSB along with readying the land for development estimated at 9.7 million.

### JUNE 3, 2019

Contract awarded for the abatement of hazardous materials in the Civic Parkade. Work to begin on June 6 and expected to conclude within 4-6 weeks.

### JULY 24, 2019

Abatement of hazardous materials in the Civic Parkade nearing completion with the same work commencing in the PSB.

### SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Control of the property turned over to the demolition contractor.

### JANUARY 8, 2020

Discovery of additional asbestos materials in the PSB extends the abatement timeline by 3 months to October 2020. Soft-stripping of partitions and fixtures in the PSB ongoing.

### JANUARY 21, 2020

Exterior demolition commences on the north side of the Civic Parkade.

### MARCH 23, 2020

Demolition of the above grade structure of the Civic Parkade is complete.

### APRIL 29, 2020

Abatement efforts in the PSB completed. Unforeseen work relating to hydro infrastructure, signal controls and water service delays the start of PSB demolition.

### JUNE 2, 2020

Removal of demolition material from the PSB commenced.

### SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

PSB removed to grade level and demolition of the basement commences.

### NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Last of the site work ongoing. Placement of final gravel topping and installation of gravel fence.

### NOVEMBER 30, 2020

## DEMOLITION COMPLETE

The demolition of the PSB and Civic parkade marked the end of an era, and the land is now essentially at the same state it was in 1964 after the demolition of the Market Building. The next stage for this property is still undecided. The City of Winnipeg plans to retain the land, and Centre Venture has been chosen to explore and present options for future civic owned development.

*52.695133 latitude & -99.353277 longitude*

*The Naming of*  
**CHARLES  
ROOKE  
LAKE**

By John Burchill,  
Vice-President

Charles Proctor Rooke,  
the second member  
of the Manitoba  
Provincial Police to  
die in the line of duty.



In 2016 I was named to a working group under Manitoba’s Geographical Names Program to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of fallen police and peace officers in Manitoba by naming geographical features, such as lakes, after them.

In recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Manitoba Provincial Police in 2020, I recommended that a lake be named in the honour of Charles Proctor Rooke, the second member of the Manitoba Provincial Police to die in the line of duty.

Amid the pandemic and naming lakes for Manitoba’s war fallen World War I soldiers; Charles Rooke Lake was officially named on November 20, 2020. The lake is located at 52.695133 latitude and -99.353277 longitude in the Interlake region of central Manitoba.

*Charles Proctor Rooke* was born in Redhill, Surrey, England, on May 5, 1876. His father, Surgeon Benjamin Proctor (B.P.) Rooke, served as Inspector-General in the British Army in Bombay and was also a Honourary Physician to Queen Victoria. His uncle,

Thomas Charles Bye Rooke, also a surgeon, married into the royal family of the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was the adoptive father of Emma Grace Rooke who married King Kamehameha IV of Hawaii in 1856. Thomas Rooke also served as a representative to the legislature of the Hawaiian Kingdom from 1851–1855, and in 1858 was appointed to the Privy Council of Hawaii. Although she was much older, Charles’ cousin was the Queen of Hawaii.

Charles came to Canada in 1895 along with his brother Ernest Gilbert Rooke and settled in Holland, Manitoba, where he took up farming. While living in Holland he applied for a position with the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) in May 1899. After passing a physical examination he was taken on as a probationary officer on August 2, 1899. On September 1, 1899 he was taken on full strength and assigned to Maple Creek, North West Territories (now Saskatchewan). After completing his five year contract he took his discharge from the NWMP on August 31, 1904, and returned to Manitoba.



The year 1904 also saw an increase in horse thievery across the Manitoba border from North Dakota. One of the most notorious gangs was headed by Alex Larron who was active throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and Canada. Larron, also known as George Turner, had previously been incarcerated for horse stealing at the Bismarck Penitentiary in North Dakota. He escaped on August 12, 1901 and had worked his way west to Montana, Idaho, Washington and California working as a ranch hand. He returned to North Dakota and joined a gang of horse thieves operating on an extensive scale throughout South Dakota, North Dakota, and along the Western Canadian border.

Larron was suspected of stealing at least 22 horses from Manitoba in the Crystal City and Cartwright areas. On one occasion after crossing back into North Dakota Larron assaulted a farmer near the town of Rugby in Pierce County. He was pursued by Deputy Sheriff Erickson who overtook him at a camp in the Turtle Mountains on the U.S. side of the border.

*I did not know [Larron] or I should never have attempted to do what I did. I simply told him I had a warrant at the same time producing the paper. The next instant, before I had time to think I was looking into the muzzle of a big six shooter. 'You get out of here quick,' said Larron and we did ... We organized a posse to go in pursuit of Larron but a storm came up and prevented us from starting for several days. In the meantime he got safely away and hid in the mountains.*



Cartwright, Manitoba. Railway Ave, 1908

As a result of the impunity with which Larron and his gang seemed to cross the border, the Manitoba Provincial Police established a Mounted Division or border patrol. To head up the new division, the province turned to Charles Rooke. He was appointed a provincial constable and police magistrate on November 24, 1904, and stationed in Cartwright, Manitoba. Rooke immediately set out to hire a small cadre of police officers, skilled in riding horses and who were familiar with the border to fill out his new division.

In less than a month Larron was arrested in Hecla, South Dakota, by Sheriff Cole of Brown County, and a member of Rooke's mounted division, on December 22, 1904. Larron would not agree to extradition and was sent to Bismarck Penitentiary.

On April 25, 1906, Larron's sentence expired and he was released, only to be rearrested and brought to Fargo for further extradition proceedings. Attorney Asa T. Patterson of Bismarck was hired to represent the Canadian government in its proceedings against Larron, paying him a whopping \$1159.80 (equivalent to about \$35,000 today). Patterson, however, was not able to convince U.S. Commissioner Montgomery that Larron should be extradited, principally because his victims were afraid to testify, and he was released on May 10, 1906.

Larron returned to his old ways and was suspected in a number of horse thefts in North Dakota as well as Manitoba. He was arrested again on December 3, 1906, by Sheriff Douglas of Rolette County, North Dakota, for theft. While awaiting trial in Ramsay County Jail, North Dakota, Larron escaped with another prisoner on April 19, 1907. However, while attempting to rob North Dakota farmer Thomas Kerr, he was shot through the head on June 30, 1907, thus ending the career of Larron, dubbed by some as “*Jessie James the Second*”.

With Larron’s arrest and ultimate demise, horse thefts began to dry up along the border and Rooke was transferred to the provincial police detachment in Dauphin in 1909. There Rooke had several dealings with John Baran for assaulting his wife at their home in the rural community of Gilbert Plains. She had fled to Dauphin with two of their four children, but left the other two destitute and starving with Baran. Rooke travelled to the small homestead and took the other children into care, turning them over to Children’s Aid who placed them in foster homes in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Baran, fearful for her safety, stayed in Dauphin in a state of poverty, living on assistance from the town for her support and that of her children. Baran in the meantime went to Kamsack, Saskatchewan and returned with a young Galician woman and a small child. When the town learned that Baran was back, they demanded he take over responsibility for the maintenance of his wife and children. However he refused and a warrant was issued for his arrest in January 1913 to show cause why he did not support



*John Baran and his wife. Dauphin Herald, February 6, 1913*

his wife. Antony Mallaneau, a school teacher in the district and Mrs. Mary Duch, a neighbor, later deposed that Baran, on learning of the warrant, stated he would kill any policeman who came after him.

The warrant was given to Constable Rooke who set out for Baran’s homestead early in the morning of Sunday, January 26, 1913. He rented a cutter sleigh with driver John Tomski who could speak Galician. They travelled about 20 miles to the Baran homestead, leaving their sleigh at the nearby residence of Steve and Dora Sulatyski.

It was planned that Tomski would do the talking while Rooke waited for an opportunity to apprehend Baran. They got to the homestead about noon and knocked. A woman, later identified as Marie Pelch, appeared at the window and told Tomski that Baran was not home. Rooke opened the door onto the porch and as he tried to open the second door, two rifle shots were fired through the door striking Rooke in the chest above his heart. Tomski dragged

the injured officer about 100 yards away from the shack, but without their sleigh he had leave Rooke so he could go for help.

Tomski went back to the Sulatyski's farm and returned with the sleigh to carry Rooke back to their house where Mrs. Sulatyski tended to his wounds. As Rooke was too badly injured to be transported, Tomski drove nine miles to the McCorvie's farm, the nearest house with a phone. Tomski called Dauphin's Chief of Police, Thomas Bridle, who notified the local doctor. Without delay Doctor Harrington took a sleigh to the McCorvie's farm. However there was little that could be done for Rooke outside of a hospital, so he was wrapped warmly and rushed to Dauphin in critical condition. They arrived after midnight where Rooke 'lay at the point of death'.

Chief Bridle notified the provincial police headquarters in Winnipeg and Deputy Chief John MacKenzie and Detective John Parr were assigned to take charge in Dauphin. Three posse subsequently organized by Chief Bridle headed out to the Baran homestead.

The posse led by Chief Bridle set out at 1:00 am for the Baran homestead in the hope that Baran would still be there. On arrival they did not see anyone around but as they approached the shack, shots were fired at them from the window. The posse returned the gunfire and waited a short time before rushing the door. Inside they found Marie Pelch badly wounded on the floor and a young child dead on the bed opposite the window. Baran had escaped.

Pelch had been shot in the chest and waist. The child had been shot in the shoulder with the bullet passing right through its body. The posse returned to Dauphin with the wounded woman and dead child, meeting with the Provincial Police officers who had arrived. Pelch would not initially provide her name, but said Baran was out hunting and that she had fired the shots.

The provincial police officers and two of the posse teams began a search for Baran along the Elphinstone Trail. After covering almost 30 miles

they came across Baran walking south on the trail, a little more than five miles from his homestead. Baran surrendered to Detective Parr without a struggle and was taken into custody. Baran claimed that he had not been home when the shooting occurred, blaming Pelch for shooting the officer. Although he was allegedly out hunting, he had no gun with him.

Baran was taken to Dauphin and detained on the original non-support warrant while the investigation continued into the shooting. Once Baran was in custody Pelch admitted that she had lied out of fear. Deposed she stated that Baran, having gone to the porch and looked outside, returned with his hunting rifle and latched the door. He then shot the constable, twice through the door, shoulder high, when he heard the door being opened.

An Inquest was held into the death of the young child and the following verdict was reached by a jury ... *"we find that the baby came to his death by being shot with a rifle in the hands of one of the posse under Chief Bridle, organized for the purpose of arresting John Baran, suspected of having shot Constable Rooke, and the death of the baby, while regrettable, was purely accidental under the circumstances and we attach no blame to any member of the posse"*.

At 7:30 am on February 3, 1913, Constable Rooke died of his wounds. An Inquest was held into the death of the officer. The jury, composed of George King (foreman), Mayor Caldwell, Nelson Taylor, John Cole, A.B. Buie, Stewart Baird, Thomas Shaw, F.J. McDonald, R.G. Ferguson, Thomas Jordan, Frank Neely and Archibald Espien, was unanimous:

*We, the jury, empanelled to hear evidence as to the death of Provincial Constable Charles Rooke, find that the said Charles Rooke on Sunday, January 26, 1913, received a bullet in the breast from a rifle in the hands of John Baran and that the said Charles Rooke died on Monday, Feb. 3, 1913, from the effects of that shot.*



*Portage la Prairie Jail and Courthouse, where John Baran was hung and buried*

Baran was subsequently charged with murder. The funeral of Constable Charles Rooke took place from his residence in Dauphin with his burial in the Riverside Cemetery. A headstone was erected by the Masonic Lodge of Dauphin.

John Baran was held in Dauphin for a Preliminary Hearing before Magistrate Munson on February 7, 1913. The Hearing proceeded slowly as most of the witnesses were Galicians and required the services of an interpreter. Baran declined to make a statement, but his lawyer, Bertram Ryan, admitted Baran fired the shot that struck Rooke, but he claimed that Baran did not know Rooke was a police officer (although Tomski indicated that Rooke had been in uniform) and had the right to defend his home. Ryan asked that the charge be reduced to manslaughter. Magistrate Munson refused the request and committed Baran to stand trial for murder at the Spring Assizes in Portage la Prairie.

The trial was held on March 6 and 7, 1913, in Portage la Prairie before Justice James Emile Prendergast, an experienced jurist. Prendergast had been a Judge of the County Court for Manitoba from 1897-

1902; from 1902-1906 he served as a Judge on the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories; and from 1906-1910 he served as a Judge on the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan. In 1910 he was appointed to the Manitoba Court of King's Bench before becoming the Chief Justice of Manitoba and the Court of Appeal in 1929.

The jury took less than two hours to find Baran guilty. As reported in the newspaper "*the crime was one in which there appeared to be no mitigating circumstances*

*indeed, the fact that Baran shot Rooke through a door, rifle to shoulder, while Rooke was rattling at the latch outside said door with not even his gun in hand is revolting to the Anglo Saxon sense of fair play. No doubt this fact, coupled with the fact that Rooke, when he was shot, was in the act of executing a warrant for the arrest of Baran for refusing to show cause why he did not support his wife and four children ..."*

Preparations were made for the first execution in the Portage la Prairie jail since it was completed in 1895 with a scaffold being built in the courtyard. The public was very curious and the night before the execution a steady stream of citizens were allowed entry to see the structure. Although several dozen people received passes to attend the execution, only members of the death march, newspaper reporters and jail officials witnessed the actual hanging.

Hangman Arthur Ellis (Arthur Bartholomew English), in his first visit to Manitoba since replacing John Robert Radcliffe who died in 1911, moved quickly and efficiently when Baran appeared at 8:00 am. Within a minute Ellis had the straps and black hood in place over Baran's head and the trap doors

sprung open, dropping Baran 7 feet to his death, breaking his neck instantly.

The newspapers reported that Hangman Ellis was satisfied that the execution was conducted in a most credible manner. The paper noted that Ellis did not conceal his identity, but was heavily armed. After Baran's body was cut down an Inquest was held, during which time Ellis went for breakfast before he had to return for the burial.

The Inquest concluded that Baran's death was the result of hanging by Order of the Court and the body was then removed for burial in the courtyard. As required by the Criminal Code "*the body of every offender executed shall be buried within the walls of the prison within which judgment of death is executed on him*". A wooden coffin built in the jail was lined with quicklime and the body placed inside. It was then covered with more quicklime and the lid nailed shut. It was buried in the south-west corner of the yard only 45 minutes after the execution.



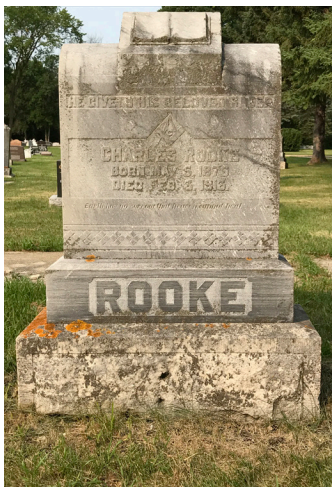
*Prendergast, James Emile Pierre, MB Kings Bench Judge & MLA (1858-1945)*

age 7 (a third child, Alfred, died at the age of 4 months in 1911). She received \$600 in 1914 and \$360 a year thereafter. The amount was reduced after 1915 when Elizabeth married Samuel Brooks Cliff Gooch in Dauphin.

The Gooch's eventually separated with Elizabeth, Charles and Beatrice, moving to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1924. Elizabeth died in Vancouver on July 18, 1952. Her ashes were buried at the Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby, British Columbia.

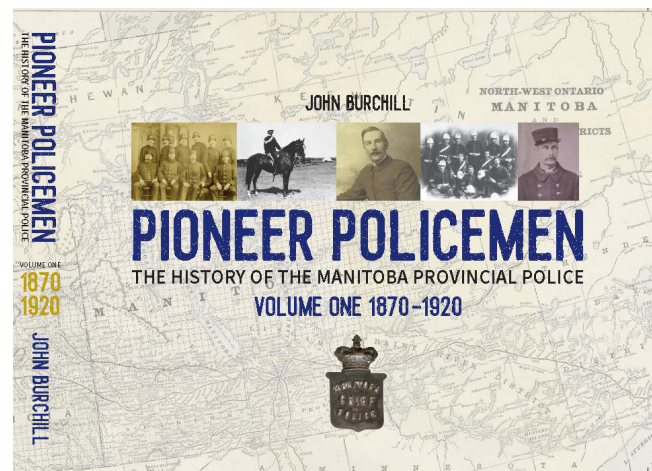
Today, Charles Rooke's granddaughter, Patricia Spencer, lives in Ontario. Subject to any COVID-19 pandemic restrictions that may still be in effect, Patricia will hopefully be able to travel to Manitoba in 2021 in recognition of her grandfather's dedication and sacrifice to the citizens of Manitoba.

More on Charles Rooke and the Manitoba Provincial Police can be found in my book *Pioneer Policemen, The History of the Manitoba Provincial Police, Vol. 1 (1870-1920)*.



*Charles Rooke - headstone, Riverside Cemetery, Dauphin, photo John Burchill 2018*

Constable Rooke himself died without a Will. His entire estate was valued at \$448.00 (equivalent to about \$10,000 in 2020). As he did not have a life insurance policy, the provincial government agreed to give his wife, Elizabeth ("Bessie"), a retirement allowance to support herself and her two young children – Beatrice, age 1, and Charles,



*Pioneer Policemen 1870-1920*

# WINNIPEG POLICE AMBULANCE

1911  
1975



1913 Police Ambulance  
in front of Rupert Avenue  
Station

In Winnipeg, when it comes to medical emergencies you think of 9-1-1, ambulance and paramedics. But it hasn't always been that way. In the early 1900s and for many years later, the ambulance was operated by the Winnipeg Police Service. In fact, until 1949, the Winnipeg Police Ambulance was the primary emergency transport in Winnipeg.

The first call for tenders of a “police automobile and ambulance” combined was in April 1911 following years of public outcry for free ambulances in Winnipeg. In May 1911 a committee consisting of Chief McRae and two aldermen recommended the purchase of a Speedwell Police Wagon and Ambulance from the Breen Automobile Company. The vehicle was purchased in October 1911 for \$5,950 and the publicly funded ambulance service was immediately put into operation. Its operators included three chauffeurs (two days and one night) and three first-class first-aid men referred to as Wagonmen.

We don't exactly know what finally prompted the Service to proceed with the purchase of an ambulance, but we do know that Chief Donald MacPherson was the acting Chief Constable at the time of its acquisition and that he held a certificate in Instruction in Ambulance Work which he obtained in while working as a police officer in Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1899. Also not surprising, the request to purchase an ambulance came at a time when Saint John's Ambulance opened a chapter in Manitoba, call boxes began being installed in Winnipeg and City Council was forwarding money to the City's Health Department following a major typhoid outbreak.

*1925 Ambulance and Police Car behind  
Rupert Avenue Police Station*



In addition to their regular duties, Police Ambulance operators were responsible for attending to all fires in case of injuries. Until many years later, a Sergeant usually rode along with the Ambulance operator. While officers were being trained in first aid, they had no formal ambulance care training. Their main role was to pick up a person and get them to a hospital as quickly as possible. In June 1918, the Police Commission recommended Patrol and Ambulance Constables be selected from returned soldiers who were previous members of the police department. In 1920 it was decided that a regular vehicle horn was no longer sufficient for warning people in closed vehicles and a gong, provided by the Marshall Wells Company was added to the ambulance.

Fast forward to 1940, the Winnipeg Police Force purchased a new ambulance, a National Monarch wagon. The Winnipeg Police Force was publically criticized for allowing the “Brass” to use the ambulance to shuttle them around. It was alleged this caused an increase in police ambulance response times. Keep in mind, the driver, although sworn in as a Special Constable, was also the service’s designated chauffeur at the time.

Early uses of the Police Ambulance included:

- Transporting a 9-year-old boy who was run over by a streetcar and lost his foot, and providing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to an adult female suffering from overexposure to coal gas in July 1915
- Used by local hospital staff for a fee of \$6/day between 1918 – 1919, during the Spanish Flu.
- Rushing an adult male to the hospital after he was struck by a train and suffered two fractured legs and a hemorrhage in June 1924.
- Transporting a male who fell from a ladder and cracked his skull in the Canadian Pacific Railyard, and a 52-year-old woman who slipped on the street and fractured her leg in March 1930
- Taking an 18-year-old woman to the hospital after she cut off a finger while chopping wood in October 1942.
- Assisting a doctor in January 1945 by transporting a pregnant woman in labour to the hospital when he was unable to get a private ambulance.



By the 1950s, the Police Ambulance operated alongside private ambulances, responding to motor vehicle accidents, reports of people collapsing in public, industrial accidents and fires. Private ambulances were responsible for responding to house calls to convey sick persons or persons injured in their home. The operation of the 999 call system in 1959 was to allow private ambulances to be dispatched on a rotating basis.

In January 1959 a complaint by the Veterans-Prince Ambulance operators against the Police Ambulance was brought before the Police Commission. They were objecting to the use of the Police Ambulance in some private calls. Chief Taft was quoted saying “There will be occasions when the police arrive in a place that not come under the intended use, and then humanity and common sense must dictate their action” and “the police must never turn their back and walk away from human suffering once they are on the spot”. This was primarily an argument of free municipal service vs a service fee, as no doubt, the Veterans-Prince Ambulance company would have been losing out on.

In November 1959, the manager of the Veterans-Prince Ambulance again brought a complaint

before the police commission indicating they were being sent to calls where the police ambulance had also been dispatched, wasting resources. At the same time, Chief Taft noted the fire department’s rescue wagon and the police ambulance were also needlessly attending the same calls. It was at this meeting a motion was made by an Alderman to disband the Police Ambulance; the motion was not supported by Chief Taft.

In 1962, Chief Taft revisited the issues taking the position that a single public ambulance service may improve the ambulance situation in Winnipeg. This came following a recommendation by the Manitoba Medical Association that a single provincial ambulance agency be established.

In 1966 the Winnipeg Police Force began using a station wagon accident prevention vehicle (traffic car)/ambulance to augment the 1963 Oldsmobile and 1954 Mercury ambulances the department was using. In the late 60s, two more station wagon traffic cars/ambulances were purchased; one was assigned to the North End station and the other to the Fort Rouge Station. The 1963 Oldsmobile became a reserved ambulance and the Mercury was taken out of service. The new station wagons were





*1963 Oldsmobile Cotner-Bevington ambulance*

equipped with stretchers but no sirens. In 1969, several officers were trained by hospital staff in the use of resuscitation equipment which was installed in the police ambulance along with a set of airways, suction equipment, oxygen tanks and masks.

In 1971, five of Winnipeg's nine private ambulance companies created their own central dispatching service which was linked into the City's 999 emergency switchboard to eliminate the ongoing competition for business between services. In addition, it eliminated the act of private ambulance avoiding destitute areas for fear of not being paid and meant the ambulance based nearest to the call would be dispatched.

Upon amalgamation in 1974, all private and police ambulance services fell under the umbrella of the new Winnipeg Ambulance Service. After many discussions and debates, the

Winnipeg Ambulance Service was implemented on June 16, 1975. One existing ambulance service, the Crestview Ambulance, remained while it fulfilled its contractual obligations to Assiniboine Downs.

Things didn't always go smoothly for the operators of the ambulance. On July 26, 1915, the Winnipeg Police Ambulance was being operated by Constable



*1971 Dodge ambulance in basement of Public Safety Building*

George W. Fogg when it struck both Mr. F. W. Bowles and Mr. Paulo Gawlo aka Paul. Both men died from their injuries. It was reported that Mr. Bowles was cycling on Sargent Avenue approaching Sherbrooke Street when the ambulance, travelling north on Sargent Avenue, swerved to avoid a boy on a bicycle. The ambulance crossed the sidewalk, struck Mr. Bowles and a pedestrian, Mr. Gawlo, and crashed into the corner of a business.

Incidentally, the ambulance was transporting the nine-year-old boy who had been run over by a streetcar at the time. The driver, Constable Fogg, worked as a chauffeur for the Winnipeg Police Service from 1910 until February 1914 when appointed to motor patrol and ambulance. He was removed from his position of driver in August 1915. The widow of Mr. Bowles filed a claim against the City of Winnipeg and the Police Commission. In June 1918, a verdict was reached in Kings Court and Mary Elizabeth Bowles was granted \$12,000; \$5,000 for her, and \$3,500 for each of her two young children. The decision was later upheld by the courts.

Other not so positive Police Ambulance incidents included striking a lawyer on his way to court in June 1936 while responding to an accident. And in December 1971, while transporting a 21-year-old male involved in an industrial accident, colliding with a car driven by a 60-year-old male. The man later died from his injuries.

And as they say, whatever goes around comes around – sort of. In Winnipeg, shortly after the formation of Winnipeg Police’s full-time Tactical Support Team in 2007, tactical officer Sergeant Shane Cooke, a former paramedic, was tasked with designing a tactical paramedic program for the Winnipeg Police Service. By 2011 the Winnipeg Police Service was actively discussing the development of a Tactical Emergency Medical

Support Service (“TEMS”) for Winnipeg. Sergeant Cooke, along with Dave Johnston of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, began developing the unit. With the help of members of the Calgary and Ottawa Police tactical teams, the Winnipeg Police Service developed a formal program for Winnipeg where the City’s new tactical paramedics, recruited from existing Winnipeg paramedics, trained for two weeks alongside new Tactical Support Team members.

Since its formation, the tactical paramedic program – which runs out of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service’s No. 11 Station at Portage and Route 90 – has expanded from the initial 14 advanced care paramedics to 22 active advance care paramedics. The program permits onsite emergency care to be immediately available, as opposed to being several blocks, and many minutes, away. Besides supporting the TST, Winnipeg’s tactical paramedics also respond with the WPS’s bomb squad and canine unit. In 2020, the unit expanded its training, with help from the staff at Bridgewater Veterinary Hospital, to also care for police dogs when they’re injured.

The topic of under whose umbrella the Winnipeg ambulance service should operate remains a topic of debate more than 100 years after its inception.



2019 TEMS Paramedic with Staff Sergeant Rod Hutter

# MONICA CHERTOK #1564



## **Winnipeg's First Black Female Police Officer**

By Monica Chertok with John Burchill, Vice President, Winnipeg Police Museum, and James Ham

Monica Chertok (nee Naherny, Stothers) was born in Jamaica, immigrating to Canada at a young age. She grew up in Transcona. After attending Murdoch Mackay Collegiate, she joined the Winnipeg Police Service on February 1, 1988. At the age of 20, she became the first black female officer to join the Winnipeg Police.

Monica became interested in law enforcement from watching the original Charlie's Angels TV series that ran from 1976-1981. She found it inspiring and fascinating that these women were smart, beautiful and tough enough to be detectives. She learned from watching the "Angels" that women were just as capable as men at investigating crime and catching the 'bad guys.' Looking back at it now, she finds it amusing that she was so enamoured by the show and how much she got into it by role-play the different lead characters. She would pretend to be one of the detectives investigating and breaking a case open.

While none of the "Angels" were black [in fact, there wouldn't be a black Angel until the short-lived reboot of the series in 2011 and last year's movie remake], Monica noted that role models come in all colours, shapes and sizes. What she saw in the show were "women" doing something important. Something that as a woman, she could do too.

Her childhood dream became a reality when she learned that the Winnipeg Police was making it a priority to better reflect the community by hiring more visible minorities. It was time for a change, and she wanted to be part of that change. She gives credit to Wade Williams, a well-known

*I first got to know Monica, at least of her, in early 1988 as our Recruit Classes overlapped at the old William Russell School on Monterey Road in Windsor Park. The school, which served as the Winnipeg Police Academy at the time, is now home to the Louis Riel School Division Resource Centre. Our career paths would never really cross again, however Monica was always in the public eye from her work in Community Relations to the Public Information Office.*

*I greatly appreciate the time that Monica took to speak with me for this article about her life and career, both before and after policing.*

*John Burchill*

Winnipeg activist who fought for racial equality in the hiring of visible minorities to all levels of government in Manitoba. She knew that with her passion, tenacity, and drive, becoming a police officer was a real possibility. She learned there were no black female officers employed by the Winnipeg Police at the time as she had done her own “investigation.” She found out that if she were hired, she would be the first. Applying was both a challenge and an opportunity.

Monica was also a single mother to a one and a half-year-old son. With the support of family and friends, she would make it work. She arranged for a private daycare for her son while she was in recruit class, and at night she juggled parenting and studying. Her best friend Pearlene (who was dating and later married future police chief Devon Clunis) would help her prepare for exams by quizzing her, and would also shine her police boots to help alleviate just one of the extra duties she faced while studying and looking after her son. Even with the added challenges, Monica successfully graduated from the Winnipeg Police Academy on September 16, 1988.

Monica’s first assignment was in Division 11, Winnipeg’s downtown division, as a foot patrol officer before moving into a regular patrol car. Following her tenure downtown, she was transferred to another busy district, followed by an assignment within the new community policing model, where she could focus on longer-term causes of crime, including the unintended consequences of poverty, addiction, homelessness and mental health.

After community policing, Monica joined the Community Relations Unit, where she became a



*Winnipeg Police Recruit Class 110, graduation day, September 16, 1988*

*Inset: Former Winnipeg Police Academy, Monterey Road in Windsor Park, c 1999 by John Burchill*

school resource officer, responsible for 52 schools. She also served as one of the Service’s diversity officers, where she represented the Service at many community events such as recruitment symposiums and outreach forums.

Monica was subsequently promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant, where she was responsible for about 27 subordinate police constables and civilian support staff. The Winnipeg Police Executive, impressed with her organizational skills, transferred her to Organizational Development and Support (ODS), the Service’s policy and planning division. There she was charged with completing the Service’s effort to become re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

*“I enjoyed my time in ODS,” she says. “I remember when the posting was published for the position of Accreditation Manager and Audit Supervisor (accreditation status is*



Patrol Sergeant Monica Stothers (as she then was), Public Information Officer, c 2012

*conferred to deserving agencies by CALEA), I looked at it for about a second and deleted it. However, it was my good friend Devon, who contacted me and told me I should apply for the position. He told me working in ODS would give me a wonderful birds-eye view of the entire Service, which would be very helpful for me in understanding how the Service operated”.*

Having a good grasp and knowledge of the Service would put Monica in a better position to compete for further promotions. So she took Devon’s advice and applied for the post. After a number of interviews, she was the successful candidate. During this assignment, she learned how to write routine and general orders with a clear understanding for the readers. It was, she says, “*a challenging position because the job was, in essence, one where the manager ‘policed the police’ by ensuring the Service complied with the policing standards set by CALEA.*” No police member ever wanted to hear from her she says, “*because if I was calling, that meant I was asking for them to do something or provide*



**Governor General of Canada, Police Exemplary Service Medal**

*documents proving their division was complying with CALEA standards.” She loved the job with all its challenges. “I am proud that our team worked to ensure we achieved re-accreditation with one of the smoothest ‘re-accredits’ since the Service earned initial accreditation.”*

In 2008, after completing 20-years of service with the Winnipeg Police, Monica was awarded the Police Exemplary Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada. The award, created on August 12, 1983, recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency.

After the successful re-accreditation of the Service, Monica transferred to the Public Information Unit. There, she served as a public information officer (PIO). In that role, she represented the Service to the public, liaising with all the major media outlets, from print to radio to television. She remained in this position until her retirement in May 2013.

Today Monica resides in Satellite Beach, Florida, with her husband Alan, a retired police officer. Alan worked for 11 law enforcement agencies, in all the ranks from patrol officer to chief. After retirement, Alan worked as a law enforcement consultant in the U.S., Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Africa. Outside law enforcement, he practiced law and served in the U.S. Navy Reserve for some 26 years, retiring from there as well.

Monica and Alan jointly consult with U.S. police agencies by writing promotion examinations for officers. She also works as a licensed Florida Realtor® and holds an associates’ degree in public relations.

While she enjoys living in Florida, Monica reminds me that she misses Winnipeg and all the fantastic friendships she made while growing up here. She tries to return as often as possible.

# A Tale of Two PANDEMIC

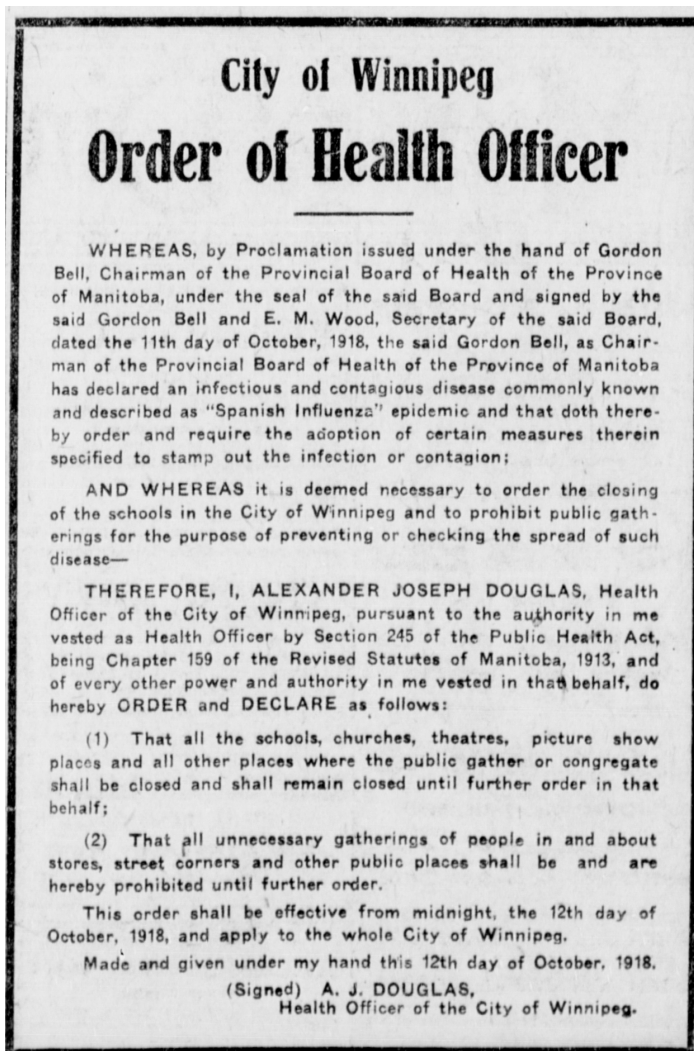
## 1918 & 2020

By John Burchill, Vice-President

One hundred years ago front line constables, as they do today, likely visited many families in distress. Some families were dealing with the hardships of everyday life, many the loss of a loved one during the war, and others who were suffering from various illnesses. In late 1918 this would have included people infected with the Spanish Influenza, a strain of the flu that was so deadly it would kill hundreds of people in Winnipeg in the coming months.

Already raging in Eastern Canada, the Spanish Influenza erupted in Manitoba on October 3, 1918, when two Quebec soldiers who arrived days earlier died at the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) Convalescence Home in Winnipeg. The Influenza struck down the healthiest people in society. About 60 percent of the victims were between the ages of 20 to 39. *“Men literally choked to death with pulmonary (swelling), the lungs so swamped with blood, foam and mucous that the faces were grey and the lips purple”.*

By the end of October 1918 there had been 1,910 cases and 66 deaths in Winnipeg alone. By the end of November there had been 9,031



*Public Health Order for Winnipeg, October 11, 1918, Winnipeg Tribune*



*Seattle Police Masked  
Against the Flu,  
December 1918.  
National Archives  
(Record No. 165-WW-  
269B-25)*



*Winnipeg Police  
Recruit Class 163,  
October 9, 2020.  
Picture by Paul Kroeker*

reported cases with 526 deaths. By the time the flu subsided in April 1919 at least 1,216 people had died in Winnipeg as a result of Spanish flu – in a city of just 183,595 people. More than 60,000 Canadians would die from the flu by the end of 1919.

The flu even resulted in the cancellation of the deciding game of the 1919 Stanley Cup finals with the Montreal Canadiens and the Seattle Mets tied two games apiece. With five members of the Canadiens and their owner/coach in hospital, the series ended in a draw on April 1, 1919. The final game was never played.

Back in Winnipeg the flu claimed the lives of at least two Winnipeg Police members. Constable Edwin Frederick Vale died December 15, 1918, age 29. He was married with 2 children and a pregnant wife.

Constable and signal operator Thomas Baxter died November 4, 1918, at age 26. He was married with no children.

The Winnipeg Police did not track those who died from the flu. It was only through cross-referencing the Police Commission books with the obituaries in the newspapers that the cause of death was determined. And that was only for Winnipeg.

# Progress of "Flu" Among Civilians

Progress of Spanish influenza among Winnipeg civilians; the number of releases and the deaths, are shown in the following table:

	New Cases.	Releases.	Deaths
Oct. 3 .. ..	2	..	..
Oct. 7 .. ..	7	..	..
Oct. 9 .. ..	2	..	..
Oct. 10 .. ..	12	..	1
Oct. 11 .. ..	18	..	1
Oct. 12 .. ..	16	..	..
Oct. 13 .. ..	28	..	1
Oct. 14 .. ..	25	..	..
Oct. 15 .. ..	44	13	1
Oct. 16 .. ..	34	17	3
Oct. 17 .. ..	74	19	..
Oct. 18 .. ..	72	26	2
Oct. 19 .. ..	52	27	1
Oct. 20 .. ..	56	28	2
Oct. 21 .. ..	96	25	2
Oct. 22 .. ..	81	23	1
Oct. 23 .. ..	44	24	3
Oct. 24 .. ..	81	18	1
Oct. 25 .. ..	95	20	5
Oct. 26 .. ..	95	26	4
Oct. 27 .. ..	75	23	2
Oct. 28 .. ..	197	27	9
Oct. 29 .. ..	255	33	5
Oct. 30 .. ..	270	29	12
Oct. 31 .. ..	430	60	13
Nov. 1 .. ..	553	370	8
Nov. 2 .. ..	312	225	14
Nov. 3 .. ..	112	307	14
Nov. 4 .. ..	591	281	15
Nov. 5 .. ..	619	273	18
Nov. 6 .. ..	334	261	17
Nov. 7 .. ..	317	257	30
Nov. 8 .. ..	249	286	14
Nov. 9 .. ..	222	127	35
Nov. 10 .. ..	96	131	17
Nov. 11 .. ..	412	197	28
Nov. 12 .. ..	378	140	32
Nov. 13 .. ..	295	193	15
Nov. 14 .. ..	361	187	43
Nov. 15 .. ..	305	191	21
Nov. 16 .. ..	259	171	25
Nov. 17 .. ..	137	140	16
Nov. 18 .. ..	378	163	26
Nov. 19 .. ..	233	167	22
Nov. 20 .. ..	195	155	20
Nov. 21 .. ..	276	161	21
Nov. 22 .. ..	181	175	17
Nov. 23 .. ..	151	149	24
Nov. 24 .. ..	58	167	12
Nov. 25 .. ..	275	179	16
Nov. 26 .. ..	87	209	16
Nov. 27 .. ..	163	199	15
To noon today .. ..	74	183	4
	9635	6100	624

Patients receiving treatment—61.

The epidemic continues to decline steadily and the department authorities do not anticipate any adverse effects following the removal of the ban on meetings.

The St. Boniface newspapers reported that four of their officers had contracted the virus, including Chief Constable Leo Marcil. However none of them died, although at least one provincial police officer and one Dominion police officer died from the flu.

On October 11, 1918, to control the spread of the virus, the Manitoba Board of Health ordered the closure of all schools, churches, theatres, picture shows, and all other public places where people gathered or congregated. In addition public health officers were empowered to breakup any other unnecessary gatherings at stores, on street corners and other public places (including street cars) until further notice. The order would apply to all the municipalities that surrounded Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Police would also vigorously enforce the Anti-Spitting by-law #4922 to prevent the spread of the virus. Originally passed in 1907, the by-law was intended to prevent the airborne spread of tuberculosis. The by-law prohibited anyone from spitting on any sidewalk or pavement crossing, any passageway, stairway or entrance to any building used by the public, or in any church, theatre, assembly room, music hall, concert hall or lecture hall, railway depot, railway or steamboat waiting room or to any room, hall or places to which the public resort, or in any streetcar or public conveyance. The fine was \$50.00 (about \$675 in 2020 adjusted for inflation).

There is no record of any Standing Orders for the Winnipeg Police. However people serving the public were ordered to wear gauze masks to prevent the spread of the virus. While there are no pictures of Winnipeg Police officers wearing masks in 1918/1919, we know from other cities that masks were worn by police officers, so it is believed they were worn in Winnipeg as well.

In March 2020 the coronavirus disease (COVID for short) hit Winnipeg. As I write this article on February 14, 2021, there were 30,766 cases of confirmed or probable positive cases of COVID-19 in Manitoba. A total of 871 deaths were attributed to the virus and 28,276 people had recovered with 1619 active cases.

The precautions taken by the Province of Manitoba in 2020 were almost identical to those in 1918/1919. To control the spread of the virus schools, churches, theatres, picture shows, and all other public places where people gather or congregate were ordered closed. The NHL hockey season was cut short and, in addition, public health officers were empowered to enforce orders against public gatherings.

Thankfully there was no record of any member of the Service dying from COVID in 2020. However, all members were issued with masks and expected to wear them when dealing with the public. As Chief Danny Smyth noted to all members in October 2020 "all of you



have been supplied with cloth masks, and those working in the community or other higher risk areas have been issued N-95 masks ... with few exceptions ... you should be wearing a mask.”

This included the graduation of Recruit Class #163 and 163L on October 9, 2020. To maintain social distancing, minimize public gatherings, allow for proper air circulation, and prevent the spread of COVID, the graduation ceremony was held outside at the Millennium Library Park. No guests were allowed and all officers wore masks. History was made and recorded as it happened so we won't have to guess in one hundred years whether police officers wore masks in Winnipeg during this pandemic.



The Anti-Spitting law is still on the books in 2020 as section 54 of Winnipeg's Neighbourhood Liveability By-law #1/2008. It was only used once during the pandemic.

## World's Hockey Title Goes Undecided Owing To the Ravages of Flu

Condition of Lalonde, Kennedy, Coutre and Berlanquette Said to Be Most Encouraging—Stanley Cup Will Remain in the East, According to Decision Reached Yesterday

	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against
Seattle Mets . . . .	2	2	1	19	10
Canadiens . . . . .	2	2	1	10	19

**S**EATTLE, Wn., April 1.—The famous Stanley Cup, emblematic of the world's hockey supremacy, will be without a home during the next twelve months, and for the first time in history a championship series has ended in a tie.

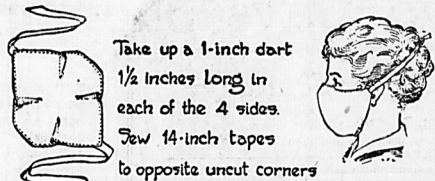
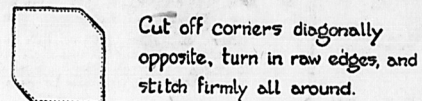
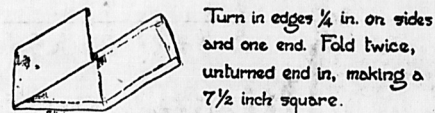
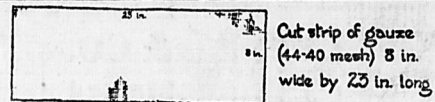
With five of the Canadian players under the care of physicians with a disease believed to be influenza, officers today decided that it would be impossible to settle the tie existing between the Frenchmen and Seattle. The ice has been taken out of the arena and the hardest-fought series since the Stanley Cup was put up for competition has reached an unsatisfactory ending.

Jack MacDonald and Joe Hall, two visiting defense players, were today removed to a hospital. Their condition is reported serious.

“Newsy” Lalonde, Manager George Kennedy, Couture and Berlanquette are all under the care of nurses and will not be removed from their hotel unless their condition becomes worse.

Stanley Cup Game Called Off. April 2, 1919, Calgary Herald

## This Tells How to Make Face Masks and How to Use Them



Because of a flood of queries as to how to make effective face masks, for use in guarding against contagion, and especially in preventing infection when attending victims of Spanish influenza, in the east, where the disease is epidemic, The Tribune has prepared formal directions. These are presented herewith. As doctors and nurses have been stricken by dozens, all hospital attendants have been ordered to wear masks when treating "flu" sufferers. Many masks in use proved ineffective, because made from gauze with meshes too large to catch and strain out the bacilli from the fine spray issuing from the mouths of victims when they cough and sneeze. Experiments have demonstrated that the finer spray, with its contagion, is dangerously infectious at distances as great as from 15 to 25 feet. Masks should be changed three times daily and thoroughly sterilized after each change.

How to Make a Mask. October 11, 1918, Winnipeg Tribune



1921 Winnipeg Police Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Jock Coghill with Police Chief Chris Newton

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Winnipeg POLICE PIPE BAND

By Inspector Doug Roxburgh

Since 1920 the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band has performed and stirred both national and international audiences with their music and striking full dress uniform.

The Winnipeg Police Pipe Band is proud to display the traditional Royal Stewart Tartan, which it was granted permission to wear by the Lord Master of the Rolls for the United Kingdom.

The band was formed after the 1919 General Strike, at a time when the Winnipeg Police Department was looking for ways to improve morale and have an entity to connect with the community.

Chief of Police Chris Newton was interested in starting a Brass Ensemble band but was convinced to create a Pipe Band from serving police member Jock Coghill.

Pipe Major Coghill started and remained the Pipe Major of the band for the next 28 years. Pipe Major Coghill was also one of the first members of the Winnipeg Police Department to volunteer for War Service in 1915.

The Pipe Band has had only 6 Pipe Majors over the last century;

- John (Jock) Coghill 1920-48
- Neil Sutherland 1948-69
- Donald A. Morrison 1969-85
- A. Bruce Taylor 1986-99
- Stewart McPherson 2000-03
- Doug Roxburgh 2003 - Present



*1937 Winnipeg Police Pipe Band followed by Police Officers on parade, marching west on Portage Avenue*

Upon its inception, the Pipe Band was formed with only serving police officers. This has since shifted to a band comprised of 70 members from across the community, including:

- Serving and retired police officers, and
- Volunteer members ranging from university students to business owners as well as fire fighters, pharmacists, nurses, etc.

The Winnipeg Police Pipe Band has been considered the Official Pipe Band of the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba and has performed at numerous venues and events from competitions, fairs, festivals, civic holidays, and special events, among many others. Some highlights include:

- Pine to Palm (Winnipeg to New Orleans) tour in April 1957 lead by Mayor Stephen Juba. A plaque commemorating this event can be located at Pembina and Stafford.
- The annual Minneapolis Aquatennial.
- The Rose Bowl Parade in California.

- Belfast, Ireland, where the Pipe Band accompanied Civic Officials to Ireland to promote the City of Winnipeg. City councilor and later Premier of Manitoba the Honourable Gary Filmon also participated in this tour.
- Performances at every Grey Cup city dating back to the 1960s when the Pipe Band used to travel by train to the festivals.
- The ceremonies for the opening of City Council after every civic election for decades.
- Invited performers for most of the Royal Visits including Queen Elizabeth in 1984; Princess Anne during the Pan Am Games in 1999; and Prince Charles for the Order of Manitoba in 2014. Not to mention playing before a crowded stadium in support of Sir Paul McCartney in 2013.

In addition to local events throughout the City, the Pipe Band has played at Festivals around the Province of Manitoba as proud representatives of the Winnipeg Police.



*1953 Pipe Major Sutherland posing with the wife of Mayor Garnet Coulter*

Members of the Pipe Band take particular pride in supporting the Winnipeg Police Service or law enforcement members who call upon the band during times of happiness and sorrow (birthdays, funerals and weddings).

As the Band has grown so has our ability to represent the Service, City and Province internationally. The highlights include:

- Cleveland International Tattoo 2009
- Las Vegas International Tattoo 2011
- Virginia Military Tattoo (Norfolk Virginia) 2012
- Pacific Tattoo (Victoria BC) 2013
- Okanagan Military Tattoo (Vernon BC) 2015
- Festival Interceltique - Lorient France 2016
- Belfast Ireland International Tattoo 2017

The musicianship and dedication of our members has made the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band a diverse and engaging group. The band currently has beginner players all the way to three world champions amongst our ranks. The diversity of our performers has led to the band expanding its focus to a Grade 2 Competition Band that has successfully competed at Highland Games all over North America.

In the years ahead, the Pipe Band is excited to be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have invitations to attend the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2022 and the Basel Switzerland Tattoo in 2023.

The Pipe Band is a strong supporter of youth Piping and Drumming. Each year the band sponsors local youth to participate in summer music camps where they receive world class instruction.

For more information on the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band the public can go to our website at [www.wppb.ca](http://www.wppb.ca)



*1976 Charlie Bell shows off band uniform at 52nd Winnipeg Policeman's Ball*



2005 Winnipeg Police Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Doug Roxburgh on steps of Legislature

2020 Pipe Band Display, Winnipeg Police Museum



# CADETS TURN

# 10

*(and Sixty)*

# IN 2020

By John Burchill, Vice-President,  
with Sergeant John Siderius, Cadet Supervisor

*This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Auxiliary Force Cadets. It also marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the old Police Cadet. In both cases it was expected that these cadets would take on some of the administrative or less demanding duties of the Service's sworn members.*

On December 30, 1960, Chief of Police Robert Taft verbally requested authority from the Winnipeg Police Commission to take on six male Clerk A's (*who would be cadets-in-training*) to relieve constables doing clerical duties. On the motion of Commissioner Spence it was resolved that the request of the Chief was approved.

City Council subsequently approved the new Police Cadet position with a salary range similar to a Clerk A—which was \$182 bi-weekly to start, rising to \$253.

Although an individual had to be 21-years of age to be a police officer, a Cadet only needed to be 18 (and in some cases they were hired at 17). Not only would the Cadet relieve constables doing clerical work (filing reports and running dispatches), they would also learn the inner workings of the police department. This experience would make them choice candidates for police officer positions when they turned 21.



Recruit Class 103 (November 30, 1984), contained the last of the original Cadets

**Back Row:** I. Imrie, J. Rogala, B. Doell, R. L'Heureux, C. Barker, M. O'Rourke, R. Cross, K. Wiebe, J. Paquette, R. Parry

**Second Row:** G.V. Walker (Instructor), W. Kehler, M. Gajecka, P. Laforet (Parks), K. Taplin, M. Pellerin, M. Aquin, R. Benoit, D. Roxburgh, R. Schmeichel, C. Samson, K. Green, B. Ramsey (Parks), H.D. Blackburn (Instructor)

**First Row:** J. Thompson (Instructor), E. Popiel (Instructor), R.B. Scott (S/Sgt.), A.T. Arfield (Superintendent), D.L. Davill (Inspector), W. Carpenter (Instructor), D.K. Johnson (Instructor), R. Brereton (Instructor),

**Missing:** B.A. Kramble (S/Sgt.)

Two Clerk A's, who had already been hired by the department in September 1960, were joined by six others hired after the December 30, 1960, resolution to become the first Police Cadets:

**Alfred S. Diack**, hired September 6, 1960. Retired on May 4, 1991.

**Walter J. Makowski**, hired September 16, 1960. Resigned of his own accord on November 24, 1968.

**Ray W. Rerick**, hired January 2, 1961. Died in a house fire that also killed his wife and young child on November 22, 1965.

**John H. Bain**, hired as a 17-year old on January 4, 1961. Retired on October 6, 1990.

**Greg A. Kurdydyk**, hired January 9, 1961. Retired on April 20, 1991.

**Lawrence E. Obirek**, hired February 1, 1961. Retired on March 23, 1991.

**Edward J. Keep**, hired February 1, 1961. Retired on January 23, 1993.

**Dennis R. Couglin**, hired February 1, 1961. Left the department on January 31, 1962.

The first female Cadet, **Kathleen Brenda Ranson (Fogg)**, was hired on August 18, 1975. The last six Cadets hired under the old system on January 11, 1982, were:

- Kirk Wiebe
- Karen Green
- Mary Gajecka (Johnson)
- Marc Pellerin
- Cliff Samson
- Randy Benoit



**RAY RERICK**

... dies with family

## ***Policeman, wife, baby die in fire***

A young Winnipeg police constable, his wife and baby daughter died in a fire that broke out in their Weston home early this morning.

Dead on arrival at Winnipeg General Hospital were: Constable Ray Walter Rerick, 24; his wife, the former Aldyne Taylor, 24, and their one-year-old daughter Shannon Rae.

Winnipeg firemen were called to the scene of the blaze at 1392 Lincoln Ave. about 6:20 a.m. When they opened the front door, they found that Mrs. Rerick has fallen into a hole in the floor. It had apparently been caused by the fire.

Constable Rerick was found near the kitchen door and the baby girl on the living room floor. They had apparently been asleep when the fire broke out, and were unable to get out before being overcome. It was believed they all slept in a rear bedroom.

The Cadet rank was eliminated in 1984 and all remaining Cadets were absorbed into Recruit Class #103, which graduated on November 30, 1984. **Inspector Doug Roxburgh** is the last remaining original Cadet still working for the Winnipeg Police Service.

As the Cadet uniform was similar to that of a police constable, a checkered hatband was introduced in 1982 by Superintendent Tom Artfield to visually distinguish Cadets from regular members when they were on the street. The hat band remained part of a Cadets uniform issue until the rank was eliminated.

The Municipalities of St. James, Assiniboia, East Kildonan, and St. Boniface also had Cadets.

In 2010 the Cadet rank was re-introduced with amendments to the *City of Winnipeg Charter*. It was hoped that Cadets would again take the burden off of sworn members of the Service. However, unlike their predecessor, the new Auxiliary Force Cadets would have peace officer powers. They would work throughout the city to enhance the Service's visual presence, build positive relationships in the community and allow police members to focus on core police duties. A Cadet's daily activities would vary, but include:

- conducting neighbourhood foot patrols
- guarding crime scenes
- directing traffic
- assisting in ground searches
- enforcing provincial statutes and municipal by-laws
- referring citizens to assisting agencies.

Cadets are a separate and distinct classification within the civilian or staff sector of the Service. With their peace officer status, the duties of the new Cadet rank include detaining individuals under the *Intoxicated Persons Detention Act*, the *Petty Trespass Act*, guarding non-violent mental health patients under the *Mental Health Act*, as well as enforcing selected sections of the *Highway Traffic Act*, *Off-Road Vehicles Act*, *Smoking and Vapour Products Control Act*, and the *Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act*, in addition to select municipal by-laws.

In 2020 Cadets responded to more than 20,000 incidents translating into over 12,000 hours of work. One of the more significant event types which the Cadets are active in is assisting those in need under the *Intoxicated Persons Detention Act* (IPDA). Cadets attend roughly 4,000 IPDA events a year. In 2020, due to the pandemic, Cadets attended

*Original Cadet, Constable Rerick dies in fire. Winnipeg Tribune, November 22, 1965*





*Above: First Auxillary Force Cadet Class graduates, November 22, 2010*



*Left: Group of Auxillary Force Cadets pose with two dogs found running at large*



*Auxillary Force Cadets direct traffic*



*Cadet Kirk Wiebe poses with checkered forage cap issued in 1982*



*Auxillary Force Cadets check on the wellbeing of an individual on the street*

3,157 IPDA events. Based on the average amount of time it takes to complete an IPDA incident, Cadets freed up more than 5,000 hours doing IPDA events that sworn members could invest attending to other matters.

All specified duties, as well as restrictions on cadet functions and responsibilities, are outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It must also be noted that Cadets do not have firearms or electronic control devices (Tasers), and rely on pepper spray, asp batons, handcuffs, and portable radios to perform their duties. In addition they are equipped with safety items as body armor and search gloves. Cadets are visually distinguishable from regular police officers by their azure or royal blue shirts.

The first class of 30 Cadets attended the Winnipeg Police Academy in September 2010 and began on the streets on November 22 of that year. At present, Cadets receive ten weeks of classroom training, followed by six weeks of field training. There are also provisions once they have successfully completed their training for Cadets to work part-time while they start or continue their higher education in their bid to become constables.

Since the Cadet Program launched in 2010, the Service has hired 295 cadets. By the end of 2020, 126 of those 295 cadets had become sworn officers and another 58 had found civilian jobs within the Service. Currently there are 60 full time and 21 part time cadets.

In 2020, the bi-weekly salary of an Auxiliary Force Cadet started at \$1,399.40, rising to \$1,507.05.

The Cadets continue to be a valuable asset to the Service diverting non-core policing functions away from general patrol and greatly increasing the visible presence and contact with the citizens of Winnipeg.

By Secretary Rod Hutter

With historical records  
supplied by WPS  
Underwater Search &  
Recovery Unit

# Winnipeg Police Underwater Search and Recovery Unit

## 50 Year Anniversary

# 1970 – 2020

The concept of Police Diving in Winnipeg had its beginnings in 1969 with Constable Armin Stojke of the Fort Garry Police Department. Being an active scuba diver, Stojke believed trained divers could be used to search underwater for persons or items instead of traditionally employed methods of dragging with hooks.

Constable Stojke initially approached Fort Garry Police Chief

Art Bridgewater with a proposal to form a Police Dive Unit for the Department. The Chief was quite interested in the concept, but at the time would not provide any funding or resources for the initiative. Instead he allowed Stojke to explore the feasibility of such a unit, and recruit potential members from the Police force who may be interested.



*Fort Garry Police Department Dive Unit*

Constable Stojke partnered with Brian Stevenson who at the time was the President of the Manitoba Underwater Council, and Tommie Towns who was a civilian diving enthusiast. The trio then set out to recruit and train a Police Dive Team.

During this campaign, 6 members of the Fort Garry Police Department signed up and were trained by Stevenson, who was also a certified scuba diving instructor. The members of

this volunteer group bought their own diving gear and paid for their own training, which was geared to the blackwater conditions of the Winnipeg River Systems. This “team” commenced operations which mainly consisted of recovering property or evidence and performed such services for the Winnipeg Police, RCMP and other agencies.

The working conditions faced by divers is described as extremely hazardous. Due to high silt levels in the Winnipeg rivers and city ponds, there is little to no visibility and most dives are conducted in total blackness. To search the bottom of a river or pond, divers were pulled on a tow bar and swept through the mud using their hands in a half circle pattern. When they found something, the diver had to determine by touch what they are handling. The river bottom is congested with garbage, concrete, rebar, wood, trees and just about everything imaginable. People have been throwing things into the river probably ever since man came to the area!

The fledgling dive team quickly proved themselves in the late summer of 1970, when under trying conditions they located and recovered a young boy who had drowned in the Red River. The youth went into the water as the result of a canoe accident within the Maple Grove Park area of south St. Vital.

After being called to the scene, the Fort Garry Police initially commenced their search by boat, employing traditional methods of dragging the river bottom with sharp hooks attached to lines. Hours went by without success while deeply upset and grieving family members watched on from the shoreline.

Constable Stojke approached Chief Bridgewater and requested permission

to use the volunteer Dive team which

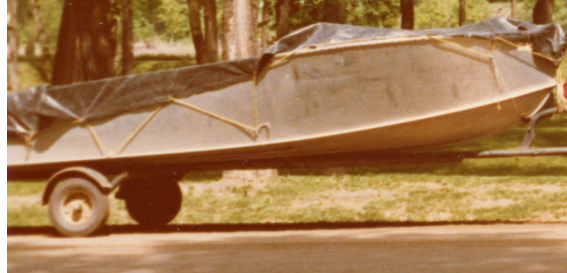
under the trying circumstances was granted. Divers entered the water and found the boy within an hour, gently raising the child to the surface, and bringing a compassionate closure to an absolutely tragic incident.

Chief Bridgewater was suitably impressed, and he officially sanctioned the dive team as the Underwater Rescue Unit. He allocated some departmental funding, and the dive unit members were able to “scrounge” their first dive vehicle from the Winnipeg Fire Department, being a 1959 International Harvester delivery truck. The dive unit also obtained a 16’ aluminum boat and trailer.

In 1974, the surrounding municipalities of the greater Winnipeg area, including the municipality of Fort Garry, amalgamated to become the City of Winnipeg. With this merging, the Underwater Rescue Unit from Fort Garry then became a specialty unit for the Winnipeg Police Department.

In 1979, the Underwater Rescue Unit was restructured, and only police members were accepted where before civilian members had been allowed. The Underwater Rescue Unit increased in size to 12 members and changed its name to the Underwater Search & Recovery Unit (USRU).

Between 1975 and 1995, the USRU supported a program called Police and Pal. Police Divers would teach scuba diving to disadvantaged youth in the community and would also certify other police officers. This was a great introduction to scuba





diving for the youth and for the police members. This program helped complement USRU, as newly certified members were often expressing interest in the unit.

By 1979 the unit had grown to 15 members but not everyone was active. Some restructuring occurred where inactive divers were “retired” which left a core group of 9 who were actively involved with training and operational deployments. In 1979 the unit also began joint training with the R.C.M.P. who joined up with the Winnipeg Police members to participate with their annual ice dive training at West Hawk Lake.

During 1980 the unit drew to 12 active divers and 3 apprentice divers who would work and train with the unit until a regular spot became available. 1981 however became one of the busiest years the unit ever had with the recovery of 12 drowning victims and numerous searches for evidence and stolen property.

In 1984 the unit began training in advanced lifesaving with the Royal Lifesaving society of Canada and started working with other units such as the RCMP Bomb Squad to train in underwater explosives detection and removal. The Unit also cross trained with the Winnipeg Fire Department, and jointly attended the Lac Du Bonnet School of Wilderness survival to learn swift water rescue. This doctrine encompassed surface swimming and boat rescues of persons trapped in fast flowing waters or rapids.

In 1985, all unit members became certified as P.A.D.I. (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) advanced open water divers. Further cross training in open water rescue also occurred with the Winnipeg Fire Department.

In the ensuing years, the unit members became certified in the P.A.D.I. Rescue Diver Program which focuses on diving medical emergencies and rescue diving. They also certified in ice diving, and later started training with the Department of National Defense to learn Military Diving. This partnership lasted many years throughout to 1991 where unit members became well versed with underwater navigation, night diving, and performing underwater tasks on worktables.

Today the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit has 12 full-time and 3 part-time members who continue to maintain the high levels of training and professionalism seen over the last 50 years. During 2020 the unit finalized a new logo and worked on plans for a new Dive Truck which will be ordered in 2021. They are also looking at the acquisition of a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) which can be piloted underwater without the need of a diver.



# Did you know...

- The average depth of searches in the Assiniboine River ranges between 8 and 15 feet.
- The average depth of searches in the Red River ranges between 18 and 25 feet.
- There are some “holes” in the river system which are estimated to be up to 50 feet deep (and possibly more).
- The Unit is responsible for approximately 50 miles of riverways (Red/Assiniboine/Seine), several miles of creeks, and over 120 retention ponds and man-made lakes.
- Diving conditions in both the Assiniboine and Red Rivers are very dangerous, and categorized as “blackwater” where the diver is unable to see anything around them – searches must be done by “feel”.
- For hundreds of years the Winnipeg rivers have been a dumping ground for construction materials and general refuse – as such, divers can quickly become entangled in submerged trees, concrete, rebar, wood structures, and general debris.
- Though many large aquatic creatures live in the Winnipeg river systems - such as Lake Sturgeon which can grow up to 2.5 meters (over 8 feet) and 140 kg ( over 300 lbs) - the greatest biological threat to divers has been huge snapping turtles which are predominantly found in the Seine River.





# Mobile Radio Display

By Secretary Rod Hutter



Similar to being one of the first cities to install call boxes as a communication system in 1913, later in 1930 Winnipeg became the first city in Canada to use radio equipped cruiser cars. After studying the effectiveness of such a system in Detroit, Winnipeg Chief of Police Christopher Newton championed the installation of a 600 watt short wave radio transmitter in the Rupert Avenue Police Station. The system was supplied and set up by the Canadian Marconi Company of Montreal and 3 cruiser cars were outfitted with one-way radios to receive messages. The lack of transmitters in the cars meant officers often had to acknowledge the receipt of radio messages by phone (call box), but the advantage of being able to attend a scene minutes after commission of a crime was undeniable.

With the value of radio systems being realized, further improvements occurred later in May of 1939, when 2-way radios were installed in cruiser cars and began operating 24 hours a day, versus 12 hours for the one-way radios that relied on batteries which had to be recharged.

The concept of a Winnipeg Police mobile radio display got its beginnings years ago in a back storage room in the Museum warehouse where Derk Derin had started opening and organizing boxes. He discovered a number of portable and mobile radios along with historical information on the sets. Wondering about their use and origins led him to the City of Winnipeg Radio shop, where supervisor Vito Nardiello and technicians Glen Bittner and Al Gural helped out with their knowledge and expertise to identify and classify the equipment.

Visiting the radio shop went on for a number of years as Derk established a hierarchy for the radio sets along with information on their installation, capabilities and use. To complete the collection, any missing radios were purchased from ebay along with needed parts or accessories.

With enough radios for a comprehensive display, Derk acquired cabinets from the PSB while the building was being prepared for demolition. The radios and related equipment, accessories and labels, were mounted in the cabinets and all moved into a permanent display at the museum.

The Museum would like to extend a sincere thank you to Derk for his sheer persistence and tenacity in establishing one of the most thorough collections of radio equipment known to exist in a Police Museum.

# HELPING OTHER MUSEUMS

By Secretary Rod Hutter

## 1913 Airdrie Burgh (Scotland) Officers join the Winnipeg Police

During 2020, Winnipeg Police Museum Secretary Rod Hutter was contacted by George Barnsley, Chairman of the Lanarkshire Police Historical Society in Scotland, UK, who was looking for assistance with a project he was working on. This involved researching and writing the biographies of former members of the Lanarkshire Police, an organization much like Winnipeg, that came together from the amalgamation of different forces in the geographical area. George had particular interest with four officers who in 1913 all left the Airdrie Burgh Police at the same time and immigrated to Canada to join the Winnipeg Police.



The Airdrie Burgh Police Force was originally established in 1822 and faithfully served their community for 145 years. In 1967, Airdrie Burgh amalgamated with Coatbridge Burgh, Hamilton Burgh, Motherwell, and Wishaw Burgh, to become part of the Lanarkshire Constabulary. Airdrie Burgh Police records showed the Force had 11 officers in 1859 (earliest account) and had grown to 66 officers by the time of amalgamation in 1967.

It is well known for many years Police forces in Canada were actively recruiting officers from England and Scotland. From the Airdrie Burgh Police, Cst. Alexander Cleghorn (22 yrs), Cst. Alexander Grieve (26 yrs), Cst. Alexander Riddell (21 yrs), and Cst. William MacPherson (22 yrs), were officers who all left together at the same time on May 17, 1913, sailing from Glasgow to Montreal on

the S.S. Athenia. They arrived in in Canada on April 14 and made their way to Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Police Museum forwarded pictures, documents and Service Records held on File to the Lanarkshire Historical Society, and they responded in kind sending their records on the 4 officers. All received documents and pictures from Lanarkshire were added to the applicable officer's personnel files held in the Museum Archives.

It should be added that according to City Bylaws, old personnel records can be purged and destroyed after 60 years. Through agreement with the WPS, these records are now turned over to the Museum instead of being shredded. The documents and other file contents are scanned and archived on the Museum servers, and have proven to be of great

✓ 5968	Cleghorn	Alex. Mo.	✓		✓	Constable	22
✓ 5969	Grieve	Alex. R.	✓	✓	✓		26
✓ 5970	Riddell	Alex.	✓	✓	✓		21
✓ 5971	MacPherson	Wm.	✓	✓	✓		22



value for both historical and genealogical research. The Museum would like to extend our sincere thanks to Karen Shapansky for assisting with this agreement and working with the Museum for many years to preserve such historical records.

Why did this particular group of four young officers all come to Winnipeg together? The true reason may never be known. Barnsley advises other officers from their amalgamated forces have come to Winnipeg in the past, most notably Charles McIVER, who later became the Chief of Police in Winnipeg and served as such from 1947-1953. McIVER had been a member of the Lanarkshire Police before immigrating to Canada

in 1910, and certainly could have been actively recruiting from forces in his former area afterwards.

According to a picture and records sent by Barnsley, the Airdrie Burgh Police consisted of 26 members in 1912, so having 4 officers depart at the same time would have been a considerable loss for the force.

The Winnipeg Police Museum would like to thank George Barnsley for his supply of pictures, records and a cap badge representing the Lanarkshire Police. The history of the Airdrie Burgh Police and others can be found on the Web Pages of the Lanarkshire Police Historical Society at: <http://www.lphs.org.uk>.



<p><b>Alexander M. Cleghorn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appointed as a Probationary Constable on June 2, 1913</li> <li>• dismissed on June 10, 1919, on account of the Winnipeg General Strike</li> <li>• reinstated on June 27, 1919, once the Strike ended</li> <li>• promoted to first class Detective as of January 1, 1942</li> <li>• retired on pension December 31, 1955, after serving 42 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alexander Robertson Grieve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appointed as a Probationary Constable on June 2, 1913</li> <li>• dismissed on June 9, 1919, on account of the Winnipeg General Strike</li> <li>• reinstated on June 27, 1919 once the Strike ended</li> <li>• retired on pension June 16, 1939</li> <li>• pictures held in Museum archives show him as a winner of the Winnipeg Police Athletic Association Interdivisional Relay Race (team of 4) in both 1920 and 1921</li> </ul>	<p><b>William MacPherson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appointed as a Probationary Constable on October 4, 1913</li> <li>• resigned just under 2 years later on June 30, 1915, to enlist with the 79<sup>th</sup> Battalion and serve during the First World War</li> <li>• returned to the Winnipeg Police and was reinstated on February 6, 1919</li> <li>• dismissed on June 9, 1919, on account of the Winnipeg General Strike</li> <li>• reinstated on June 27, 1919</li> <li>• resigned from the Force 3 years later on August 24, 1922</li> <li>• McPherson is also in pictures along with Alexander Grieve as a winner of the Winnipeg Police Athletic Association Interdivisional Relay Race (team of 4) in both 1920 and 1921</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alexander Riddell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued west to Edmonton</li> <li>• Joined the Edmonton Police on July 3, 1914</li> <li>• Left policing and joined the 1st Canadian Pioneer Battalion on November 5, 1915 to fight in WW1</li> <li>• Rejoined the Edmonton Police after discharge from the army on September 19, 1919</li> <li>• Retired on February 8, 1955 as a Deputy Chief</li> </ul>
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# IT ALL STARTED WITH A PICTURE...

By Secretary Rod Hutter

While our restoration specialist Derk Derin was busy sandblasting and painting all types of old Police call boxes, he was also looking for pictures showing how they originally appeared on Winnipeg streets. Searching the internet, Derk happened upon a photo showing a newer style Gamewell call box attached to a hydro pole, with an officer talking on the phone (with a goose prominently underfoot) and another officer looking on from a cruiser car.

For those who know Derk, he absolutely needs to be thorough and accurate. As he'd never seen this configuration before, and considering it stood out in such stark contrast to the traditional ornate bases the boxes were usually mounted on, Derk decided he simply must have a call box mounted on a hydro pole for museum display.

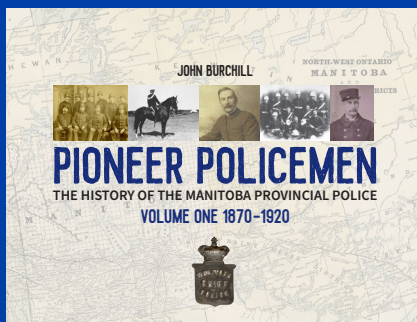
Research into the photo identified the two officers as Cst. Orien Brown, who was standing beside the cruiser car in the background, and Cst. Dwight Armstrong, who appeared to be talking on a telephone with the goose standing beside his legs. The picture was taken on July 21, 1974.

Derk went through the Museum storage area and found a Gamewell call box that was in good condition and matched the photograph (almost to the same identification number). The next challenge would be finding a hydro pole.



At this same time Manitoba Hydro happened to be involved with the large upgrade project at the north main sewage treatment plant. With a work yard being situated near the Museum warehouse, Derk sought out Hydro supervisor Colin Rochon and enquired about the possibility of obtaining a section of used hydro pole for a display. Shortly afterwards, Derk arrived at the warehouse to find a large hydro pole leaning up against the outside wall!

Derk cut the pole down to a manageable size which he mounted on a heavy base. He then added the call box, wiring, lighting, and even ground cover consisting of artificial grass and plants. The finished project with the picture and story attached, is slated to be added as another static museum display (albeit without any geese but he was thinking about them as well)!

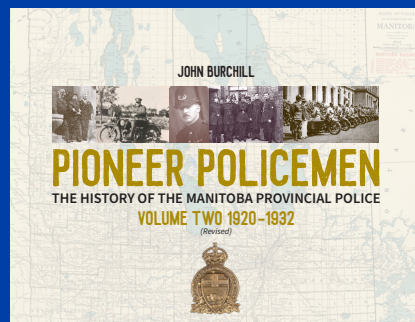


## Pioneer Policemen

*The History of the Manitoba Provincial Police Volume 1 (1870 to 1920)*

**John Burchill**

2020. Formed in 1870 the Manitoba Mounted Constabulary was the first police force in Western Canada formed after Confederation. It remained in existence until 1932 when at the height of the Great Depression it was absorbed into the RCMP. Broken into two volumes, this book chronicles the 150 year history of these pioneer policemen for the first time from its inception in 1870 until 1920.

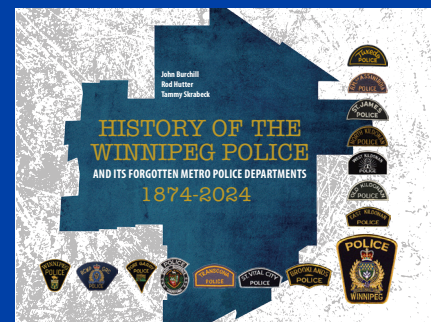


## Pioneer Policemen

*The History of the Manitoba Provincial Police Volume 2 (1920 to 1932)*

**John Burchill**

2020. This second volume, covering the years 1920-1932, looks at the history of the provincial police after World War I. Many of the officers who were hired during these years were returned soldiers; some served in both world wars. Some climbed to the senior officer ranks in the RCMP; a few were elected to political office—Councilors, Mayors, and MLA's—and others became chief law enforcement officers of other agencies.



## History of the Winnipeg Police

*And its Forgotten Metro Police Departments (1874-2024)*

**John Burchill | Rod Hutter | Tammy Skrabek**

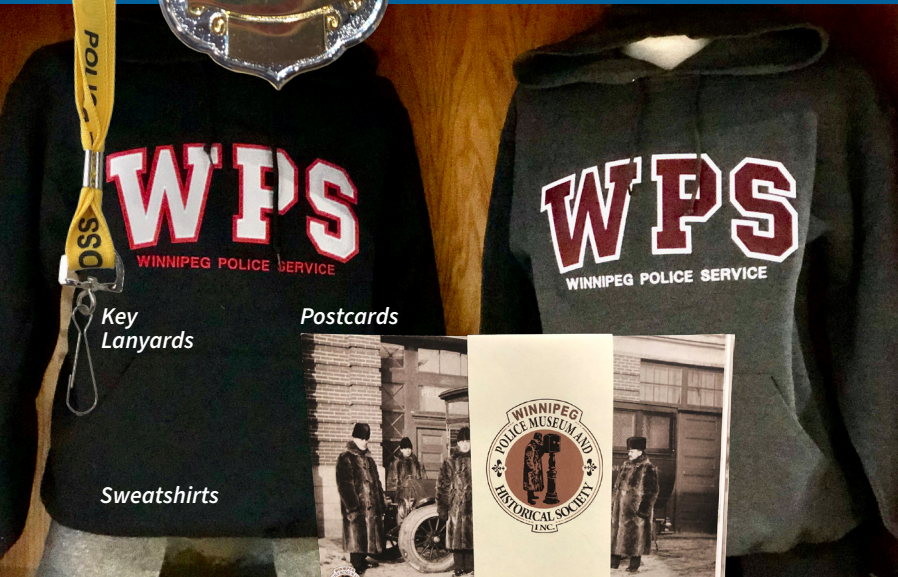
2023. Chronicling the 150th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Police Service, this book will focus heavily on the history of the 13 other municipal police departments that make up Winnipeg today. With the exception of St Boniface in the years prior to amalgamation in 1974, very little information or items were passed on the Museum about these other police departments. For their research, the authors are looking for any information, from names, photos, property and equipment to papers, reports and personal stories, that might still exist with former members or their families.

# Museum

# GIFT SHOP



Badges

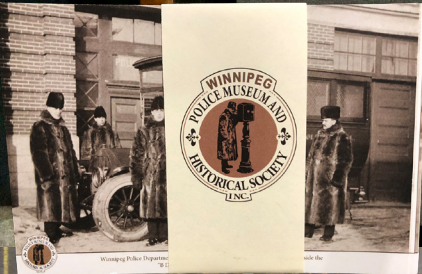


**WPS**  
WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

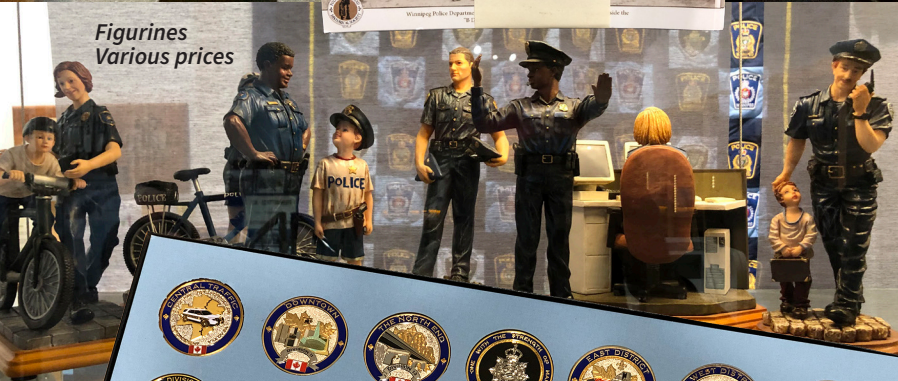
**WPS**  
WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Key Lanyards

Postcards



Sweatshirts



Figurines  
Various prices



Coins

Cell Phone Poppers

## Supporting your Museum

### ARTIFACTS

The Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society is successful in part thanks to the generosity of former members and their families who donate artifacts and photos. We gratefully accept these items and incorporate them into our archives and exhibits. Please keep the Museum in mind if you have old photographs, digital images, or other articles of Police memorabilia.

### TIME

The Museum is regularly looking for volunteers to assist with projects and tours. Please contact the Curator if you would like to become involved.

### CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Museum is a registered Charity and can receive donations. Tax receipts are made available upon request.

### PAYROLL DEDUCTION

The Museum can be supported through Payroll Deduction overseen by the City of Winnipeg for employees, or the Pension Board for Retirees. The pledge form on the next page can be used for donating to the Museum and even \$1.00 can make a huge difference!

### Stories, Memorabilia or Pictures

If anyone has interesting stories, memorabilia or pictures of our members (past or present) they would like to share please send them to John Burchill or the Museum Curator.



The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.)

**PLEDGE FORM**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Employee ID</b>	
<b>Department</b>			
<b>Work Address</b>		<b>Phone No.</b>	

**DONATION REQUEST**

I authorize the City of Winnipeg Payroll Branch to deduct the below listed bi-weekly charitable donation(s) on behalf of the City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund. MY TOTAL PLEDGE/DONATION is to be distributed to the charity(ies) listed below.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ \*\*\***

Please be sure to include the **TOTAL** bi-weekly amount you wish to be deducted from your pay cheque. The total bi-weekly amount must include **ALL** CURRENT and NEW donations (include the amount you are currently donating bi-weekly, PLUS any changes you are making on this form)

**PLEASE CHOOSE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS & SPECIFY BELOW:**

New Donor    Add Charity    Remove Charity    Increase Donation    Decrease Donation

<input type="checkbox"/>	The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.) CC174	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnipeg Police Museum & Historical Society	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
			<b>TOTAL BI-WEEKLY</b> <small>(INCLUDE CURRENT &amp; NEW DONATIONS)</small>
			\$ _____

**Comments:**

I give the C.W.C.F. permission to release my name to my charity(ies) of choice

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Employee Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**CANCELLATION REQUEST**

I respectfully request that my charitable donation(s) that are currently being deducted from my pay cheque on a bi-weekly basis be cancelled immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Employee Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Please email the signed and dated form to [cwcf@winnipeg.ca](mailto:cwcf@winnipeg.ca)**

or return it to The Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program  
5th Floor - 317 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2H6

<b>ACCEPTED BY CWCF SECRETARY</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
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## The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund Retirees Pledge Form

<b>Name:</b> (Please print)		<b>Member ID#:</b> (Not Employee ID)	
<b>Address</b>			
<b>Department at Retirement</b>		<b>Telephone No.</b>	

**\* The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund currently allocates funds to the following 26 local charities:**

- |                                 |                                     |                             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alzheimer Society of Manitoba   | Heart & Stroke Foundation           | Rehab Centre for Children   |
| Canadian Liver Foundation       | Jocelyn House                       | Royal Canadian Legion       |
| CancerCare Manitoba             | Kidney Foundation                   | The Salvation Army          |
| Cerebral Palsy (Manitoba)       | L.I.T.E.                            | The United Way              |
| Christmas Cheer Board           | Literacy Works                      | Variety, Children's Charity |
| Compassionate Friends           | Manitoba Lung Association           | Westland Foundation         |
| Diabetes Foundation of Manitoba | Masonic Foundation of Manitoba Inc. | Winnipeg Harvest            |
| Firefighters Burn Fund Inc.     | Movement Centre of Manitoba (2008)  | W.I.S.H.                    |
| Habitat for Humanity            | Osteoporosis Society of Canada      |                             |

### DONATION REQUEST

I authorize the Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program to deduct the below listed bi-weekly charitable donation(s) on behalf of The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund from my pension deposit

MY TOTAL PLEDGE/DONATION is to be distributed to the charity(ies) listed below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.) *	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$ _____	Bi-Weekly
Total Bi-Weekly Payment		\$ _____	

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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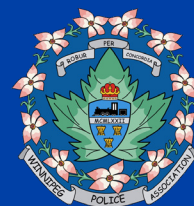
Please return the completed form to The Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program  
5th Floor - 317 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2H6

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## Thank You

The Board again wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the strong and continual support of the Winnipeg Police Service Executive. Their co-operation and assistance during the year directly results in the Museum's continued success. We also wish to recognize and thank our other two major funding organizations – The Winnipeg Police Association and the Winnipeg Police Credit Union.



2020 Annual Report  
Editor: Rod Hutter  
Assistant Editor: John Burchill

*Back cover photo: Demolition Public Safety Building, July 29, 2020.*

