

1974

After the amalgamation of all the smaller Municipal Police Departments in the Metropolitan area of Winnipeg, 2 Officers were officially appointed as a "Historical Committee" whose purpose was to gather and save artifacts and records from all the previous Forces. The intent was someday a Police Museum would be established, and many things were at risk of being lost as the amalgamation process moved along. Cst. Burt Hutchison was appointed representing the Winnipeg Police, and P/Sgt. Jack Templeman (formerly St. Boniface Police) was appointed representing the numerous suburban Departments. As the actual amalgamations had already taken place when the process started in 1972, much of the old records and equipment

had already been disposed of or destroyed. Undaunted, the two members began collecting items and storing them at various stations as acquired space would allow.

Early 1980's

In the early 1980's the Winnipeg Police Training Academy was located in the Van Belleghen School at 10 Vermillion Road. The beginnings of a Museum started here when displays were set up in one classroom while a second room was allocated for storage of collected items and records.

1983

Staff Sgt. Jack Templeman approached Deputy Chief Stan Scarr about the proper development of a Winnipeg Police Museum. The proposal was brought forward to Chief Ken Johnson who granted approval for the endeavor. The Museum's first restoration project was a 1925 REO Speed Wagon (former Winnipeg Police patrol wagon) that was found derelict in a farmer's field.

1986

A number of interested Police Officers gathered to form a properly constituted Museum Board of Directors. The organization was formed and a set of Bylaws were drafted outlining the mandate and how business would be conducted. On May 2, 1986, the Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society Inc. was officially registered and certified by the Province of Manitoba under the Corporations Act. The creation of Logos followed shortly afterwards with an officer wearing a buffalo coat by a call box being the design of choice.

1988

The Museum followed the Winnipeg Police Training Academy when it moved into the former Allard Elementary School at 130 Allard Avenue. Here the Museum received 2 adjoined classrooms for displays and removed the common wall to make one large area. A window was also removed, and the opening enlarged for the installations of 2 exterior doors to accommodate the Paddy Wagon. When another classroom was demolished to make a parking lot entrance, the remaining space not needed for the passageway was allocated to the Museum for use as a storeroom. While setting up the expanded Museum, 7 glass display cases were acquired from a local jewelry store that was closing.

1994

With the approval and support of Chief Dale Henry, the Museum was authorized to appoint a Curator to improve Museum Services and provide monthly reports on Museum affairs and activities. Staff Sergeant Jack Templeman assumed this role after he retired from the Winnipeg Police Department.

2006

Due to an ever increasing workload, the Winnipeg Police Executive agreed to the creation of an Assistant Curator position. Retired Sergeant Bruce Honey was appointed to assume this role. By this time, the Museum had expanded past the classrooms and had displays set up in most of the hallways throughout the academy.

2009

After the Canada Post Building at 245 Smith Street was acquired as a future Headquarters for the Winnipeg Police Service, planning commenced for a new Museum to be set up within the premises. The Museum submitted floor space requirements based on current displays set up at the Allard Academy, and a ground floor location was requested to accommodate the movement of restored vehicles. The Police Executive chose the front lobby area in the HQ Building tower as it was readily accessible to the public, yet separate and apart from the secure working areas. A professional Museum architect came in to review the Allard galleries, and designed plans for the new location based on layouts created by the Police Museum Board of Directors and Curators. These included custom display cases and commercial lighting. The Museum was allocated additional space in the front lobby for a glassed-in viewing area, and an expansion was built on the west side of the main area to provide more floor space for vehicles. A front office was also added later on during construction.

2015

After experiencing a number of construction delays, the Winnipeg Police Service took possession of the Headquarters Building. The Museum received authorization to start moving artifacts which started in August. The new Museum is expected to be set up and open sometime in early 2016.





