

CADETS TURN

10

(and Sixty)

IN 2020

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

This year marks the 10th year anniversary of the Auxiliary Force Cadets. It also marks the 60th 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 Aldynne 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.