
ROBERT CONDIE

First Chief Constable, Village of Brooklands

*Written by John Burchill, President
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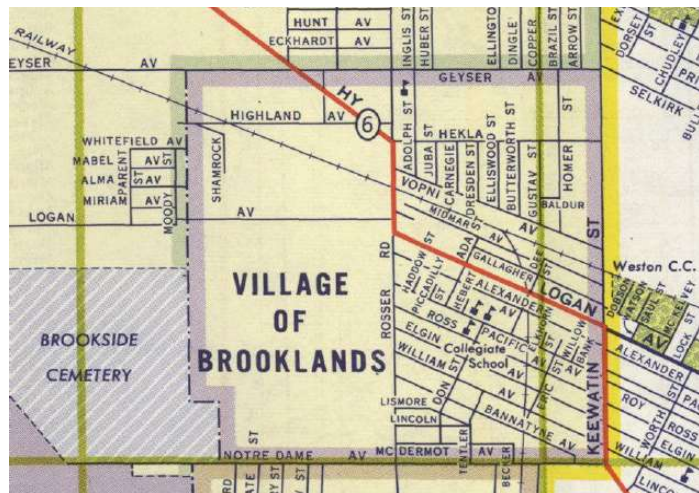
The Municipality of Rosser, created in 1893, is located to the northwest of Winnipeg. On June 10, 1921, a square mile within the Rosser municipality, as it then existed, was incorporated as the Village of Brooklands. The name of the village was derived from the “Brook” that runs through its westside – Omands Creek.

Then having a population of 500 people, the boundary of this newly created village was Selkirk Avenue, then named Geyser Avenue to the north, Notre Dame Avenue to the south. Keewatin Street to the east and the western portion extended to the west side of Brookside Cemetery (which was included within the City of Winnipeg limits 1902).

At the time Brooklands was a working-class village. Many of the residents were employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Weston yards and shop. The tight-knit community sought independence from Rosser, and the first village election was held in July 1921.

The original village offices were in a building on the corner of present-day Hoban Street and Pacific Avenue, later known as Cressy School or White School. One of the village council’s first appointments was that of Robert Condie as Municipal Constable and Health Inspector.

Condie’s appointment as a provincial constable was published in the Manitoba Gazette on September 10, 1921. He was paid a salary of \$122.00 per month.



Robert Condie was born on September 21, 1888, at Haggs, Stirlingshire, Scotland. He served with the Stirlingshire Police from February 1907 to February 1909. He immigrated to the United States in 1910 and came to Manitoba from North Dakota in 1911. He worked as a machinist for various companies in Winnipeg.

On August 27, 1913, Condie married Helen Welsh Sandiford. They lived at 1812 Pacific Avenue (West) in the Municipality of Rosser, which would eventually become part of the Village of Brooklands. Helen's parents lived next door at 1810 Pacific Avenue. Together the couple had two children, Margaret, born in 1915, and Robert, born in 1916.

On June 5, 1917, Condie joined the Canadian Division of the Royal Flying Corps. He was discharged in August 1918.

On August 15, 1923, Condie left Brooklands and joined the Manitoba Provincial Police. His appointment was confirmed on February 1, 1924, in the Manitoba Gazette. He was first stationed in Russell and then Crystal City. He would remain in Crystal City for the rest of his life.



Robert Condie, third from right, back row, c. 1928.
Manitoba Provincial Police, Western Division. Courtesy Brandon Police Service

On April 1, 1932, Condie transferred his service to the RCMP when the provincial police were absorbed. He was promoted to corporal on November 1, 1945. Condie retired to pension on December 12, 1946. At the time, he set a record for serving 18 years in one RCMP detachment (23 if his provincial police time is included).

Condie died on July 30, 1978, at the Pilot Mound Hospital and was interred at the Crystal City Cemetery. He was predeceased by his wife, Helen, in 1938 and his two children, including his son Robert who was killed in 1941 during a training accident with the Royal Canadian Airforce in Fort Macleod.

NOTE: In 1967 the *Town* of Brooklands (as it then was) with its five-man police department was absorbed by the St. James Police, which in turn amalgamated with the Assiniboia Police in 1969. Today, the area of Brooklands is part of the Winnipeg Police West District area headed by Inspector Max Waddell.