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Back cover: 1920 WCPAA Relay Cup Winners - C. Gilles, A.R. Grieve, Angus McDonald, W. MacPherson
Note from President John Burchill

I would first like to acknowledge the support of the Board Members who generously give of their time throughout the year and are responsible for the oversight of the Museum including the financials, of which we have a fiduciary responsibility. We said goodbye to long time Board Member Gord Perrier this past year, who also retired as Deputy Chief of Police. See my profile on Gord’s remarkable career.

With the end of the pandemic, we were open for a full 12 months in 2023 and returned to regular in person meetings. Altogether the Museum was open 200 days in 2023.

The Board continues to be guided by its Strategic and Business Plans developed in 2021 to promote the preservation, collection and exhibition of artifacts related to policing in Manitoba for the future. Our focus has been on the Service’s upcoming 150th anniversary as well as the 50th anniversary of amalgamation in 2024. Leading up to 2024, Rod Hutter contributes an excellent piece on the history of the Winnipeg Police flash through the years, to the most recent one in 2023 recognizing the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Board wishes to thank the volunteers who generously give of their time and expertise to ensure the Museum is a viable and appreciated entity. The thousands of visitors that pass through the Museum greatly benefit from their interactions with our knowledgeable volunteers and many leave written comments attesting to this. The Museum could not operate without these volunteers, and we would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their commitment:

Alex Katz
Chris Lundgren
Derk Derin
Don Wardrop
Ernie Tomchuk
Gary Walker
George Walker
Jernej Anderlic
Ken Forsyth
Larry Rae
Lawrence Klippenstein
Morris Strembicki
Norm Rimmer
Peter Korzeniowski
Ron Hodgins
Gioanna Roca
Simmonds
Bruce Vokey
Pat Chabidon
Illia Tishchenko

Our volunteers put in a total of 2245 hours in 2023, interacting with 4979 visitors. However, our volunteers often donate more than just their time, often attending community events and performing the “heavy lifting”. While the Board values all 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, especially our old cruiser cars to keep them roadworthy.
During 2023 we were also fortunate to have Tavee Villamar with us, who did a placement with the Museum through the Cultural Human Resources Canada Student Grant program. He did an admirable job making some community service messaging for us. We would also like to recognize Harmanpreet Pawar, a Grade 11 student from Seven Oaks School who assisted the Museum as part of her Work Experience program. Nick Cauthers, also assisted at the Museum every Thursday, sorting pictures, and counting inventory, with the support of the Manitoba Down Syndrome Society.

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

A big thank you goes to our Curator Tammy Skrabek. 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. Tammy did an excellent job showcasing our rich sporting history for the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) held in Winnipeg this year.

As part of our sporting history, I profile one of our former WPFG athletes, Andy Bohem, and his baseball journey in this year’s report. I also look back at one of our athletic champions who ruled track and field from 1920-1940 – Angus McDonald. You can read about many others in our regular “Behind the Badge” series online.

Throughout the year Museum continued to run its Gift Shop. The shop has seen an increase in sales activity and clothing items available, especially during the WPFG. The Museum doesn't make a lot of money on these sales, but it does increase virtual traffic and interest in the Museum and our history.

We look forward to 2024 which will no doubt see further changes and advancements for your very progressive Winnipeg Police Museum as we profile the history of the Service, its members, and especially the contributions of the 13 pre-amalgamation metro police departments to making the Winnipeg Police “one with the strength of many”!
2023 AGM and Elections
The Museum hosted our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday April 25, 2023, which was held in the Winnipeg Police Headquarters Building media room. Food and beverages were catered by Curator Tammy Skrabek.

Moving into 2023, the Board had four Director positions become open as the result of completed regular three-year terms. Voting results saw the return of incumbents John Burchill, John Siderius, and Peter Korzeniowski to renewed 3-year terms, along with the election of new candidate Stacey Cann.

The Auditor is also appointed at the AGM, and remaining consistent with past years, Mr. Ron Storozuk was chosen to review the Museum’s Finances. Mr. Storozuk is a retired partner of Deloitte & Touche and has been assisting with the Museum’s Financial Reporting for many years.

Executive Appointments
Instead of waiting for the first regular Board meeting, Directors in attendance at the AGM chose to appoint the Museum Executive after the elections. The following appointments were made and ratified by those in attendance:
- President: John Burchill
- Vice-President: Rod Hutter
- Treasurer: Jernej Anderlic
- Secretary: Stacey Cann

Curator Position
Curator Tammy Skrabek renewed her contract with the Museum and continued overseeing the Museum, Volunteers, galleries, and exhibits for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Vehicle Appraisals
The appraisals on all Museum vehicles were completed as of March 2023, by Mr. Pat Moonui who is a certified antique automobile appraiser and is recognized by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPIC) Collector Car program. The purpose of the appraisals is to establish values that amongst other purposes are used for insurance coverage. The appraisals are quite in-depth and involve the inspection and photographing of the vehicle along with reviewing historical documentation. The vehicles are further researched on several platforms to determine an estimated value based on industry standards.

Museum Vehicles for Special Events
The Police Museum vehicles are regularly booked for special events which for example included the 1978 Ford Custom 500 cruiser car being a backdrop for the Theriault-Patchett Wedding photos in August.
Citizen Volunteer Awards Ceremony

On March 19, several Museum volunteers were recognized at the Winnipeg Police Citizen Volunteer Awards Ceremony being hosted by Chief Danny Smyth at the Assiniboina Downs Banquet Room. Attendees were treated to a large banquet dinner which included a baron of beef. Museum Volunteers in attendance included:

- Don Wardrop (Inspector-retired)
- Lawrence Klippenstein (Deputy Chief-retired)
- John Degroot (Superintendent-retired)
- Larry Rea (Constable-retired)
- Chris Lundgren (Patrol Sergeant-retired)
- Norm Rimmer (Sergeant-retired)
- George Walker (Staff Sergeant-retired)
- Ernie Tomchuk (Sergeant-retired)

World Police and Fire Games

The Museum stayed open 7 days per week with extended hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm while the World Police and Fire Games were being hosted in Winnipeg from July 25 to August 7. During this busy time Museum volunteers shone and rose to the occasion conducting tours and interacting with visitors from around the globe!

The Museum also provided 3 heritage Police cars to participate in the World Police and Fire Games parade and opening ceremonies.

Sports Display

In conjunction with the World Police and Fire Games being hosted in Winnipeg during the summer of 2023, Curator Tammy Skrabek created a large display in the Museum gallery commemorating the involvement of Winnipeg Police members (sworn and civilian) in sporting events throughout the years. The display was announced publicly and launched on March 15 through the Global TV Morning Show.
1987 Ford Restoration (continued)
Restoration efforts continued on the 1987 Ford which last year saw a new braking system, tires, shocks, bearings, tune-up parts and repaired flooring. Work continued in 2023 with the transmission being rebuilt by Great Rate Transmission at 960 Wall Street, and the 351 Windsor V8 Police Edition engine being rebuilt by Competition Engine and Machine at 2640 Portage Avenue.

Cram the Cruiser Donation Event
On October 4, WPS Officers borrowed the Museum’s 1978 Ford for the 1st Annual Cram the Cruiser Event being hosted by the Real Canadian Superstore and their Asset Protection Group. All Manitoba Superstore locations partnered with Manitoba Law Enforcement Agencies to collect food and cash donations for local charities. Supported charities included:

• Manitoba Harvest (Winnipeg)
• Samaritan House (Brandon)
• The Winkler Food Cupboard (Winkler)
• Southeast Helping Hands (Steinbach)

Winnipeg 150 Project
The year 2024 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Police (created February 23, 1874) and the 50th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the surrounding metropolitan Police Departments into the Winnipeg Police on October 31st, 1974.

Projects continued in 2023 to:
• Research, identify, and record the oral histories of surviving members from the 14 metropolitan police departments that existed prior to October 31, 1974;
• Collect and catalogue any records, photographs and equipment from the 14 metropolitan police departments for exhibition and display;
• Profile the histories of the 14 metropolitan police departments, their members, crimes and occurrences, and community histories in journals, on-line and trade publications, to engage the public;
• Continue research for the writing and publishing of a book on the history of the Winnipeg Police and surrounding metropolitan police departments from 1874-2024;
• Further applications for government heritage grants to help achieve the Museum’s goals of preserving and recording the history of the Winnipeg Police and surrounding municipalities from 1874-2024.

Holiday Open House
On Sunday December 3 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm the museum hosted a Holiday Open House for Members, Staff, and Families. Activities included pictures with Santa, guided tours, a scavenger hunt, and cookie decorating.
2023 SPECIAL EVENTS

10 U of W Collegiate student tour
28 Weston Child Care tour

JANUARY
10-20 closed to change-out displays
27 River East Collegiate student tour

FEBRUARY
11 Frank Ray (County Music Artist) Museum Tour
17 WPS Chief for the Day
29 Weston Child Care
30 Child Care Tour

MARCH
11 Riverwood Square Retirement Centre
12 Fermor YMCA Adult Centre Scouts
28 – 30 Rodorama (1988 Dodge Diplomat)
29 WPA Charity Ball (1978 Ford)

APRIL
4 Heritage Fair, University of Winnipeg
7 WPS Half Marathon (two cars)
10 WPS - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
16 Prairie View School Grade 5 & 6 – Blumenort
17 Winnipeg Police Awards Day (two cars)
27 – 28 Doors Open Winnipeg
30 Manitoba Law Society

MAY

JUNE

Special Events:
- Chief for a day, September 5, 2023
- Law Enforcement Convoy for Special Olympics, September 9, 2023
Good News Day Care (grade 1 & 2)  
Good News Day Care (grades 3 & 4)  
Good News Day Care (Preschool)  
Splay Day Care  
1978 Ford – Wedding photo shoot AM  
1978 Ford – Wedding photo shoot PM  
Weston Day Care  
Superstore Cram the Cruiser Donation Event (1978 Ford)  
Communications Centre Tour  
Hugh John McDonald Grade 9 tour  
WPS - Chief for the day  
Law Enforcement Convoy for Special Olympics  
McCaskill Funeral  
St Adolphe Car Show (2014 Harley & 1988 Diplomat)  
Member Wedding (1978 Ford)  
MACP Memorial – Memorial Park (Killed in the line of Duty Displays)  
WPS - Take Our Kids to Work Day (Museum Tours)  
Fermor YMCA Adult Tour  
Manitoba Motor Dealers Association (1978 Ford)  
Zaretski Funeral  
Photos with Santa  
Volunteer Dinner  
WPS - Take Our Kids to Work Day (Museum Tours)  
Fermor YMCA Adult Tour  
Manitoba Motor Dealers Association (1978 Ford)  
Zaretski Funeral  
Photos with Santa  
Volunteer Dinner  
WPS - Take Our Kids to Work Day (Museum Tours)  
Fermor YMCA Adult Tour  
Manitoba Motor Dealers Association (1978 Ford)  
Zaretski Funeral  
Photos with Santa  
Volunteer Dinner
On April 29, 1882, the City of Winnipeg’s License and Police Committee, authorized the Chief of Police to create a new Detective position within the Winnipeg Police at a salary of $1000 per year. By comparison, the Chief of Police made $1400 per year and Constables made $720.

ALEXANDER MCGOWAN was appointed the first Detective for the Winnipeg Police Force effective the same day. Born in Ontario in 1849, little else is known of McGowan’s early life until January 1, 1879, when he started his first shift walking the beat with the Winnipeg Police. At the time, Winnipeg was a small department of just seven officers. He started that first shift at 10:30 p.m. and ended at 6 a.m. His entry in the daily occurrence book was that the night was uneventful, but very cold. Indeed, it was to be the coldest day of the year, with the thermometer dropping that night to -30 Fahrenheit (-34.4 Celsius).

Although Winnipeg was the main economic centre for Manitoba, it wasn’t until the railway opened up the small province in 1879 that other settlements grew. Eventually Emerson was incorporated as a town on November 25, 1879, before becoming a city in 1883. Portage la Prairie was incorporated as a town on November 12, 1880. Although St. Boniface was a well-established community by 1880, it would not be incorporated as a town until 1883. However all that started to change on March 21, 1881, when the federal government passed an Act to provide for the extension of Manitoba’s boundaries.

With the extension of the province’s boundaries, Gimli was now part of Manitoba and incorporated as Municipality on August 15, 1881. Brandon was incorporated as a city in 1882. Gladstone was incorporated as a town in 1882 along with Rat Portage, Nelson, and Selkirk. By 1883 Minnedosa, Birtle, Pipestone, Neepawa, Rapid City, Pilot Mound, and Morris would all be incorporated as towns as well.

Manitoba was the fastest growing province in Canada. At the time of the 1881 federal Census there were just 62,260 people in Manitoba. However, by 1886 Manitoba had 108,640 people. The population had almost doubled in just five years, and it would nearly triple by 1891.

The Winnipeg Police Force was also growing at a steady rate and McGowan was promoted twice in that time—first to Sergeant and then to the new position of Detective (also called Inspector).

However, on June 14, 1884, the Winnipeg Board of Police Commissioners (which replaced the License and Police Committee just a month earlier) read in the resignation of Inspector McGowan. While they were disappointed with the loss of such an efficient officer, it was understood that it was for his own career advancement. While the minutes of the Board do not indicate what he was leaving for,
the Manitoba Free Press reported that McGowan was the new Chief Detective for the Canadian Pacific Railway, covering the area between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. From there McGowan would join the Manitoba Provincial Police and then to Montana.

John Angus McKenzie was subsequently promoted to replace McGowan as the Force’s only Detective in 1884. Born in Nova Scotia in 1859, McKenzie came to Manitoba after living for a short time in Wisconsin. McKenzie resigned on March 25, 1886, becoming a private detective. He would take on a substantial amount of detective work, including assisting the Provincial Police over the next 20 years with a number of significant cases until his death in 1907.

Following McKenzie’s departure, William John Leech became the next officer promoted to the rank of Detective in 1886. First hired in 1882, Leech would remain with the Winnipeg Police Force until April 30, 1914, when he retired on pension.

During Leech’s career a total of 180,000 Ukrainians¹ left their homeland for Canada. Most settled in Manitoba and areas of the Northwest between 1891 and 1914, that later became the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. While many fled oppression from areas under Austro-Hungarian rule, Canadian immigration policy at the time also promoted the settlement of the West by Eastern Europeans such as Ukrainians, Hungarians, Romanians, and Mennonites. It was strongly believed that these immigrant groups made the best settlers for the Prairies, because of their familiarity with agriculture, rural lifestyles, and harsh climates.

As a result, the Prairie population increased dramatically—with Winnipeg, “the Gateway to the West,” growing from a city of 25,000 people in 1891, to 136,000 in 1911 and 180,000 by 1921. With the large influx of Eastern European immigrants, having the ability to speak several Eastern European languages would be an asset to the police in the investigation of crime in the immigrant communities.

Galician / Ukrainian Detective Interpreters

JACOB SEEL, born in Josefsberg, Galicia, Austria on September 26, 1860, was the first Detective Interpreter hired by the Winnipeg Police Force in 1902. Seel immigrated to Canada with his wife and four children in 1892, settling in Portage la Prairie. They had seven more children in Canada, three born in Portage la Prairie and four in Winnipeg.

Seel had worked for the police in Austria prior coming to Canada, as had his father before him. He could speak seven languages and often assisted the local authorities with translation and investigations in the newcomer communities throughout Manitoba. He gained prominence in police circles with his work with the Manitoba Provincial Police, in particular the 1898 murders of Wasyl Bojecko and his four children, Petro, Domka, Anna and Jurko, all under the age of 10, inside their small home in Stuartburn, Manitoba.

On November 22, 1902, at the age of 41, Seel joined the Winnipeg Police Force as a Detective, mainly investigating crimes in the newcomer communities. He worked as a detective for 23-years and died on May 29, 1926, while still on the Force. Seel was predeceased by his first wife in 1906 but survived by

¹ Many Ukrainian immigrants of this period were identified on government records as Poles, Russians, Austrians, Bukovinians, Galicians and Ruthenians, arriving from provinces in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
his second wife Anna (Rudko) and their children. One of Seel’s son’s, Frank, joined the Winnipeg Police as a Signal Operator in 1914. With a break for service during World War I, Frank remained with the Winnipeg Police until 1942 when he resigned. Frank died on March 14, 1986, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery.

During his career Seel was involved in numerous investigations from thefts and robberies to poisonings and murders. He gained distinction by doing clever police work and unravelling a number of difficult crimes and bringing criminals to justice. He also continued to do work for the Provincial Police with interviews or translations in the murders of Elizabeth Meuller in Winnipeg in 1902; Frances Salomon in Stuartburn in 1902; the murder of Paul Wojciechowski near Brokenhead, Manitoba, in 1903; and the poisoning of four-year-old Annie Horan in Poplar Park, Manitoba, in 1907, all of which involved Galician individuals.

On December 29, 1904, the Winnipeg Police hired THEODORE STEFANIK as a second Detective Interpreter to assist Jacob Seel with investigations in Winnipeg’s ever growing immigrant communities.

Stefanik was born on March 1, 1880, in the village of Hrycewola, Brody County, Galicia (now Ukraine). He came to Canada in 1899, marrying Olga Braschuk in Sifton, Manitoba, on April 28, 1901. The couple had two daughters. Stefanik left the Winnipeg Police on August 30, 1907, to try his hand in community advocacy and politics. He went on to gain notoriety when he was nominated and then elected in December 1911 as Winnipeg’s first Ukrainian City Councillor (Alderman). Stefaniuk sat for one term on Council – 1912-1913.

Stefanik was one of the founders and President of the Ukrainian Mutual Benefit Association of St. Nicholas of Canada. He was closely associated with St. Vladimir and Olga Ukrainian Catholic Church. As an educational advocate, he served as organizer for schools in rural Manitoba. He died in Winnipeg on March 21, 1951. He was buried at All Saints Cemetery.

Stefanik was replaced by JACOB KWIAKTOWSKI, who would go on to be one of the longest serving detectives in the Winnipeg Police.

Kwiatkowski was born on February 20, 1883, in “Tartaków, Sokal, Poland” (now Ukraine). He came to Canada as a teenager, settling in the R.M. of Springfield with his family. He was hired by the Winnipeg Police on September 1, 1907.

Common among new immigrants at the time, Kwiatkowski anglicized his last name to Kwaite. The rationale was straightforward: adopting names that sounded more Canadian might help speed assimilation, deter discrimination, or just to aid in business. However, for most legal purposes he used the name Kwiatkowski. According to newspaper accounts he could speak Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, German and Ruthenian.

During his career Kwiatkowski was involved in numerous investigations from thefts and robberies,
domestic assaults, and murders. Like Jacob Seel he gained distinction by unravelling a number of difficult crimes and bringing criminals to justice. In fact, along with Jacob Seel and later Alex Kolomic, he was singled out for praise by the Chief of Police, for his work on the murder of Katje Symczynyshyn, which occurred on May 8, 1924. The judge, in addressing the jury in the trial of Harry Tatarniuk, stated how struck he was in the fair and manly way the officers gave their evidence.

Detectives Kolomic, Seel and Kwiatkowski were singled out again for their efforts again for the arrests of Harry Zachary, Louie Kronenfeld, Mary Petryshyn, and George Odniak, also in 1924. These individuals had, for some time, been engaged in the practice of robbing individuals of cash and property. They were all found guilty and sentenced to 4 years each in the Penitentiary.

Kwiatkowski was singled out again by the Chief of Police for the arrest of Eli Romaniuk, and the clearing up of the robbery of two clerks at the P&B. Cash store, which netted the criminals $4000. Romaniuk pled guilty and was sentenced to five years in the Penitentiary (his accomplice, Mike Kolcun, committed suicide as the police attempted to take him into custody).

Shortly after joining the Winnipeg Police, Kwiatkowski married Rosalia Olszanski in Winnipeg on November 14, 1907. Together they had five children. Kwiatkowski worked as a Detective his entire 42-year career with the Winnipeg Police, retiring to pension on February 28, 1949. He died on March 13, 1983, at the age of 99 in New Westminster British Columbia.

PETER METNEK was the fourth Detective (Ukrainian) hired by the Winnipeg Police on February 19, 1909. He remained with the Force until August 27, 1920, with one break in his service from April 30, 1911, to May 13, 1912. His police career was unremarkable.

There are few details about Metnek, other than he indicated he was from Ruthenia when he was first hired. The Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria (1772–1918), corresponding to parts of Western Ukraine, was referred to as Ruthenia and its people as Ruthenians.

In the 1911 and 1916 Census he indicated he was born in Austria and was of the Catholic faith. He immigrated to Canada in 1901 and was naturalized in 1908. He could speak Austrian and by 1916 he was married to Agnes “Metnek”, who was born in the United States.

Unfortunately, there is no Peter Metnek in the 1921, 1926 or 1931 Census, and, although there is a Peter Metnek who worked as an Interpreter in Winnipeg in 1935, it is unknown if this is the same person. No further information can be found about him. It is likely that Peter Metnek is an anglicized name, and that his legal name maybe quite different.

After Metnek, there were two interpreters who were hired but who did not remain very long. Little information is known about these officers other than they were born in Poland.

• ALFONSO RAYDA, born in Poland. Hired on April 6, 1911, he was dismissed after one day on April 7, 1911; and
• MAX L. LIPSHUTZ, born in Poland. Hired on June 8, 1911, he resigned after 3 months on September 29, 1911.

In between these two officers there was TETSKO (THEODORE) KOCHAN. Born in Florynah, Galicia, Austria (now Poland), on November 21, 1878, Kochan originally travelled to the United States in 1894. He joined the U.S. Army in 1898, fighting the
Spanish-American War in the Philippines. Kochan became a recruiting officer in Philadelphia, and, after 6 years, he immigrated to Canada in 1905. He taught school for several years before joining the Winnipeg Police on April 18, 1911. He subsequently resigned on June 13, 1913, and joined the City of Winnipeg Assessment Office. He died in Winnipeg on February 2, 1972, and was buried in the All Saints Cemetery.

The next officer hired was BOLESLAUS HUBAREWICZ. He was born in the City of Mitau in the province of Kurland, one of the Baltic provinces of the Russian Empire, on August 23, 1888. He identified as Polish when he joined the Winnipeg Police as a Detective Interpreter on October 24, 1911. He had previously worked for the Winnipeg Detective Agency and held a valid teaching certificate issued by the Manitoba Department of Education on October 12, 1909.

No further information can be found about Boleslaus Hubarewicz. However, it is likely he anglicized his name. Nevertheless, his police career was unremarkable. He resigned from the Winnipeg Police on November 30, 1921.

Unfortunately, like Peter Metnek, Hubarewicz does not appear in any Census. However, there was a “Ben Hubar alias Boleslaus Hubarewicz” that immigrated to the United States from Winnipeg in July 1922. This is likely the same person.

The next officer was STANLEY MICHAEL MENDOFIC, born May 8, 1896, in Baranowice, Russian occupied Poland. He immigrated to Canada when he was 16. According to the 1926 Census Stanley indicated he was Ukrainian and born in Galicia.

On June 6, 1920, Mendofic married Pauline Porayko in Winnipeg. They had three daughters. Eventually the family moved to Winnipeg Beach, in 1930 where they lived for the next 40 years. During that time Stanley worked as a policeman in Winnipeg Beach. According to his obituary he worked as a policeman for 12 years and as a civilian employee at CFB Gimli. Mendofic died on June 20, 1970, and was buried at Saint Michaels Cemetery, Pleasant Home, just outside Winnipeg Beach, in the RM of Rockwood, Interlake Region.

NICHOLAS VOLODYMIR BACHYNSKY, born on September 16, 1887, in Celo Serafinily, Eastern Galicia (now Ukraine), replaced Hubarewicz as a Detective Interpreter on December 1, 1921. He came to the Winnipeg Police with impeccable credentials. He had a teacher’s certificate and references from several law firms attesting to his work as a translator for the courts in Yorkton, Fort William, and most recently in Winnipeg.

Bachynsky came to Canada in 1904 and to Manitoba in 1910 to homestead at Fisher Branch. He was working as a court interpreter in Fort William, Ontario, when he married Antoinette Divozynska on
August 11, 1910. He subsequently attended the Brandon Teachers College and taught at Rus School (1914-1915, 1917-1918), Wheathill School (1915-1916), Dehowa School (1922-1926), and High Plains School (1927).

Bachynsky resigned from the Winnipeg Police of his own accord on June 15, 1922, and returned to teaching in Poplarfield. He was subsequently elected a provincial MLA in 1922, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1950, and 1954. He was first elected as a member of the United Farmers Movement, became a Progressive in 1927 and was re-elected in 1932, 1936, 1941, 1945, 1949, and 1953. He was Speaker of the House from 1950 to 1958, during the administration of Douglas L. Campbell. He was defeated in the 1958 general election. Bachynsky was active in many Ukrainian organizations.

Bachynsky died in Poplarfield on August 14, 1969. He was buried in the Glen Eden Memorial Gardens, West St. Paul MB. He was survived by his second wife, and three children.

JOHN LEONARD CELMER was the next hire by the Winnipeg Police on December 10, 1921. He was born on January 15, 1895, in Volhynia, Russia.

Volhynia is a historical area in northwest Ukraine bordering Poland and Belarus. The area changed hands numerous times throughout history and was divided among competing powers. For centuries it was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. After the Russian annexation during the Partitions of Poland, all of Volhynia was made part of the Pale of Settlement on the southwestern border of the Russian Empire.

Celmer immigrated to Canada via the United States in 1912, settling in Winnipeg. He enlisted in the 101st Overseas Battalion in Winnipeg on February 1, 1916, and was transferred to the 44th Battalion for service in France. He was wounded by shrapnel in Vimy Ridge and evacuated to England for convalescence in 1917.

Celmer concluded his service in England as a Sergeant assigned to the General Intelligence Section. He was discharged on July 24, 1919, as part of general demobilization. He was fluent in 4 languages.

Celmer’s career with the Winnipeg Police was unremarkable and he resigned from the Force on January 15, 1923, on account of illness. He died on January 16, 1926, in King Edward Hospital in Winnipeg, from injuries suffered during the World War. He was buried at Elmwood Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and one daughter.

ALEXANDER KOLOMIC was born in Wola Błędowska, Russian occupied Poland, on August 14, 1892. He came to Canada as a youth in 1900. Nothing is known of his early life. On June 2, 1916, Kolomic (Kolomyjec) married Helene Mendofic in Winnipeg. On May 21, 1915, Kolomic enlisted with the 45th Battalion in Souris. After his arrival in Europe, he was transferred to 31st Battalion for service in France and Belgium in 1916. Kolomic was invalidated back to Canada in 1917 with neurasthenia, a common diagnosis during World War I for “shell shock.” He
had been in the vicinity of shell explosions in Vimy Ridge and Ypres.

In 1918, Kolomic joined the Dominion Police for work in narcotics and federal excise offences, until that department was disbanded in 1920. Kolomic, who was fluent in all the Slavic languages, subsequently joined the Manitoba Provincial Police on February 1, 1920. After he completed his basic training in Winnipeg, he was posted to Ethelbert effective April 1, 1920. He was given badge or regimental number 29.

Kolomic left the province to join the Winnipeg Police on January 30, 1923, as Detective Interpreter. Six years later, in 1929, he was made a Detective Second Class. In 1930 he was promoted to Detective First Class. He held that position until 1950.

Kolomic died on June 15, 1950, of a heart attack, while still working for the Winnipeg Police. He was predeceased by his wife, Helene, and their son John who was killed with the air force while overseas during World War II. He was survived by one son, Paul, a member of the Winnipeg Fire Department, and two daughters, Anne Popiel of Rivers, and Marion Wallace of Winnipeg. He was buried at the Holy Ghost Cemetery.

EMIL WILLIAM GREKUL (Grant) was born on February 10, 1893, at Pohorloutz, Bukovina, Roumania, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now in Ukraine). He arrived in Canada in 1907 and became a naturalized Canadian citizen in 1914.

Like many who came from this part of the world where borders shifted, the residents could speak many different East European languages, including Polish, English, Russian, and German. Grekul indicated his mother tongue was “Ruthenian,” sometimes referred to today as “Old Ukrainian.”

At some point after 1916, Grekul anglicized his name to Grant. Grant/Grekul worked as an interpreter with the Registrar of Enemy Aliens during World War I and with the Labourers Bureau in Winnipeg. He married Martha Cecelia Flood in Nipissing, Ontario, on June 1, 1921. He was working at Abitibi Pulp and Paper Mills in Iroquois Falls, Ontario, at the time. They would have two children, Ruth and Edward.

In December 1925, Grant was taken on strength with the Manitoba Provincial Police as a special constable, primarily conducting liquor enforcement. He was posted at the town of Dauphin, living at 12, 5th Avenue S.W. His appointment as a full constable was confirmed in the Manitoba Gazette on October 22, 1927.

On August 15, 1929, the Dauphin Herald newspaper reported that, after four years in Dauphin, Grant was being transferred by the provincial police to Winnipeg.

On May 7, 1930, Grant resigned from the provincial police to take a position as a Detective Interpreter with the Winnipeg Police Department. He remained with the Winnipeg Police until September 26, 1934, when he resigned.
Grant subsequently left Winnipeg. It is unknown where he went afterward; however, it is believed he died in Montreal on September 14, 1961, and was buried at the Cimetière Mont-Royal.

**Italian Detective Interpreters**

GIUSEPPE (JOSEPH) BARATTIERI, Count di San Pietro, was born in 1881 in Piacenza, Italy. He was a direct descendant of Italian nobility in Piacenza. The descendants of the Barattieri clan, dating back to 1198, still live in northern Italy.

Barattieri married Hilda Harris in 1909 in London, England, before traveling to Winnipeg where he was appointed as the Italian Consular Agent in Winnipeg. In addition, he was hired as a detective interpreter for the Winnipeg Police on February 25, 1910. As he was fluent in Italian, as well as English, Joseph could assist with the growing immigrant communities and their contact with the law.

Between 1900 and 1904 almost 120,000 Italians immigrated to Canada, primarily from the United States. The greatest number was in 1913, a year before World War I interrupted immigration. The majority were young males, many of whom worked in mines, building and maintaining railroads, at lumber-camps and construction projects.

The 1911 Census recorded roughly 1100 Italians living in Manitoba, with the vast majority residing in the Winnipeg area. By 1916 the Italian population was approaching 1900 people.

The notable influx of Italian immigrants reflected a broader trend of Italian migration to North America. These immigrants, predominantly from impoverished regions of Southern Italy, were motivated by the search for better economic opportunities and a desire to escape the hardships of their homeland. Although they were not considered the “ideal” type for settling the West (i.e. farmers), Winnipeg was in the midst of an economic boom. This presented opportunities, particularly in construction, railway work and hydro development, which were central to Winnipeg’s rapid growth.

Nevertheless, the Italian community in Winnipeg encountered language barriers, cultural differences, and discrimination, a common issue faced by many immigrant groups during this period. Despite these obstacles, the Italian immigrants demonstrated remarkable resilience and a strong work ethic. They played a crucial role in the construction of Winnipeg’s infrastructure, contributing significantly to the city’s development.

Barattieri’s work as a detective was unremarkable. However, when Italy entered World War I in 1915 on the side of the Allies, one of his roles as Consular Agent, was to encourage Italian citizens in Canada to register in the Italian army back home.

Barattieri resigned from the Winnipeg Police of his own accord on September 14, 1918. He remained in Winnipeg as a consular official, Steamship Agent and Insurance Booker, until the late 1940’s when he followed his daughter and her young family to San Diego.

Post World War I, Barattieri’s position as (Italian) Detective Interpreter was not replaced. Starting in the 1920s Italian immigration to Canada was greatly reduced due to the Fascist government of Benito Mussolini which had taken power, reducing the flow of new immigrants.

On November 4, 1951, Barattieri died in San Diego. His body was returned to Winnipeg where he was buried at the Elmwood Cemetery next to his first wife and son. He was survived by his second wife and daughter.

The next Italian officer hired by the Winnipeg Police was **VICTOR VAZZA** on February 7, 1913. While there is no indication he was hired as a Detective Interpreter, it is possible he was hired as an alternate for Barattieri who was occasionally required to be away for Consular duties.

Vazza left the Winnipeg Police after four months on June 29, 1913, but returned again on July 28, 1915,
and worked another 2 months, resigning on October 1, 1915.

Little is known of Vazza’s background; however, he indicated on the 1921 Census that he was born in Italy and could speak Italian. He had three children all born in Winnipeg – Victoria, Verjelia (Virginia) and Albin. He died on August 22, 1964, at the age of 76. He was survived by his wife and three children.

**Chinese Detective Interpreters**

The first Chinese officer hired was **GONG JUNG**, on May 13, 1910. He lasted only 20 days until June 2, 1910, when he left due to “cold feet”. His replacement on June 2, 1910, was **WAI HAI LEE**, who signed for Jung’s equipment – including his badge #151, rules and regulations, handcuffs and “Insp. Robertson’s gun”. At the time, Inspector Alfred Robertson was in charge of the Detective Branch, and he likely gave Lee his gun for his safety.

Jung’s cold feet was less due to Winnipeg’s weather, and more due to the fact that he was the recipient of several public death threats after he worked with the police to infiltrate two illegal gambling dens shortly after his appointment. His work led to the arrest of several dozen Chinese men at 45 Arthur Street and 223 Alexander Avenue. The cases were disposed of on June 1, 1910, before Judge Thomas Mayne Daly. Jung handed in his equipment to Lee the following day.

As Jung took the death threats seriously and sought the protection of the court, his fears may have been well founded within the small Chinese community.

Wai Hai Lee, better known as Lee Hai was born near Canton, China, on June 26, 1874. Likely he was from the Sunning District (Taishan/Toishan as it was later called), where a combination of successive droughts, earthquakes, epidemics, and uprisings made immigration to Canada very attractive. This general area, near the mouth of the Pearl River, was also home to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong and the Portuguese Colony of Macau (Macao).

Nothing is known of Lee’s early life in China, and any family records that may have existed were likely destroyed during China’s Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. However, we do know that Lee came to Canada in 1899, landing in Vancouver before moving to Sault Ste. Marie, then Kenora, and finally settling in Winnipeg around 1906. He was married, but his wife remained behind in China. The cost of traveling to Canada and paying the required $50 “head tax” upon landing in 1899, made bringing his family financially impossible.

In the 1906 census, Manitoba had a Chinese population of just 543—almost exclusively male, 358 of whom lived in the Winnipeg area. By 1911 the census showed there were 858 Chinese in Manitoba with 596 living in Winnipeg.

There appear to be three driving factors in hiring its first Chinese Detective in 1910. The first, but perhaps least important would be the increase in Chinese population, and some knowledge and understanding of the language and culture. The second would be four murders of Chinese businessmen in 1907 and 1908, which are still unsolved to this day; and the third would be the growing formation of a Chinatown in central Winnipeg and, according to the newspapers of the day, the need to “eradicate it” before the “outrages on morality” such gambling and opium smoking seen in other cities set in.

On December 13, 1907, the Chinese community was rocked by the double homicide of 35-year-old Lee Chow and 25-year-old Look Wing at their laundry
shop at 48 Salter Street. Both men were apparently tied up and assaulted with an axe and meat cleaver before their business was set on fire. No suspects were identified, and the murders remain unsolved.

Almost a year to the day the Chinese community was rocked by another double homicide when 44-year-old Kong Pow and 47-year-old Chang Lung were found murdered on December 19, 1908, at their laundry shop at 214 Jarvis Avenue. They had also been hacked with an axe and their throats cut by a knife. No suspects were identified, and the murders remain unsolved.

Winnipeg Police Detective Lee Hai was regularly in the Winnipeg newspapers as a witness against other Chinese who were running illegal gambling dens. As a result, Lee often faced their wrath, being the subject of veiled death threats, false allegations of corruption and graft, assault, and bribery. Lee, however, generally had the support of the Chief of Police and Inspector William Eddie, who had replaced Alfred Robertson as the head of the Morality Department in late 1910.

After four years working as a detective for the Morality Department, Lee applied for a transfer to a Detective Interpreter position on January 27, 1915. His application was confirmed by the Winnipeg Police Commission effective February 1, 1915, at a salary of $75/month (this was about mid-range for constables on the Winnipeg Police at the time). Lee listed his address as 381 Graham Avenue on his application, although the Henderson Street Directory listed his address as 161 Smith Street.

On November 1, 1915, Lee requested a one-year leave of absence to return to China. Presumably the trip was to see his wife, although the purpose was not disclosed to the Police Commission. The request was granted and on November 12, 1915, Lee boarded a ship leaving Victoria, British Columbia, for Hong Kong.

On August 21, 1916, information was received that Lee had been captured by Macao River Pirates and held for ransom. Lee, who had left Hong Kong to see his parents in Macao, was captured as his boat crossed the Pearl River. Pirates boarded, searched passengers and luggage, and took hostages. The Pirates demanded $6000 ransom according to a letter read by W.F. (Wong) Toy, Chinatown’s “Big Man”.

No further information was received about Lee until April 7, 1917, when letters sent by Lee from St. Stephen’s College in Hong Kong were read to the public by Deputy Chief Chris Newton, Inspector George Smith and William Eddie. “I have just been freed” stated Lee. “As you know, I was captured by Cantonese pirates last July. They held me for many months. When they could get no ransom, they let me go. But in the months, I was in captivity I was subjected to cruel treatment. I am still sore from the beatings they gave me. I leave for Canada almost immediately”.

Lee arrived back in Canada from Hong Kong on June 20, 1917, bearing the scars of the torture and beatings he endured at the hands of the Pirates. Unfortunately for Lee, who had overstayed his leave of absence by well over six months, was not taken back on strength with the Winnipeg Police. Lee was not replaced, and it would be another 60 years before a Chinese or biracial Chinese officer was hired by the Winnipeg Police.

Immigration to Canada was effectively stopped for all Chinese from 1923 to 1947 when the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 excluded all Chinese immigrants except merchants, students, and diplomats and their staff. During those years, only 44 Chinese were admitted to Canada compared to the 62,369 who entered between 1885 and 1923. While “merchants” continued to be an admissible class (although their wives and children were not), the government’s definition of “merchant” was so narrow that only eight individuals managed to attain entry in this manner until the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act in 1947.

Because Chinese Canadians were barred from citizenship until 1947, they were also barred from professions that required one to be a citizen (or, at that time, a British subject living in Canada). These professions, depending on the province they were from, included pharmacy, law, teaching, and
politics. However, it wasn’t until 1957 when the restrictive immigration laws were lifted, and Asiatic immigrants could apply for relatives to come to Canada before acquiring Canadian citizenship.

Following the passage of the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960, the laws were changed again allowing for a more objective assessment of an immigrant based on their education, training, skills, and other special qualifications rather than on race and nationality. Nevertheless, it wasn’t until 1967 that immigration restrictions on the basis of race and national origin were finally removed. Chinese immigrants could now apply for entry on equal footing with other applicants.

As for Lee, he returned to Hong Kong on June 20, 1918, and was back in Canada again on July 19, 1920. There is no record of Lee’s whereabouts again until September 17, 1933, when he was arrested in a gambling house raid by his old boss, Inspector Eddie and Constables Bazen, Cleghorn, Robson, and Alexander.

Lee was caught up in a second raid led by Inspector Eddie on November 2, 1934, at 249 King Street. Lee was again charged with keeping a common gaming house along with Lee Sam and Asger Lutgemeier, a Danish labourer.

Lee was arrested one final time on April 27, 1936, with Pang Lee and Carl Peterson for running another gaming house at 215 Logan Avenue. Lee was now 61 years old and living a Room 24 Coronation Block. He pled guilty on May 19, 1936, and received fine of $50 or 1 month in jail.

Lee’s name never appears again in the local newspapers, obituaries, or the police arrest ledgers. When Lee was arrested by the Winnipeg Police, he still indicated he was married, so perhaps he returned one more time to China where he died?
Jewish Detective Interpreters

The first Jewish officer hired by the Winnipeg Police was ABRAHAM (ADOLPH) FRIEDMAN, born on April 14, 1891, in Zloczow, Galacia. He was hired on September 24, 1913, as a Plain Clothes Constable and Interpreter. He identified as Hebrew and his religion Jewish. He was married and had previously worked as a Conductor for the Winnipeg Street Railway Company. His starting salary was $75/month, or $900/year, which would have been standard.

Little else is known about Friedman or his background as only a single application page remains of his employment. His name may have been anglicized when his family arrived in Canada, or he may have changed it afterwards due to legal troubles.

While the Jewish policeman has not been studied in Winnipeg, in London, England, Jewish men and women were involved in the policing of the city in official, quasi-official, and unofficial capacities. There were practical reasons for having Jewish constables. There was a select number of occupations that brought Jewish men and women into association with their gentile neighbours. Jewish peddlers, porters, and dealers naturally came in contact with a variety of people. Importantly, there was another vocation that similarly allowed Jewish men to participate in the wider London world: policing. Jewish and gentile peace officers co-operated and worked together in companionship not seen in other trades.  

According to the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, the first Jews to settle permanently in Winnipeg were three brothers in 1877-1878. By 1881 the Manitoba census indicated that there were twenty-one Jewish families in Winnipeg. They had established themselves in numerous trades and enterprises, including jewelers, tobacconists, peddlers, dry goods merchants, tailors, clothing merchants, a clergyman, and a physician.

By June 10, 1882, some three hundred and forty new Jewish immigrants had arrived, escaping from the Russian pogroms of 1881 and 1882. This influx permanently altered the socio-economic and cultural life of Winnipeg Jewry. However, like so many other immigrants they were confronted with numerous difficulties such as adapting to a different and challenging socio-economic, political, cultural and linguistic environment, and confronted living and working conditions that would tax their moral fortitude and resolve.

By 1911 the overwhelming majority of the approximately 9,000 Jews in Winnipeg, largely working and lower middle class, lived in the North End with a small number of wealthier Jews residing in the central and southern parts of the city. Many were Yidish speaking. In his book “Winnipeg 1912”, Jim Blanchard noted that the highest concentration of Jews was north of the CPR in an area bounded by Selkirk and Jarvis avenues and Main and Robinson streets. Among non-Jews it was known as the New Jerusalem or the more pejorative “Jew Town” while Jews referred to it as Mitzraim, the Hebrew word for Egypt, also meaning “narrow places,” in other words—a place from which to escape (see page 198).

By 1914, a total of 180,000 immigrants from provinces in the Austro-Hungarian Empire had left their homeland for Canada. Most settled in Manitoba and areas of the Northwest that later became the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Fluency in a foreign language would create opportunities for Friedman and others to assist the police with translation, interpretation, and investigations in the growing immigrant communities.

Based on the timing of Friedman’s appointment, it was likely the result of the murder of Sarah Feinstein on August 1, 1913, in her home at 520 Magnus Street. Mrs. Feinstein, a prominent member of the Jewish community, had been shot in the head at close range as she lay in her bed at about 2:15a.m. in the morning. The working theory of the police, according to the Winnipeg Tribune, was “the culmination of certain antisemitic feeling which is more or less rampant amongst certain of the foreign element in the district”. The murder remains unsolved to this day and is the subject of a book by her great grandson.

Friedman’s career was uneventful until 1918. He investigated thefts, robberies, stabbings, burglaries, murder and bigamy. In one interesting case, he observed and arrested Sam Korpas at 2 a.m. on November 3, 1916, after seeing him leave 98 Hallet Street in the North Point Douglas area. His suspicions were drawn to Korpas, who was white, as he stood out in an area known as “Coloured Row” (we will look at this area in another article). As it transpired, Korpas had just broken into the residence and stole the wallets and cash of the occupants – Zygmund Sperzik and John Monaxter. Korpas pled guilty five days later and was sentenced to two years in jail.

Friedman’s policing career ended abruptly on October 22, 1918, after being bound over for trial on charges of obstruction. Allegedly, Friedman had induced Mike Kohut to leave Winnipeg rather than appear as a witness against Mike Ancon and Isodore Sadowski for pickpocketing him of $330. Kohut reported the matter to the Winnipeg Police and Friedman was arrested on October 15 by Detective Sergeant Jack Bishop. On October 22 Friedman was committed to trial by Police Magistrate Hugh John MacDonald and he was summarily dismissed by the Winnipeg Police Commission.

On January 4, 1919, Kings Bench Judge John Philpot Curran found Friedman not guilty of the charge. Although Friedman had testified on his own behalf that the whole matter was a frame-up by the police because he was Jewish – alleging “favoritism, petty hatred, prejudice and unfairness”, stating that “all the men concerned, including Kohut, the man whose pockets had been picked, were in league together and that the Inspector of Detectives [George Smith] was at the head of the plot” – Judge Curran simply found that the witnesses were not credible and there was no motive for the alleged offence according to the Winnipeg Tribune.

Notwithstanding his acquittal, Friedman was not taken back on the police force. However, his legal troubles were far from over.

On November 27, 1919, Friedman and Nathan Segal appeared in court for trying to dissuade John J. Samson from running in the civic election as a labour candidate in Ward 3. At the time, Segal was a candidate in Ward 5 and Friedman was the secretary of his nominating committee. It is unknown what benefit Friedman and Segal would derive from trying to dissuade Samson (who had been a Winnipeg police officer until he was dismissed during the 1919 Strike) from running for civic office. However, they were both convicted by Police Magistrate Robert Moore Noble and fined $50 plus costs. In addition, they were disqualified as voters for the next seven years and prohibited from holding public office for the same time.

Magistrate Noble, in finding against both Friedman and Segal, felt that they had lied during their testimony before the court. As a result, they were both arrested and charged with perjury after the trial concluded. Friedman was tried before Chief Justice Thomas Graham Mathers sitting with a jury on March 29, 1920. He was convicted and sentenced
to 30 days in jail. Leave to appeal to the Manitoba Court of Appeal was dismissed on May 1, 1920.

It is unknown what happened to Friedman after his last arrest. There is at least one other Abraham Friedman/Freedman who lived in Winnipeg at the same time that was the same age. They are distinguished based on their occupation and date of marriage. Anyone with confirmed information about what happened with Abraham (Adolph) Friedman is asked to contact the Winnipeg Police Museum.

The next Jewish officer hired by the Winnipeg Police as a Detective Interpreter was Michael Goldstein. Born on June 9, 1894, Goldstein was born in London, England. According to the 1911 Census he immigrated from England in 1906. He identified both his race and religion as Hebrew.

At the time of the 1911 Census, Goldstein was a clerk living at 560 Selkirk Avenue with Nathan and Rebecca Goldstein, possibly a brother and sister-in-law, as they were only four years apart in age. He would later move with them to 400 Atlantic Avenue.

Goldstein joined the Winnipeg Police on May 19, 1914. His career was uneventful, and he resigned from the Force on July 4, 1917. He would leave Winnipeg and enlist with the United States Navy for service in World War 1 on April 12, 1918.

It is possible Goldstein joined the U.S. Navy to gain citizenship through military service. To encourage immigrant enlistments and to naturalize servicemen, Congress passed laws to expedite military naturalizations. As of May 9, 1918, service members only needed proof of enlistment and testimony from two witnesses to naturalize. The law exempted them from meeting the five years of U.S. residency requirement.

Goldstein returned to Winnipeg on October 1, 1918, where he married Tilly Goldman. They had a son, Howard, born in Winnipeg on June 27, 1919. The family subsequently moved to the United States. The family next appears living in Los Angeles, California, at the time of the 1930 and 1940 Censuses. He indicated his parents were both born in Russia.

Goldstein died in Los Angeles on July 24, 1973. He was buried at Eden Memorial Park Cemetery, Mission Hills, California. The U.S. Military paid for his marker with the Star of David affixed to it, denoting his religious affiliation (Hebrew).

With Goldstein’s resignation in 1917 and Friedman’s dismissal in 1918, the next Jewish officer hired by the Winnipeg Police was Eliyah (Elijah) Rubenstein. Born in Russia on April 17, 1883, Rubenstein listed his nationality as “British” Hebrew. On the passenger manifest for the British ship the Victorian, arriving in Montreal from Liverpool on July 14, 1906, 23-year-old Elijah Rubenstein indicated he was a Russian Jew, but had lived in England for 16 years and was a British citizen. He indicated he was traveling to Winnipeg.

According to the 1920 Census, Rubenstein could speak Hebrew and his religion was Jewish. He indicated he was Russian born and immigrated to Canada in 1906. He was naturalized in 1910.

Rubenstein was hired as a Plain Clothes Constable and Interpreter by the Winnipeg Police on June 20, 1919, and resigned on August 31, 1925. Prior to joining the Winnipeg Police, he worked as an Immigration Inspector for the Government of Canada. He listed his address as 114 Charles Street.

Rubenstein’s career was unremarkable. However, his whereabouts after leaving the Winnipeg Police are unknown. He does not appear in the 1926 or 1931 Census anywhere in Canada and may have left the country.

The End of Detective Interpreters

With the retirement of Jacob Kwiatkowski in 1949 and the passing of Alexander Kolomic in 1950, the Detective Interpreter position was eliminated in the Winnipeg Police. However, the number of multilingual police officers has exponentially increased within ranks of the police service since that time. As of 2023, there are 456 multilingual staff and police members, who can speak 40 different languages.
At the end of his 2022/2023 term, Gord Perrier stepped down as a member of the Winnipeg Police Museum board after serving for 11 years.

While always interested in the history of the police, Gord did not join the Museum board until 2012 when he was already an Inspector. However, having served in many different roles within the Winnipeg Police Service, Gord was well placed to understand the mechanics of policing and its impact on the City of Winnipeg. His wealth of knowledge on policing issues, helped guide and instruct the board through his 11 years.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Gord was a member of Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps (RCSCC) from 1983-1994. Through his years of hard work and dedication, Gord held several different positions from Sea Cadet to Practical Leadership Officer.

Related training included, basic officer qualification, junior officer sea training, lieutenant qualification and captain qualification courses.

Gord started his career in policing as a civilian Identification Technician in 1992 before becoming a sworn police officer in 1994. He was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2006, followed by Sergeant in 2009. Gord worked in a variety of units within the Criminal Investigations Bureau including Major Crime, Organized Crime, Integrated Proceeds of Crime (IPOC), Commercial Crime, Special Projects, and the Professional Standards Unit. He was a court recognized expert for money laundering and the illegal packaging of currency.

Gord was promoted to Inspector in 2011, and then to the rank of Superintendent in 2013. In this role Gord was responsible for Operational
Development and Support Service which included policy, administration, strategic direction, business planning, risk management and accreditation. In addition, Gord provided oversight on labour relations, public information, and communications for the service, and was a member of the Winnipeg Police Pension Board.

In 2013 Gord was the founding director of Snowflake Place Child Advocacy Centre for Youth and Children (now Toba Centre), a non-profit corporation that works with several government agencies, including the police, to gather evidence in support of child maltreatment prosecutions. He also co-founded the Winnipeg Police Endowment Fund in 2015. The Endowment Fund is based upon a foundation which collects and distributes financial support to subsidize recognized projects within the community that aligns with the Service’s vision for creating a culture of safety.

In 2015 Gord graduated from Charles Sturt University with a master’s degree in leadership and management. Shortly after he was appointed Deputy Chief of Police. As an Executive member of the Winnipeg Police, he was responsible and accountable for all operations and emergency support branches. His portfolio included a leadership role in the organization’s strategic direction, budget, and enterprise risk management.

During his policing career Gord worked closely with the Winnipeg Police Board and the Provincial Police Commission. He also worked with a multitude of agencies such as the RCMP, Provincial Justice, CBSA, the FBI, Interpol, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and all municipal and provincial policing agencies in Manitoba. Until his retirement in 2021, Gord was the Vice-President of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police, helping to establish a permanent Executive Director position to liaise with all law enforcement agencies in Manitoba.

Gord also developed respected relationships with non-profit community health agencies, particularly the Joy Smith Foundation supporting the agency work addressing human trafficking. He was recognized for his work as a “funding and agency champion” and was awarded the Joy Smith Foundation Honouring Heroes Award in 2013. Gord was also the recipient of the Province of Manitoba’s Law Enforcement Medal of Excellence, the Governor General of Canada’s Exemplary Service Medal, and the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.”

Upon his retirement in 2021, Gord assumed the position of Campus Security Director at the University of Manitoba, where he is responsible for safety and security matters serving a staff and student population of more than 40,000. His role includes operations, policy development, administration, strategic direction, along with business planning and ongoing stakeholder partnerships.
Since inception in 1874, the Winnipeg Police have used several crests as symbols representing the organization and its influence over law and order. The incorporation of heraldry with the Winnipeg Police Crest however did not come into play until 1994, after the Police Executive made application to the Canadian Heraldic Authority to design and patent an official crest for the Force. On October 28th, 1994, under the authority of the Canadian Governor General, the Canadian Heraldic Authority granted the Winnipeg Police Service with letters of patent and a heralded badge that became the “official symbol” for the organization.
Early Winnipeg Police Crests

The Winnipeg Police have always used some form of crest as part of insignia and identification. The first distinct versions of these predominantly appeared as part of letterhead or Bobby Helmet Badges, which are also more commonly referred to as helmet plates.

A historical picture of Winnipeg Officials from 1880 show Police officers wearing bowler or derby style hats with metal insignia having either a number or a rank in the center of a wreath. By 1882, Winnipeg officers in pictures are seen wearing Bobby helmets with metal plates that are English in design.

One such Winnipeg Police helmet plate photographed up close clearly shows it has been “Canadianized” by the addition of maple leaves on tops of the 6 outward facing points of the Brunswick Star. This helmet plate features a left facing running (or jumping) buffalo in the center of a circle formed by a belt. Prominent around the inside of the belt is the wording “WINNIPEG POLICE”. A Queen Victoria Crown sits on top of the Brunswick Star representing this Monarch who reigned from 1837-1901.

Pictures taken during the railway strike in 1906, and a funeral procession for the late Winnipeg Police Inspector William Munro on May 3, 1908, show officers still wearing bobby helmets with the Queen Victoria helmet plate. Photos taken one year later in 1909, show the helmet plates are replaced with black metal maple leaf badges having a silver City of Winnipeg Crest in the middle. Why this occurred is unknown though the change may have come about with the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, and perhaps a shift away from English influences for something more Canadian. The use of a maple leaf incorporated into a cap badge was commonplace in the military, and a black or silver maple leaf with a silver crest became mainstream for Police agencies with generic versions being used by many forces across Canada.
The first City of Winnipeg Crest & Motto

It should be noted, the City of Winnipeg already had an official city crest that was previously accepted and adopted by Council on June 1, 1874. The center consisted of a gold shield with a left facing locomotive at the top and 3 sheaves of wheat at the bottom. The locomotive was meant to represent the coming of the railroad and the wheat sheaves to symbolize agriculture. A left facing buffalo sat above the shield as a strong symbol of the prairies, and the left facing orientation of both the locomotive and bison represented Winnipeg’s position as the gateway to the west. The wording “CITY OF WINNIPEG” was emblazoned on a top banner above the bison, and the motto: “COMMERCE - PRUDENCE - INDUSTRY” was emblazoned on a bottom banner that ran up along the sides of the shield.

Interestingly enough, it would appear the railroad and agriculture were presumptive as Winnipeg had neither of these at the time the city crest was made!

The original city crest adopted by council definitely positioned both the buffalo and train facing left, however other versions and artwork arose throughout the years which had these same elements facing to the right instead. Though technically incorrect, these variants have always sparked debate as to how they came to be.

With the Police Force alone, similar versions of the city crest with both the locomotive and buffalo facing right definitely existed as cap badges and city emblems on the Siemens Police Call boxes installed throughout Winnipeg in 1913. Could the shield have been reversed accidentally at some point? Probably not because the left facing buffalo always has the tail down while the right facing buffalo has its tail raised in the air.
Winnipeg Police Cap Badge

A uniform change for some Divisions saw the addition of forage caps around the 1930’s which like the Bobby Helmet made use of the black maple leaf with silver city crest as a cap badge. This eventually evolved, with the creation of a new and distinctive Winnipeg Police Crest for use as a cap badge which became the next symbol representing the organization.

Pictures in 1938 still show Winnipeg Officers with the black maple leaf badge on forage caps, but in 1939 Traffic Division officers are seen with the new Police cap badge. This new insignia incorporated the City of Winnipeg Crest in the center with the buffalo and locomotive both facing left. A ring around the crest featured “POLICE at the top and “CITY OF WINNIPEG” on the bottom. A wreath of leaves started at the bottom on either side of a bow and ran up along the sides. A King’s Crown sat on top representing the English Monarchy with the sovereign being King George IV who reigned from 1936-1952.

Of note, in 1960, the Force began using the Winnipeg City Crest on marked black and white cruiser cars to identify them, and during 1967 the city crest was added to shoulder flashes to “enhance them” for the Pan-American Games. It appears the Police Crest was not considered for either of these applications, or if so, the idea was clearly discarded.

City of Winnipeg Crest Redesigned for Amalgamation

As Winnipeg and the other outlying municipalities moved towards amalgamation, the City Crest saw a redesign to acknowledge the merging of 13 communities into one. This new Winnipeg Crest was adopted by the city on January 24, 1973, and now featured an updated shield with the following changes:

- the Fort Garry gate (oriented left) replaced the buffalo;
- 13 stars for the joined communities replaced the locomotive;
- a prairie crocus flower replaced the wheat sheaves;
- and the lower banner motto was changed from “COMMERCE - PRUDENCE - INDUSTRY” to the Latin wording “UNUM CUM VIRTUE MULTORIUM” meaning “one with the strength of many.”

After the amalgamation of all surrounding communities into Metro Winnipeg was finalized by the end of 1974, all civic employees had the exact same uniforms with powder blue shirts, dark blue pants, and similar appearing shoulder flashes. All shoulder flashes in fact were essentially identical with “WINNIPEG” above the new city crest, with only the departmental names on the bottom being different such as Fire Department, Ambulance, Transit, etc.

Subsequent to an application, the new city crest was later heralded with the artwork and letters of patent being granted on January 12, 1979, by the College of Arms in England.
Redesigned Winnipeg Police Crest

During amalgamation, the Winnipeg Police Department also chose to update its own crest. The new version retained the same overall design features of circle and wreath with the following additional changes:

- New City Crest with the Fort Garry gate replacing the older version with the buffalo;
- Wording within the in outer ring changed to “WINNIPEG” on the top and “POLICE on the bottom”;
- King’s Crown changed to Queen’s Crown (as chosen by Queen Elizabeth II who ascended the English Throne in 1952).
- Note: later Cap badges also saw the addition of officer’s badge numbers on the bottom.

By 1988, the Police Executive wished to move away from common uniform scheme with other civic employees so officers would be more clearly identifiable, and other civic employees would not be mistaken as Police. This led to changing the shoulder flashes to a regional style featuring the Police crest instead of the city one. The Police crest was also added to cruiser cars which were changed from black and white to blue and white. Along with blue pinstriping, the otherwise completely white cars had the front doors painted blue with the Winnipeg Police crest affixed on each side.

The next change to the Winnipeg Police crest would occur in 1994, but actually had its beginnings two years earlier in 1992.

Moving Towards a Heralded Police Crest – The Why

On October 16, 1992, Division 11 Sergeant John A. Robins, badge #1044, wrote a Special Report to Police Chief J. B. D. Henry bringing forward concerns he saw and believed applied to the Winnipeg Police cap badge being used at the time. Robins had a military background with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and possessed an understanding of heraldry and the rules surrounding it.

Sgt. Robins identified and elaborated on his concerns which involved:

**Appearance** – the cap badge was being displayed on cruiser cars and shoulder flashes with little or no thought being given to its historical significance or artistic merit.

**Royal Crown** – A Royal Crown was being used as part of the crest without the authority of the Sovereign, which constituted a breach of protocol.

Sgt. Robins further explained that at the time of his Special Report to the Chief, according to the Chief Herald at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, only two organizations in Canada were authorized to use a Royal Crown with their crests. These were the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Nepean Police.
In addition, the Canadian Heraldic Authority had already developed a standard for the design of cap badges being used by Canadian Municipal Police Forces. The “constant” elements making up this design standard included:

• Royal Crown at the top
• Wreath of Maple Leaves
• A Police Shield
• The Provincial Flower in the base

The “variable” elements making up the design standard included:

• Use of a city crest in the center
• Use of a motto

When asked by Sgt. Robins, The Chief Herald further advised his office would not be able to assist with making improvements to the existing Winnipeg crest because if a design was to be heralded, it had to originate from their office in its entirety.

Sgt. Robins in turn petitioned the Police Chief to make application for a granted crest so the Department would be in full compliance with heraldry and protocol.

The Winnipeg Police Executive considered the Special Report and decided to move forward with an application. In a reply dated March 11, 1993, Deputy Chief Joe R. Gallagher advised Sgt. Robins that he would be made coordinator of the project and had the Chief’s approval to pursue an application for a Heralded Crest. Unfortunately, Robins would have to proceed without any formalized funding as none happened to be available at that time.

Sgt. Robins commenced working on the application process along with Cst. Murray E. Milligan, who was assigned through the Winnipeg Police Research and Planning Unit as he had been working on a similarly related project.

A further Project Arising from the Crest – Winnipeg Police Colours

On December 17, 1993, Sgt. Robins wrote another Special Report to Chief Henry where in addition to a heralded crest, he proposed the concept of a flag or guidon for the Department like those possessed by Military Regiments. In fact, the RCMP were the only Police Force in Canada to have one which displayed their battle honours similar to the military. Battle honours however did not really apply to the Winnipeg Police, but Robins extrapolated further pointing out the force was engaged in a constant war against crime, and in doing so had lost members who were killed in the line of duty. The names of those officers could be emblazoned on the flag in the same fashion as battle honours.

Sgt. Robins proposed the creation of a flag with the new Police crest in the centre that had the names of all officers killed in the line of duty embroidered along both sides on scrolls. Robins had already discussed the concept with the Chief
Herald who was very much in favour of the design, and felt it should definitely be included with their petition for a new badge. If granted, The Winnipeg Police would be the only force in the country to incorporate such a concept.

Chief Henry read the report and approved it that same day authorizing Sgt. Robins to petition the Canadian Heraldic Authority for both a new Police Crest and Colours.

Police Chief Dale Henry and the Heralded Winnipeg Police Service Crest - 1994

Winnipeg Police Chief Dale Henry presided over the force from 1991 to 1996. He was the former commander of the Manitoba “D” Division of the RCMP, and the first person to become a Winnipeg Chief from outside the organization. He spearheaded a number of initiatives which included changing the name of the Winnipeg Police from “Department” to “Service” in 1994 and creating a new Police Crest.

In the early 1990’s there was a movement amongst Police agencies in Canada to rebrand and move away from names like “Force” or “Department” as they were starting to be considered too authoritarian.

Many began switching to “Service” to reflect their true purpose being service to the community.

The Winnipeg Police followed suit with this trend, and on April 24, 1994, at 00:01 hrs, the Winnipeg Police Department officially changed its name to the Winnipeg Police Service pursuant to By-law #6354/94 passed by Winnipeg City Council on March 23, 1994. From this point onward the Winnipeg Police became known as the “WPS” or “the Service”.

As part of this rebranding, under the guidance of Sgt. Robins, Cst. Milligan and the Athabasca Herald Mr. Charles Maier, the Winnipeg Police commenced a petition to “receive arms” from the Canadian Crown under the powers exercised by His Excellency, the Governor of Canada. As part of this petition, both the Chief Executive Officer (being the Commissioner of Protection, Parks and Culture), along with the Chief of Police, both had to forward a letter making the request that included:

• A copy of the Department’s History;
• The aims and objectives of the Department;
• A list of current officers of the Department;
• A copy of the most recent Departmental Annual Report.

Costs associated to the project were estimated at:

• Initial Processing Fee: $500;
• Painting of badge approved and signed by the Queen: $750;
• Crown Grant in hand-written calligraphy: $2,000 or computer generated for $1,000;
• Development of Departmental Ensign (flag): $500.

Chief Henry proceeded with the petition and the Canadian Heraldic Authority designed a new crest with the following experts assisting (from the Governor General of Canada):

• Creator: Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, assisted by the heralds of the Canadian Heraldic Authority
• Painter: Debra Parker
• Calligrapher: Judith Bainbridge
In the letter of patent, the Canadian Heraldic Authority describes the badge of the Winnipeg Police Service as:

“The shield of arms of the City of Winnipeg within an annulus Azure fimbriated and inscribed COMMUNITY COMMITMENT in letters Or all within a wreath of maple leaves also OR issuant from a crocus flower proper the whole resting upon a scroll Azure fimbriated and inscribed WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE in letters Or and ensigned with a representation of the Royal Crown proper.”

Editor’s notes:

Annulus: the region between two geometric circles
Azure: a vibrant shade of blue
Or: in heraldry - gold or yellow
Fimbriated: in heraldry - having a narrow border
Issuant: rising up or out of
Ensign: a badge of office, rank, or power

It should also be explained, that in 1994 Queen Elizabeth II was the reigning monarch, and as such any heraldic items bearing the royal crown were designed based on the St. Edwards Crown which she chose to represent her reign. This was the St. Edwards Crown, also commonly referred to as a “Queen’s Crown”.

The Canadian Heraldic Authority granted the Winnipeg Police Service “badge” on October 28, 1994, being documented on Page 356 of Volume II of their record books.

Proper graphics files of the artwork were then created, and the new crest began appearing on vehicles and newly designed shoulder flashes in January of 1995.

Note: The Winnipeg Police Colours were designed and formally granted 3 years later on February 19, 1999, when the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Yvon Dumont, presented them to Chief Jack Ewatski during a parade and ceremony held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

The new heralded crest remained the same for many years with only 1 different style being made in 2018, when Winnipeg Police Officer and artist P/Sgt. Kevyn Bourgeois created a 3-dimensional version. His design had the heralded crest with a shiny metallic look incorporating 3-D raised features, and it quickly became adopted for cruiser car decals and other applications like computer screen savers and email signatures.

The metallic version came about while P/Sgt. Bourgeois was working on another project which required the heralded crest. All the artwork he could find for it however was very low in resolution and appeared fuzzy when enlarged. This led Bourgeois to redraw the crest as a new vector file and he initially started to experiment with different colouring. This eventually evolved to a 3-dimensional shiny metallic looking version of the crest that had significant appeal. This crest version would remain popular and constant for many years.
Kings Crown Winnipeg Police Service Crest - 2023

Queen Elizabeth II was 25 years old when she assumed the English Throne on February 6, 1952, after her father King George VI passed away from lung cancer at the age of 56. After her coronation on June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth chose the St. Edwards Crown to represent her rein which replaced the Tudor Crown previously used by her father.

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022, at the age of 95 years, and her son Charles automatically ascended the throne. King Charles III was formally declared the head of state two days later on September 10, 2022. Upon his accession, King Charles III returned to the Tudor Crown as the official representation of the Royal Crown during his reign.

Once the Tudor Crown was chosen, the College of Arms in England created a number of artistic renditions for the King to review. King Charles III then chose one version for his Royal Cypher which incorporates the Crown and his initials into an official monogram. The important consideration here is the cypher only shows one of the many different artistic styles of the same Tudor Crown.

When changes occur with Kings or Queens, there is no obligation to change the Royal Crown on a heralded Crest or badge after it is granted. The Crown can remain the same, or it can be switched if the individual or entity having the rights to the artwork chooses to do so. With the ascension of King Charles III to the throne, the Winnipeg Police Executive chose to change the St. Edwards (Queens) Crown to the Tudor (Kings) Crown on the heralded Winnipeg Police Crest.

An initial redesign of the WPS Crest used the rendition of the Tudor Crown from the Royal Cypher, however this did not match the scale and artistic style of the St. Edwards Crown in the original heralded Winnipeg Police crest. A subsequent petition to use the same artistic rendition of the Tudor Crown that matched the style of the original heralded crest from 1994 was brought forward by Staff Sergeant Rod Hutter (Museum Vice-President). Chief Danny Smyth agreed with keeping the artwork style consistent and concurred with the proposal.

Continuing with the redesign, Staff Sergeant Hutter approached City of Winnipeg graphic artist Andrea Yuen to update the WPS crest, and create standardized vector files with the advanced graphics software being used by her department. Andrea accepted the challenge and replaced the St. Edwards (Queens) crown with a matching artistic rendition of the Tudor (Kings) Crown. This may sound simple enough, but the logistics were actually quite complex and required a fair amount of work. Due to the age of the original files, adjustments over time, and differences in formatting, the 1994 crest files were more like a patchwork quilt or a house with multiple additions. The redesign needed a complete redrawing of the crest into a pure first-version file.

Along with making the 2-Dimensional artwork for the crest, Andrea also made a 3-Dimensional metallic version to match the popular design made by P/Sgt. Kevyn Bourgeois in 2018. Andrea saved the new crests in a variety of formats (including vector files) that were approved by the Executive and distributed throughout the Service.
The new WPS Kings Crown crest began appearing as a decal on Police Vehicles in March of 2023, and was quickly adopted by the Public Information Office who were just completing an upgrade to the Winnipeg Police website. New regular Police shoulder flashes were also designed to incorporate the Kings Crown Crest which included commemorative 150th Anniversary versions.

**Did you know:**

**Error Found in Original 1994 Heralded Crest Artwork**

While redesigning the Winnipeg Police Crest, an error was discovered in the original artwork that was designed and granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority in 1994. On the center cross of the lower band, a pearl overlaps on the top of the cross when it should actually sit positioned behind it. This mistake had never been noticed. When contacted, the Canadian Heraldic Authority advised the artwork did not have to be changed, so this crest artwork will remain as is on the Canadian Governor General’s website.

**Epilogue: The Canadian Royal Crown**

In April of 2023, King Charles III granted approval for a Canadian Royal Crown after an application was made by the Government of Canada. The Canadian Crown resembles the English Tudor Crown in style and incorporates distinctly Canadian Elements in the design which include:

- Maple leaves along the rim being a Canadian identifier;
- Rising and falling peaks along the rim representing mountains and river valleys;
- Wavy blue line on the rim representing rivers, lakes, and oceans;
- Red Cap and white fur similar to colours of the Canada flag;
- Snowflake resembling the Order of Canada on the crown apex representing the northern land and snowy winters.

The purpose of the Canadian Royal Crown was so Canada would have its own distinctive symbol to represent the country while acknowledging our relationship with the English Monarchy. Scotland has its own Royal Crown, but outside the United Kingdom, Canada was the first Commonwealth country to create one.

Detailed information on the Canadian Royal Crown can be found on the website of the Governor General of Canada.

As with all Heraldic artwork that has been previously granted, there is no requirement to change the existing Royal Crown if its part of the design. According to the Canadian Heraldic Authority, any Royal Crown can be changed to the Canadian Royal Crown by choice without needing permission.

With the Winnipeg Police crest having just been redesigned in 2023, there are no current plans to replace the English Tudor Royal Crown with the new Canadian version.
Since early spring, the Winnipeg Police Museum has proudly displayed a tribute to the history of Sport in Winnipeg Police Service. The display takes visitors through the inception of the Winnipeg City Police Athletic Association with focus on promoting athletics for its members to how police involvement in athletics grew over the years. Museum Volunteers had a chance to share the impact police athletics have had and continue to have on the community, highlighting our hockey teams, softballs teams, cyclists and half marathon fundraisers.

Beginning July 29th the museum remained open 7 days a week from 9-5 until August 6th and from July 25 – August 11th the museum welcomed an additional 1000 visitors.

The museum provided pamphlets to athletes by way of registration bags and participated in the World Police Fire Games trade show for four days. Operated by John DeGroot, Larry Rea, Don Wardrop and Susan Mathieu, the booth was successful in directing athletes to the museum. While at the display booth we had the pleasure of meeting 91-year-old swimmer – Charlie Wetherbee, a retired paramedic lieutenant from Miami, who had competed in every WPFG since its inception in 1985.

In addition, the museum participated in the athletes parade, displaying our 1978 Ford LTD, 1988 Dodge Diplomat and the last white and blue cruiser car in service – the 2008 Crown Victoria as the athletes marched by on their way to the opening ceremonies. We also had the 78 Ford out to the WPFG half marathon on the WPFG Memorial at the new memorial monument site.
During the games volunteers dedicated extra time to staffing the museum and interacted with individuals and teams from all over the world, including Hong Kong, Netherlands, Ukraine, Indonesia, Brazil, Wales, Australia, Taiwan and the USA to name a few! Sharing stories and hearing about everyone else’s experiences was a highlight. While we closed the jail cell door on a lot of visitors, we had a great time! Another big hit was photos in the buffalo coat and our wide variety of challenge coins. We even started our very own collection, trading with police and corrections around the globe. In addition, we had the pleasure of supplying our guests with some special mementos to take home to their families and friends like the tactical vest koozies and plush canine.

A very special thank you to everyone who contributed to the research of this display and donated/loaned items to the display including:

• St Vital Museum – Police Fire baseball team jacket
• Bob Flock – Curling outfit
• Geoff Haluk – Sponge Hockey Jerseys and History
• Morris Strembicki – Baseball Uniform
• Parents of Peter O’Kane – Boxing display
• Ken Forsyth – Goalie equipment
• Barry Legge – Hockey
• Helen Peters – Field Hockey Medal
• Susan Mattieu – Fittest Crime Stopper Medal
• Andy Boehm – Baseball
• Max Waddell – hockey net
• George Walker – Hockey jersey
• Nick Paulet – ½ marathon medals
• Gary Walker – Polo Boots

Larry Rea, Charlie Weatherbee, & Don Wardrop
Andrew (Andy) Boehm was the ultimate baseball journeyman in Manitoba. Raised in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Andy started playing senior baseball before he was even in high school, playing for the Kinosota Cougars at 14.

In 1978, just out of high school, Andy was spotted by Murray Zuk, a Canadian Scout for the Cincinnati Reds, at a training camp in Souris, Manitoba. Seeing promise in the young 17-year-old, Zuk and Bill Clark, International Scouting Supervisor, forwarded his name to several junior colleges in the United States.

Andy was accepted into the Des Moines Area Community College at Boone, Iowa, that fall. Andy played for two years with Des Moines as a catcher while attending school in Liberal Arts.

While still 19, Andy moved to Statesboro, Georgia, to attend Georgia Southern University, where he was a pitcher with the NCAA Division I Georgia Southern Eagles. Andy was one of only two international players and the only Canadian-born player on the Southern Eagles team (the other was Australian).
As an international player, cracking the Major League Baseball (MLB) line-up was (and still is) difficult for Canadians. Competing against players from the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico, to name a few, there were only 12 Canadians on the opening day rosters in 2022. As such, it was almost impossible for Andy to get noticed 42 years ago.

However, he was noticed back home in Canada, where he was picked up as a catcher for Canada’s first National Youth baseball team in Vancouver in 1979.

After pitching for two years with Georgia Southern University, Andy returned to Portage la Prairie. However, he never gave up his love for baseball, playing for 16 seasons in the Manitoba Senior Baseball League (MSBL) for Dauphin, Neepawa Farmers, Brandon Marlins, Baldur Regals, Brandon Cloverleafs, St. Boniface, Carman and Portage.

In those 16 seasons in the MSBL, between 1984 and 2000, Andy batted .301 with seven home runs while pitching to a win-loss record of 37-21 with 356 strikeouts in 507 innings pitched. He was the MSBL Rookie of the Year and on six MSBL 1st All-Star teams. In 1994 he was the MSBL top pitcher, and in 1999 he was the MSBL playoff MVP with the Brandon Marlins.

Representing Manitoba, Andy played in nine Western Canadian Baseball Championships and five Canadian Baseball Championships, winning the MVP award in 1985 in Vancouver.

Courtesy of his old friend and mentor Bill Clark, Andy was also invited to guest coach for the Atlanta Braves at their 1995 Spring Training camp in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Unfortunately, the love of baseball in Manitoba doesn’t pay the bills. In 1984, when Andy returned home to Portage la Prairie, he began work at the Agassiz Youth Centre, a 59-acre site operated by the Manitoba government as a youth correctional centre for young offenders (the facility was closed in 2022).

With his background in corrections, Andy applied for the Winnipeg Police in 1986. He was accepted into Recruit Class #107 starting January 19, 1987. Andy would work for the Winnipeg Police for the next 27½ years doing uniform duties in the Downtown, St. James and Fort Garry areas, as well as the Airport Unit, Crimestoppers, Protective Services and Crowd Management units. He would continue to play baseball in the MSBL as well as the Winnipeg Police Baseball League on the “Aces” team and on the Winnipeg Police (WPS) Exhibition team that would play against various all-star teams at fundraising events.

Although Andy would “retire” from the MSBL after the 2000 season, he has remained closely connected with the game as an Associate Scout for the Atlanta Braves and, since 2000, an Associate Scout for the San Diego Padres Baseball Club.

In 2001 and 2002, Andy was the Assistant Coach for the Canadian National Youth Baseball Team. In 2003, he was Team Canada’s National Men’s Baseball Delegation Leader at the World Cup in Havana, Cuba, from October 12th-23rd.
In 2006 Andy was the Head Coach for the Manitoba 16-year-old team (Team West). In 2008 he was the Assistant Coach with Team Manitoba 18 & under; the Head Coach for Team Manitoba at the Canada Summer Games in Prince Edward Island in 2009; and the Head Coach for the Prairie Region gold medal team at the 2015 “T12” National Baseball Tournament in Toronto.

In 2011 Andy was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame as a pitcher. His acceptance speech can be found online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIMJeJSID90

Also inducted with Andy in 2011 was Anola-born Corey Koskie, who played for MLB with the Minnesota Twins, Toronto Blue Jays and Milwaukee Brewers from 1998-2006. Like Andy, Corey was also a graduate of the Des Moines Area Community College at Boone, Iowa.

In 2017 Andy was again inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame as a member of the Neepawa Farmers baseball team that went to the MSBL finals every year from 1993-1997, winning the league title in 1993 and 1997 and the provincial AAA championship in 1997.

Since 2018 Andy has worked at the Northern Lights Baseball Academy (NLBA), in Grande Prairie, Alberta, as a coach. The NLBA was established to help further young baseball players to reach their full potential. The staff at NLBA is dedicated to creating an environment for growth and learning on and off the baseball field. Andy takes extreme pride in developing well-rounded student-athletes who can become successful collegiate ball players and model citizens through hard work, dedication, teamwork, fundamentals, confidence, discipline and respect for others.

In 2022 Andy was inducted by Baseball Manitoba’s Honour Society for his “outstanding achievement and contributions to the community in the sport of baseball” through his playing, coaching, and mentoring of young athletes. This honour is probably best summed up in a letter from Bill Clark, his former International Scouting Supervisor with the Atlanta Braves and San Diego Padres:
Andy is a quiet man who leads and teaches without theatrics. His knowledge of the game, his judgment of both playing ability and character and his ability to work with others and follow programs make him a valuable addition to national and professional organizations.

In a recent interview with Andy, I asked him about his involvement in the World Police & Fire Games (WPFG). Interestingly, Andy never competed in the games as a baseball player!! However, he did compete in the 1989 WPFG in Vancouver, B.C., in badminton, and in the 1991 WPFG in Memphis, Tennessee, in volleyball – where the Winnipeg Police team finished in second place. Andy explained that overhand sports like badminton, volleyball and even water polo, are good off-season sports for baseball players to keep their throwing arms in shape (a good lesson for you younger athletes out there – even Corey Koskie played volleyball with the University of Manitoba Bisons before going to play MLB).

2023 Northern Lights Baseball Academy Team. Andy is farthest on the left.

Baseball Manitoba, 2022 Honour Society Induction

UNISEX-SIX PERSON TEAM
1. LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT-CA/USA
   W. CUNNINGS    B. DAVIS
   G. HUNT        D. LESUFT
   G. MAURER      L. MESSNER
   A. MOORE       A. NAZOLE
   J. OSTERVOLSKY J. RODRIGUEZ
   D. SPENCE

2. WINNIPEG POLICE DEPARTMENT-MAN/CANADA
   A. BEEM         A. BOBEN
   A. BOJANAJ      G. FRIESEN
   B. KEBER        K. LEITOLD
   R. GAVOIE      H. STEPHENS
   B. WALL         A. GIRARD

3. KUOPIO FIRE DEPARTMENT-FINLAND
   K. ANTIRAIKEN   M. ARPPE
   P. HEIN        P. HYHONEN
   M. JOHANES     H. ORAVAIKEN
   S. KOJO        A. LAPII
   P. HAKINEN     A. KORHONEN
   K. KORHONEN    J. VAN RAINEN

4. COMBINED POLICE-NETHERLANDS
   R. HEGER        J. ROMSER
   J. SCHINDEL     E. DIKKEMA
   T. SPITHOVEN    H. VAN OSSERBRUGGEN
   A. ERHAGEN

Volleyball
Angus McDonald was born in Haddington, Scotland, on August 14, 1898. After the death of his father in 1909, he immigrated to Winnipeg with his mother and seven of his siblings.

On August 4, 1915, Angus enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force just 10-days before his 17th birthday. However, he listed his birth year as 1894, making him appear (on paper anyway) as a 22-year old.¹

At 17, Angus’ unit sailed for England on April 24, 1916, where he was transferred to the 8th Battalion CEF and sent into the field in France. On October 4, 1916, he was admitted to the military hospital in Le Harve for a gunshot wound to the groin.² After he was discharged from the hospital Angus returned to the European theatre and was eventually discharged from the army on May 19, 1919, as part of the general demobilization.

Shortly after his discharge from the army, Angus joined the Regina Police Department in 1919. However, he only remained a short time before joining the Winnipeg Police Department as a probationary constable on August 6, 1920.

On June 18, 1927, Angus married Marie Jeannette Blair, the daughter of retired Winnipeg Police Inspector Walter Blair (1888-1918). Together, Angus and Marie had two children, Ian and Gail.

On January 1, 1939, Angus was promoted to Detective and on May 31, 1944, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant. Angus died while still employed by the Winnipeg Police on October 17, 1962. With just over 42 years of service (23 as a detective), Angus was the longest serving Winnipeg Police officer still working at the time of his death. He was buried at Thomson in the Park Cemetery.

When I pulled Angus’ police service file, it was surprisingly slim. In fact, it only contained two pieces of paper that confirmed his employment and promotions within the police department. However, aside from detective work, where Angus shone was in track and field—something that was not likely to be contained in his employment file in any event.

¹ While militia orders stipulated that recruits were to be between the ages of 18 and 45, overage and underage individuals provided false birth dates to enlist. Although youth under the age of 18 could enlist if they had a parent’s consent, that didn’t apply in Angus’ case as he lied about his age.

² Le Havre, a French port on the English Channel, was used by the British Expeditionary Force throughout the war. Many thousands of British and Commonwealth troops were moved to the front through Le Havre. A number of hospitals were also established in the town.
Starting in 1920 the Winnipeg City Police Athletic Association (WCPAA) became actively involved in promoting sporting events among its own members, as well as the community. As police officers were not allowed to form a trade union after the 1919 Strike, the WCPAA supported its members in other ways – focusing on athletics, amusements and pastimes for its members. One of the premiere track and field athletes to come out of those inaugural WCPAA games in 1920 was Angus McDonald.

As an organization, active involvement in sports made sense for the police department and WPAA members as it promoted job related skills, camaraderie, as well as a sense of community.

In fact, the community was always welcome to participate in WCPAA sanctioned “open” events that were not exclusively for police officers. According to a January 9, 1932, article in the Winnipeg Free Press, “many athletes that are internationally known gained their first experience in events staged by the WPAA, [including] Cyril Coaffee, Laurie Armstrong, and Brant Little, Olympic runners”.

The same 1932 article mentions Constable Angus McDonald as having “an enviable list of track and field championships which total twenty. In his possession are four Dominion championship medals, eight provincial championship medals, six medals from the Board of Police Commissioners for the athlete with the highest aggregate in track and field sports, while in the Scottish Games of 1930 he walked off with the T. Eaton Challenge Cup going to the athlete with the highest aggregate, and also won the Fort Gary Hotel Cup for best aggregate in open events”.

Probably the highlight of McDonald’s track and field games would be when he won the Board of Police Commissioners Cup on August 27, 1927, capturing the 100 yard dash, 16-lb shotput and discus throw, while finishing second in the triple jump and third in the javelin … “Climaxed by the presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and H.R.H. Prince George” (future Kings of England, Edward VIII & George VI).

Competing in the same events was Ken Aseltine (non-police) who won the WCPAA gold medal for highest aggregate in the open events.

3 At the 1924 Olympic trials Cyril Coaffee tied the Olympic record with a 10.8 second time in the 100 yard dash and went to the Paris Games as Canada’s team captain; Laurie Armstrong also competed in the 1924 Olympics in the 100 and 200 yard dashes and the 4x100 relay; and Brant Little competed in the men’s 800 metres at the 1928 Summer Olympics.
Again, showcasing the talent appearing at WCPAA events, Aseltine won gold medal in men’s long jump at the 1924 and 1926 Canadian Championships (outdoor) and gold in the men’s triple jump. He was named to the Olympic Team in 1928, but an injury prevented him from going to Amsterdam.

As Angus competed well into the late 1930s winning the 16-lb shotput in both the closed and open events (Manitoba Championships), the discus, and second in both the 16 and 28-lb hammer throw events in 1937, it is unfortunate there is little to remember his police service or his contribution to sport in Manitoba except what is contained in the newspapers.

![Angus McDonald. WCPAA Manitoba Champion 1923, with 16 pound shotput. Winner of Board of Police Commissioners’ Trophy 1924 “Grand Aggregate”.](Image)

The games were held at River Park, a 130 acre section of land that is now the neighbourhood of Riverview. It was officially opened on June 20, 1891. It grew to include a full-fledged amusement park complete with a midway and boardwalk. It was used for baseball, football, lacrosse, horse racing and even had its own zoo. In 1942 the area was slated for residential development. Churchill Drive park is all that remains of River Park today.

![Angus placed first in shotput. Winnipeg Tribune, August 27, 1923](Image)

![Angus placed first in the Weight, Hammer & Discus throws. Winnipeg Tribune, August 29, 1932](Image)
Restoration work continued with the Museum’s 1987 Ford LTD Crown Victoria during the course of 2023. The previous year saw great strides made with the replacement of the entire braking system along with the installation of new shocks, new tires, floor repair, rebuilding of the front bearings, and the purchase of tune-up components. Efforts to get the car started and running however met with lackluster results and mixed reviews. As with any vehicle project, once you start down that repair road and open Pandora’s box, more often than not there’s no going back!

For the Museum cars, it’s in for a penny… in for a pound (old English saying used to express an intention to complete an enterprise once it has been undertaken, however much time, effort, or money it may entail). Our vehicles are heritage items and very much worth the time, effort and money required to further restoration efforts and keep them operational. Fortunately, we also have the backing of many current and retired members who contribute to the Museum regularly through payroll deduction. The difference that $1.00 or $2.00 a payday makes is monumental, and these regular biweekly donations provide the much-needed funding to move forward with projects just like the 1987 Ford restoration!

Please see our payroll deduction forms towards the end of this annual report or on-line if you are willing to join the program and help out!

The Museum Board was determined to continue with the rebuilding efforts which meant moving forward with the engine, transmission, and other drive train components that were… to be blunt and honest… quite a bit past their prime. Along with the funding provided by the payroll deduction plan, the Police garage mechanics rose to the occasion with the required labour needed to remove the
powertrain and assess the other components that are essential to keep everything running smoothly. Like Police Garage supervisor Lee Trakalo recommends, if you are rebuilding the engine and transmission, you might as well do everything else while you have it taken apart. After all, the goal is to have the car operating seamlessly for whoever may be using it. To this end, all other major components such as the starter, alternator, fuel pump and distributor assembly were scheduled to be rebuilt or replaced.

During September, the 1987 Ford was towed from the Police Museum warehouse workshop to the HQ Building and prepared for the moment when garage mechanics had the opportunity to spend some time on it. Finally on October 11th, mechanic Kevin Scott had a chance to disconnect the powertrain and pull the engine and transmission from the car. After removal, the engine then had to be stripped down which was also completed by Kevin along with Museum Vice-President Rod Hutter. With Kevin doing the disassembly and Rod taking pictures and bagging components, the process only took 1 hour - much to the amazement of garage supervisor Lee Trakalo!

Winnipeg has a number of businesses who specialize in certain repairs and have reliably serviced the local community for numerous years. For our 1987 Ford restoration, the Museum put our faith and trust in the following recommended businesses:

**Great Rate Transmission, 960 Wall Street**

**Competition Engine Machine Inc.**

**2640 Portage Avenue**

Richard Black is the owner of Great Rate Transmission and has been working on Winnipeg Police vehicles for many years. He readily agreed to look at the 1987 transmission and rebuild it with any needed components.

Glen Miller and Kevin Dyck own Competition Engine as business partners, and also readily agreed to take on the Ford 351 Windsor V8 Police Edition engine rebuild which Glen advised would greatly depend on the availability of parts due to the age of the vehicle.
It can be said the restoration efforts are a true collaboration, and help came from many sources for the next steps. With components stripped and packaged, on October 13th, the WPS River Patrol Unit attended with their truck and the engine was loaded into the back by WPS Evidence Control technicians using their forklift. The separated transmission was easily lifted into the back as well and off they went. First stop was Great Rate Transmission where the automatic transmission was dropped off to Richard and his crew. Then onward to Competition Engine where they used an overhead hoist to lift the engine out of the truck and into their shop.

The rebuilt transmission came back first when Rod Hutter returned it to the Police garage on November 7th. Competition Engine managed to successfully source all original Police Edition parts for the engine and they completed the rebuild by November 28th. This also included a new Edelbrock intake manifold and carburetor. Derk Derin picked up the engine and brought it back to the Police garage with Evidence Control staff again facilitating the unloading with their forklift.

While the engine and transmission were away, the various brackets and other removed components were cleaned, sandblasted, and painted by Derk and Lee in the Police Garage shop. As well, the alternator was rebuilt at Ace Auto Electric at 361 Logan Avenue, who also supplied a new stater and solenoid because replacement parts were obsolete and no longer available to rebuild/replace the originals.

In preparation for the engine reinstallation, new transmission cooling lines were made, and a new radiator was purchased. As part of the reinstallation, the car will also be needing a completely new exhaust system as the old one was extremely corroded and full of holes along both tailpipe sections. Stay tuned for the completion of this project during the beginning of 2024!

The Museum would like to thank all our helpers for their time and assistance with moving this project forward!
The Winnipeg Police Force came into existence on February 23, 1874, and for identification the appointed officers received a wallet badge that was supposed to have the organization’s name along with the engraved image of a beaver in the center. When the badges arrived however, the featured animal held more of a resemblance to a gopher or prairie dog, and it appeared the artist perhaps was not exactly clear on what a beaver looked like. These “gopher badges” were one of the first known attempts at ensuring Police officers could be readily identified.

Over the years Police officers used many other types of insignia for identification including metal numbers on hats, metal numbers on arm bands affixed to buffalo coat sleeves, and metal numbers on tunic collars or epaulettes. It wasn’t until 1961 when Winnipeg officers started wearing cloth shoulder flashes on uniform shirts and tunic coats to identify their force.
First Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flashes | January 1, 1961

For Winnipeg, the initial concept of cloth shoulder flashes arose during a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Wednesday August 31, 1960, when the members sat down to discuss the affairs of the Department. Commission minutes for the occasion identify these individuals as:

Alderman D. A. Mulligan (Vice Chair)
Alderman F. W. Crawford (acting Mayor)
Alderman C. H. Spence
Dr. R. Murray, Q.C. (Queen’s Counsel)
Mr. Lloyd Stinson
Chief Constable Robert T. Taft
Fred. E. Law (Secretary)
Alderman M. H. Danzker

During this meeting, Chief Taft addressed the group stating he was concerned about so many other Police Forces surrounding the city having uniforms that were similar, and in some cases almost identical to the uniforms being worn by Winnipeg officers. He singled out the summer tunics in particular, and with some of the neighbouring forces the only differences in the uniforms were the Sam Browne belt and pistol holster worn by the officers.

Keep in mind, at this time Winnipeg was much smaller and surrounded by 12 other growing communities that had their own respective Police Forces. Police uniforms throughout predominantly consisted of military style tunics with matching pants and specific equipment like Sam Browne belts. The uniforms all had a distinctive appearance and the military influence remained unmistakable.

Chief Taft however, wanted to set his officers apart from the others and make them readily identifiable. He proposed the use of cloth shoulder flashes on shirts and tunics for better identification, and recommended purchasing a supply which would cost the department around 30 cents each. After discussion by the Commission, Alderman Spence made a motion that the recommendation of the Chief Constable be approved, and it was so passed by the Board.

The initial order for these cloth shoulder flashes went to McAllister Regalia and later entries in the Police Commission minutes show on December 30, 1960, a payment of $927.50 was made to this company for “Arm Flashes” under Purchase Order #3751. The flashes went into use at the beginning of 1961.

These initial “arm flashes” were quite basic in design and consisted of a rounded bar shape with “WINNIPEG CITY” across the top and “POLICE” centered on the bottom. The flashes also did not have a fully merrowed border (overlock stitch). Instead, the flash design was sewn into the fabric and cut out along the edges in a style being prominent at the time. The flashes had a black background and came in two stitched colours, white for Constables and Patrol Sergeants, and gold for all other ranks from Sergeants to the Chief of Police.

The new arm flashes would be affixed to the Police Forces blue grey-uniform shirts, and on November 9, 1960, the firm of John Roddy Ltd. was awarded the city contract to supply these at $3.30 each (with shoulder flashes and eyelets).

Although these flashes were ordered, received, and paid for at the end of 1960, it is believed their formalized adoption and use officially commenced...
as of January 1, 1961. This style of shoulder flash would remain constant for the next 6 years, however a version of the white style with a fully merrowed border did appear and was used on jackets and tunics.

In November of 1966, Chief George Blow attempted to introduce a new Police uniform by altering the style and changing the colour to a shade of green. He even suggested the possibility of registering the colour to secure exclusive rights on its usage solely for Winnipeg Police uniforms. A sample tunic was prepared, and the Chief also presented a new overcoat meant to replace the buffalo coats which were considered unwieldy. Support from the rank and file failed to materialize however, and the men voted down the proposed uniform change later that same month.

It should be noted that after Winnipeg started using shoulder flashes, all the other surrounding Police Forces began adopting them as well. The styles remained similar for colours and stitching with the shapes being predominantly either the Winnipeg Police rounded bar style or a half-moon. Chief Blow later told the Police Commission he still intended to change the Winnipeg shoulder flashes to “give more distinction” to them.

**Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 1967**

True to his word, Chief Blow had the Winnipeg insignia redesigned shortly afterwards in the beginning of 1967. The background remained black, but the shape changed to a larger reverse teardrop style with a curved “WINNIPEG” at the top to match the curved border. “POLICE” appeared in a straight line under Winnipeg and the city crest was added underneath at the bottom. The outside edge consisted of a fully merrowed border.

At a Police Commission meeting held on February 1, 1967, Commissioner Parashin made a motion for the expenditure of $4,180.00 for the new insignia to be placed on the new issue shirts and uniforms and the Chief Constable was authorized to purchase this order from McAllister Regalia Ltd. The Board instructed that “once the new insignia is worn, that none of the old type be worn as part of the uniform".
The Chief Constable reported that the men would be wearing their new uniforms and flashes on the 23rd of July 1967 in time for the Pan-Am games.

Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 1974

The amalgamation of all the smaller surrounding cities and towns with Metro Winnipeg heralded the next change with Winnipeg Police shoulder flashes. In a push for unity, the city wanted all civic workers to look the same and be recognizable. Civic workers in all areas would wear a powder blue uniform shirt with City of Winnipeg shoulder flashes identifying their respective departments.

The adopted shape for the city essentially became an upside-down triangle with slightly rounded sides. Each department such as Police, Transit, Ambulance, Fire Department etc. would have their name on the bottom corner of the flash. White stitching remained prominent for most workers while gold stitching continued being used for Executive members. For Winnipeg, the past practice continued of white for Constables and Patrol Sergeants, and gold for Sergeants on up to the Chief of Police. The background remained black with “WINNIPEG” emblazoned along the top edge. The new City of Winnipeg Crest appeared in the middle and “POLICE” was wrapped around the bottom corner.

The final amalgamation of the remaining Police Department took effect on October 21, 1974. All members were required to be wearing the new City sponsored shoulder flashes by January 1, 1975.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Winnipeg Police Executive wanted to change the shoulder flash later in 1988, they offered an opportunity for designs to be submitted by interested members. Cst. Craig Boan designed and made prototypes in white and gold that were provided to the Executive, but ultimately not considered as the Department wished to incorporate the actual Police crest being used at the time.
**Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 1989**

Though it may have seemed like a good idea at the time in 1974, having all the civic workers dressed the same invariably caused problems. Other departmental employees were being mistaken for Police members, and the real Police officers were not as readily identifiable. A decision was made in 1989 to move away from the shared city insignia and create an entirely different crest specifically for the Police.

As the crest was finalized, a new shoulder flash was developed to go with a different style of uniform. The Police also wanted to move away from the powder blue uniform shirt to avoid any potential confusion with other civic departments. To this end the Department adopted a darker blue uniform shirt with a matching set of pants sporting a thicker red stripe down the outsides of the pant-legs.

The shoulder flash shape became a regional style with a curved top and straight sides that tapered inward slightly at the bottom. The “POLICE” was moved to the top and curved with the upper edge while “WINNIPEG” changed location to the bottom. The new Police Crest was centered in the middle. The background became royal blue and the same practice continued with white stitching for Constables and Patrol Sergeants, and gold stitching for Sergeants up to the Chief of Police.

All members had to be wearing the new shoulder flashes by December 12, 1989.

**Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 1995**

Retired RCMP Assistant Commissioner J. B. Dale Henry became the Winnipeg Police Chief in September of 1992, and changed a number of things for the department including the rank structure which was aligned with that of the RCMP. Plans were also underway to rebrand the Force and change the name to the Winnipeg Police Service. To this end, the Winnipeg Police crest was also redesigned and heralded in 1994 by the office of the Canadian Governor General thought the Canadian Heraldic Authority.
The heralded Police Crest was used for redesigning a new style of shoulder flash which also saw some slight modifications in the outside shape and lettering. The city then issued a tender for the new flashes which was awarded to the firm of Carlo Dalgas Enterprises.

The regional style shape stayed with the background being changed to a darker royal blue. The “POLICE” and “WINNIPEG” wording remained in the same places and the newly heralded crest replaced the old one in the center. In a final significant change, the flash would only be stitched in gold with all members wearing the one style.

This new flash was formally adopted as of January 22, 1995.

During the next 5 years, changes in tender awards saw a number of variants appear for this design of shoulder flash. B & S Emblem produced 2 versions with each having a slightly different regional shape than the Carlo Dalgas Flash, and different shades of the blue background.

**Winnipeg Police 125th Anniversary Shoulder Flash | 1874-1999**

Issuing a special commemorative shoulder flash is one method used by Police Forces to recognize significant Anniversaries. Though a new style of flash may be designed, a standard practice consists of adding the specific years encompassing the anniversary to the current one being used by the force.

When Winnipeg Police celebrated it’s 100th Anniversary in 1974, no centennial flash was created for the occasion. This likely would have been due to the ongoing politics and challenges of the ongoing amalgamation at the time.

This came close to happening again with the 125th Anniversary in 1999. After learning no commemorative flash had been considered for the occasion, Pcc. Rod Hutter undertook his own project to design and manufacture a 125th Anniversary Flash to acknowledge the milestone.
The finalized design was presented to the 125th Centennial Committee, however being a late addition to the planning, no funding existed for any such endeavor. The existing budget had already been allocated to other items and events. To obtain funding, the Police Executive granted permission allowing for the solicitation of sponsors, and enough money was raised by Pcc. Hutter to pay for the commemorative items.

The initial order consisted of 2000 flashes manufactured by Carlo Dalgas Enterprises who held the Police tender at the time. These were distributed to the Police membership in August of 1999, along with a letter explaining the project and identifying the sponsors. Due to a continued demand for the flashes, a second order for 1,200 had to be placed which were made available to everyone on a cost-recovery basis.

The 125th Anniversary Flash was only designed as a commemorative item and never became part of regularly worn uniform clothing. Since its distribution in 1999, the flash has been regularly included in the shadow boxes of retiring members.

**Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 2000**

In 2000, the Executive decided to change the colour of Police uniforms and go darker from a navy blue to a midnight blue that was probably closer to black. The background of the shoulder flashes changed to black as well, but the overall design remained the same with gold for all members. The initial order of this updated style was manufactured by Carlo Dalgas Enterprises who after a hiatus won back the tendered contract. Changes on uniforms were made through attrition. Two other variants of this flash design would also appear as other companies received the contract when re-tendered in subsequent years.

With the release of this latest version, Rod Hutter and Craig Boan made a sample version using metallic gold (mylar) thread that was submitted to Chief J. J. Ewatski with a proposal they be used for the Executive Officers from Inspector to Chief. Chief Ewatski still preferred to have all ranks wear the same gold shoulder flash and did not make any changes.
When deciding the new shoulder flash configuration, the WPS Executive reviewed two distinctive versions that also had variations in the borders. The second style showed how the WPS shoulder flash would look like with the crest at the top with “POLICE” underneath and “WINNIPEG” on the very bottom followed by the Canadian Flag. This particular style had become popular in the west and was adopted by many forces in British Columbia and Alberta.

DID YOU KNOW?

The late 2000’s saw a trend develop across Canada where the Police and other organizations began adding Canadian flags to their vehicles and insignia as part of the Federal Identity Program. Through this, the Government offered specific funding for adding the country’s national flag.

Rod Hutter and Craig Boan again teamed up to redesign the Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash and incorporate a Canadian Flag with the additional hope of securing Federal funding as the Police Garage was already placing Canadian Flags on vehicles. Towards this effort, artwork samples of 8 distinctive configurations were created that represented insignia trends currently happening amongst Police Forces across Canada. Superintendent Gord Schumacher was tasked by the Executive with making the final decision to chart the course for the Winnipeg Police.

Before any decisions or designs were finalized, the supervisor of Quartermaster Stores, who was not part of the project, placed an order for shoulder flashes and supplied incomplete and unfinished artwork to the manufacturer. As a result, 10,000 shoulder flashes arrived that had the wrong shape and contained errors in the lettering and crest. Winnipeg Police Chief Keith McCaskill was not prepared to write-off $10,000 for a mistake and instructed the flashes be used for uniforms regardless.
After the release of the new Winnipeg Shoulder Flash in 2010, a number of other Police Forces contracted with Craig Boan and duplicated the Winnipeg style with their own agencies.

Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 2010
Superintendent Schumacher chose to maintain the same design for the Winnipeg Police flash that had been used for many years. The finalized and approved artwork incorporating the Canadian Flag was used for the next order of shoulder flashes, with use commencing in 2010 after the supply of error flashes became exhausted.

At this same time, Rod Hutter again presented the WPS Executive with a variant made with metallic gold (mylar) tread accompanied by the same proposal they be used for Executive Officers. Police Chief Keith McCaskill liked the version and felt the style was appropriate for the recognition of senior officers. The concept also mirrored many other Canadian Agencies. The Chief adopted the flash and authorized its use by all Executive ranks from Inspector to Chief of Police.
Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash | 2023

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of King Charles III to the English throne, organizations entitled to do so had the option of changing the crowns in heralded items from the Queen’s chosen crown to the one selected by the new King.

For the Winnipeg Police Crest heralded in 1994, Chief Danny Smyth elected to change the Queen’s Crown to the King’s Crown in the same artistic style as the artwork previously granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

Rod Hutter and Craig Boan teamed up again to redesign the Winnipeg Flash. At this same time some corrections were made to the lettering and artwork so it would conform more closely to the design heralded in 1994. One significant change included removing the white stitching in the crescents on either side of the city shield because these areas were actually cut-outs meant to have the background show through.

The redesigned Kings Crown shoulder flash was made in gold for regular members, metallic gold for the Executive, and grey for tactical uses.

Winnipeg Police Shoulder Flash – 150th Anniversary | 1874-2024

With the redesign of the Winnipeg Police Shoulder flash to incorporate the Kings Crown, Rod Hutter also designed a 150th Anniversary shoulder Flash (1874-2024) which was submitted and approved by the WPS Executive.

The design consisted of the new flash layout with the addition of “1874” in gold with “150” in red underneath on the left side of the crown, and “2024” in gold with “YEARS” in red underneath on the right side of the crown.

The flash was designed as a commemorative item and would not be worn on uniforms. It was also made in gold for regular members, metallic gold for the Executive, and grey for tactical uses.
During 2023, the Police Museum approached Deputy Chief Art Stannard with a donation request for a one-of-a-kind Dodge Charger cruiser car that was used as a marked Police unit for several years before coming due for replacement. As this “one-off” car had an interesting history of its own, the Charger became a must for the Museum to preserve so it could be appreciated and enjoyed by future generations!

With the discontinuing of the mainstay Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor in 2011, the WPS was facing a crossroads regarding its fleet and had to choose a successor for their disappearing workhorse vehicle. As the last of the Crown Victoria Police cars rolled off the assembly line in St. Thomas, Ontario, the city of Winnipeg placed a large order to stockpile the vehicles and buy some time to research a replacement.

Spearheaded by the Vehicle Services Unit, Cruiser Car 2.0 became a project to test, evaluate, and chose the next vehicle platform for the WPS Fleet. A large committee was formed, comprised of representatives from all stakeholder groups who would be involved with the new vehicle platform in any way. This included the users, the upfitters, and the repairers amongst others. For this endeavour, the committee took advantage of the already completed annual Michigan State Police vehicle testing, whereas only the better models would be short-listed and evaluated for Winnipeg’s Policing environment.

Amongst Ford and Chrysler vehicles acquired for testing purposes, Winnipeg also purchased two Dodge Chargers. One came with a massive 5.7 litre Hemi V8 engine making up its powertrain, while the other possessed a standard 3.6 litre V6.
Both were tested extensively with attention paid to performance, handling, ease of maintenance, and interior layout/accessibility, because after all, the cars would be a mobile office for the officers working out of them.

For a number of reasons, the two Dodge vehicles failed to come out on top and final results saw the Ford Police sedan (based on a Taurus chassis) and the Ford SUV Interceptor (based on an Explorer chassis) become the next generation of fleet vehicles for the WPS.

The next question was what to do with the Chargers. The powerful 5.7 litre Hemi was very much ill-suited for a regular patrol unit, so it was turned over to the Incident Command group to become an unmarked daily driver for the executive members who were on call. The 3.6 litre Charger became a marked patrol unit and was put into service with the Community Relations Division.

This regularly used Charger came due for replacement 12 years later, and since the Museum had been keeping an eye on it for obvious reasons, the WPS Executive was approached about the possibility of its donation. Deputy Chief Art Stannard has always been a staunch supporter of the Museum and understands the importance of heritage preservation. He readily agreed to the donation proposal, and the Charger was slated for addition to the Museum fleet!

On November 8, 2023, along with a couple of minor repairs, a new set of tires, and a fresh safety, ownership of the marked 2012 Dodge Charger was formally transferred to the Police Museum. The car made its first special events appearance as an operational Museum fleet vehicle in the 2023 Santa Claus Parade as part of the Winnipeg Police contingent!

The Board of Directors would like to thank Chief Danny Smyth, Deputy Chief Art Standard, and the rest of Winnipeg Police Executive Management Team for their continuous and steadfast support of the Police Museum, and our efforts to preserve and present our history!
The annual Santa Clause Parade took place on Saturday November 18, 2023, and as usual the Police Museum teamed up with Community Relations officers, Cadets, and the Tactical Support Team to help make up a large WPS contingent!

The unseasonably warmer weather this year presented a unique opportunity to include motorcycles in the parade since they could be driven safely on the clear and dry roadways! In a big addition to this year’s Police group, the Museum arranged for Traffic Division officers Cst. Doug McKane and Cst. Alan Kwon to join the parade riding 2 new Winnipeg Police BMW 850 motorcycles, while Division 11 Community Support officer Cst. Brian Hennebury rode the Museum’s 2014 Harley Davidson. This was the first time in many years that motorcycles could actually take part in the parade!

Aside from the Harley Davidson, other museum vehicles participating in the event included the 1978 Ford Custom 500, the 1988 Dodge Diplomat, the 2008 Ford Crown Victoria, and the recently donated 2012 Dodge Charger!

For 2023, the Museum also supplied a float assembled by our own restoration specialist Derk Derin, who used his own trailer to stage a 1966 Harley Davidson Servi-car and a 1978 Harley Davidson with a sidecar. These 2 old motorcycles were staffed by Curator Tammy Skrabek and “Cuffs” the former WPS mascot, who came out of retirement to assist with the event. This dynamic duo also apprehended “the Grinch” who was handcuffed and secured in the sidecar of the motorcycle being driven by Cst. Cuffs! He would not be spoiling anyone’s Christmas this year!

The original parade route was changed last year, and 2023 followed the same new course. Participating groups traveled west in the eastbound lanes of Portage Avenue from Main Street to Memorial Avenue with spectators lined up along the sidewalks and center median of the roadway. Same as the previous year, vehicles and floats were staged on Main Street where the public interacted with participants while everyone waited for the parade to get started. Children took full advantage of opportunities to be photographed in the Museum cars or the Terredyne Gurkha, and dance on the sidewalks with WPS mascots Scout and Sage!

The convict brigade was out in full force and ready to assist with handing out candy. They also made the rounds in the staging area visiting with other groups including the Winnipeg Blue Bombers! In a brief naughty moment, before heading back to the Police contingent the convicts took over Cinderella’s carriage for a quick group picture in the cell like setting!
The warmer weather also brought out more spectators and the route was packed with children and adults of all ages. Cst. Cuffs and the Grinch were an absolute hit with finger pointing and peals of laughter coming from the kids upon noticing his “capture” by the Police! The good-natured interaction with the crowds is always a sight to behold as the children were regularly shaking hands, fist bumping and hugging the officers, convicts, and mascots alike all along the route.

This year Community Relations and Museum received miniature candy canes and mini peanut free chocolate bars donated by the Real Canadian Superstore Portage Avenue and McPhillips Street Locations. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Superstores for their donation and support!

The Museum would also like to thank all our volunteers who came out to assist with the parade by either driving a vehicle or walking in a historical uniform and handing out candy. Most of our volunteers are regulars who return year after year to have fun and interact with the crowds!
Coming in September 2024

History of the Winnipeg Police

And its Forgotten Metro Police Departments

John Burchill and Rod Hutter pull back the curtain and look behind the 150-year history of the Winnipeg Police Force and the surrounding metropolitan police departments that would eventually amalgamate with the Winnipeg Police Department in 1974.

From the days of the first Chief of Police in 1874, “who was perhaps the greatest rowdy in Winnipeg at the time, and who under the cloak of his authority, engaged in all kinds of dissipation”, to one of the premiere agencies in Canada today, John and Rod look at the history of metropolitan Winnipeg from a unique policing perspective.

Often acting as firemen, ambulance drivers, license inspectors, dog catchers, health and sanitary inspectors, public works operators and noxious weed inspectors, police constables were the consummate public servant in the early years. Even today, members of the Winnipeg Police Service are involved in far more than just crime fighting in their efforts to keep us safe.

With tactical care training, an advanced 911 telecommunications centre, air and river patrol units, underwater search and recovery teams, and community outreach specialists, to name a few, the mission still remains one of “building safe and healthy communities across Winnipeg through excellence in law enforcement, protection and crime prevention.”

With support from the Winnipeg Police Service, and the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Unit, Manitoba Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.
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.

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.

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! You can also access the form with the QR code below, or visit:

Established by the Museum Board of Directors in 2022, the Winnipeg Police Museum Endowment Fund was created to provide a sustainable and perpetual source of funding to support the Museum and our mission to preserve and promote the history of the Winnipeg Police and the community we serve. The Fund is administered by the Winnipeg Foundation.

**Stretch Funding**

Thanks to funding programs, Endow Manitoba, through the Manitoba Heritage Trust Endowment Fund (MHTE) will provide stretch money to the Winnipeg Police Museum Endowment Fund. For every $2.00 given to the fund (up to a maximum of $50,000) the program will stretch the gift with an additional $1.00 (up to a maximum of $25,000). This means every $2.00 gift becomes $3.00. All stretch dollars will be calculated on the eligible donations the fund receives by September 30th each year.

**Manitoba Heritage Trust Program**

Through the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program, the Province of Manitoba offers financial support for Community Museums, Archives and Supporting Organizations to help establish and grow endowment funds through matching grants that supply $1.00 for every $2.00 raised by the organization. The goal of the program is to help organizations establish and grow endowment funds to provide long-term and sustainable revenue.

The Manitoba Heritage Trust Endowment (MHTE) Fund supports the building of these endowment funds through the provision of stretch grant incentives.

The program, initiated by the Manitoba Government, is administered by The Winnipeg Foundation with support from the Association of Manitoba Museums, the Association for Manitoba Archives, and Manitoba’s 56 rural community foundations.

The Winnipeg Foundation will generate the tax receipts for all gifts directed to The Winnipeg Police Museum Endowment Fund. Gifts to this fund are invested in perpetuity and the annual income generated is distributed to The Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society Inc. to be used at their discretion.

**Donate Today**

Making a donation to the Winnipeg Police Museum Fund and supporting the preservation of our community history is easy and tax deductible! Donate today through the Winnipeg Foundation!


Winnipeg Foundation does not keep fees for credit card transactions so $100 gift stays $100 gift.
The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.)

PLEDGE FORM

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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

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Comments:

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

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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.

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Employee Signature Date

Please email the signed and dated form to cwcf@winnipeg.ca

or return it to The Winnipeg Civic Employees’ Benefits Program

5th Floor - 317 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2H6

ACCEPTED BY CWCF SECRETARY DATE
### The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund

**Retirees Pledge Form**

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

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

### 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.

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<tr>
<th>Charity Name</th>
<th>Bi-Weekly Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.) *</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bi-Weekly Payment</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Signature** | **Date**
Thank You

The Board wishes to thank Police Chief Danny Smyth and the Winnipeg Police Executive Management Team for their strong, continual, and unwavering support for the Winnipeg Police Museum. Their assistance and co-operation help the Police Museum to be successful and remain open to the Public to showcase our rich history. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Winnipeg Police Credit Union and all the members of the Winnipeg Police Association for their support over the years as well.