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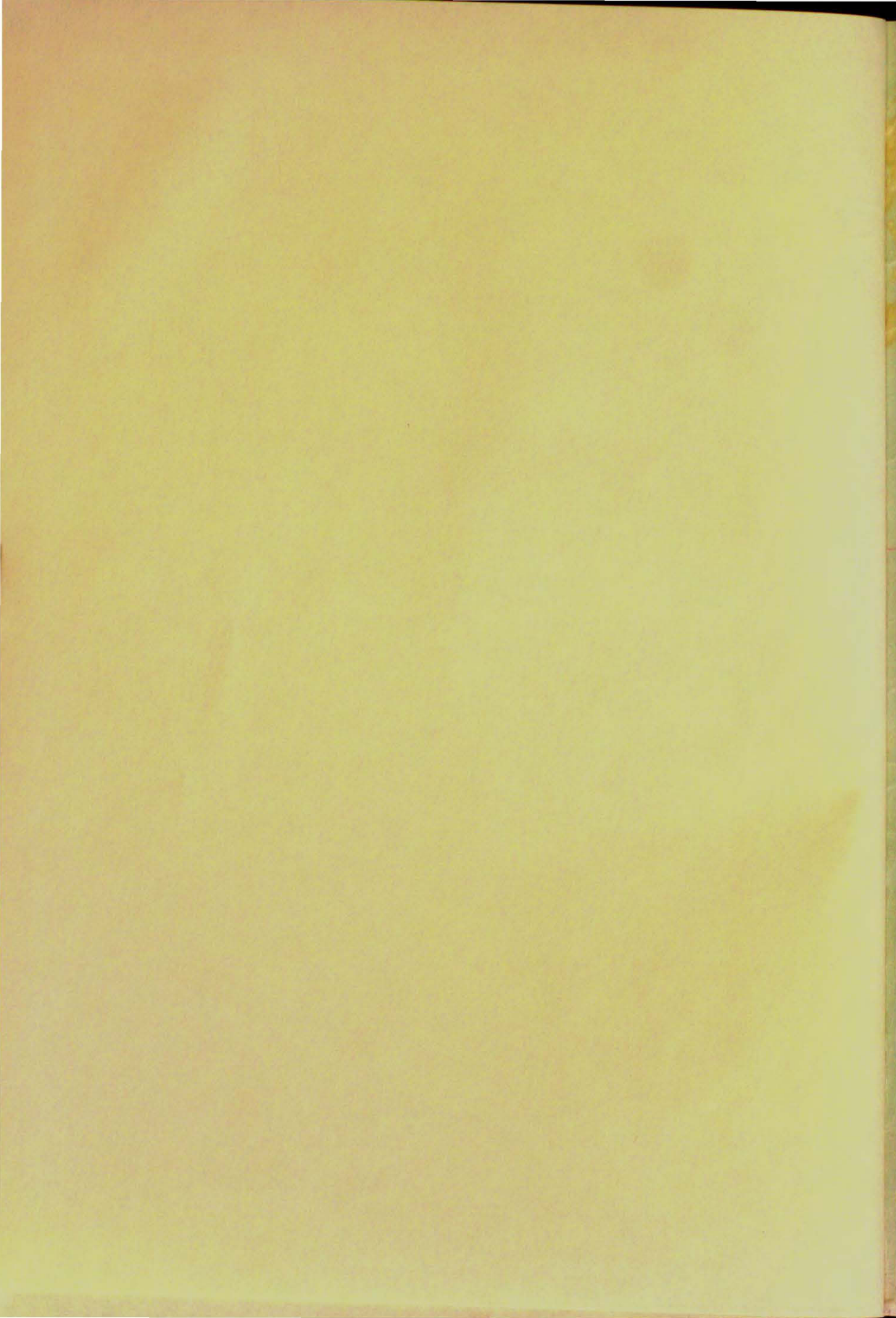
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# CHATHAM POLICE FORCE

1835

THEN    TILL    NOW

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THEN TILL NOW

1985

CHATHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario has on many occasions, made grants available to our force, to cover many worthwhile projects. Thus, through a grant from the Ministry, under Experience '85, saw the birth of this book covering the history of the Chatham Police Force.

Renée Jennifer L. Carriveau, a young Chatham native was hired under this program, with the sole mandate to "research the history of the Chatham Police Force and reduce the material to about a 60 page document". Renée came very well qualified for the task ahead of her, having just obtained her Ontario Teacher's Certificate in June of 1985. In addition, she has her Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Arts and Political Science from the University of Windsor. Renée currently is enrolling in a law degree course.

The profound gratitude of all members, past and present, is hereby extended to Renée for this capsule history of their force.







## Preface

The time taken to produce this capsule history during July and August 1985, obviously did not lend itself to the complete detail we would like to have. However, it is an excellent start to a more in-depth research program when additional funds are available. At that time, details such as names and ranks of officers on the force, at any given period, along with specific details of events, cases, equipment, during various stages of the force growth, can be addressed.

Governing Authorities of the force over this same period, can be addressed in a more comprehensive fashion.

However, it is our sincere wish that you will enjoy this beginning as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Tom Bird,  
Chief of Police.

Dianne Stoner,  
Executive Assistant.



It is only by reflection upon Chatham's struggle to acquire an organized police force, that one appreciates the dedication and perseverance demanded of a police officer today.

The history of the force prior to 1835 is quite vague. Sandwich became the seat of courts in the late 1700's. The expansion of Sandwich's court into the Western District, which included Chatham, implies an early attempt at law and order. The settlement of Chatham, in 1820, was originally laid out as a combined townsite and Military Reservation. As the population grew in 1831, so did the breaches of justice, and the need for law and order was recognized.

A certain amount of lawlessness is inevitable in a pioneer society. 1

This lawlessness became the catalyst for the formation of the Chatham Vigilance Society for the Suppression of Felony on January 24, 1835. Members of the society were to pay one dollar a year for mutual protection against felony, and were to give information to the president, when they knew of any crime.

The service could be used by non-members, but they were expected to pay a reward fee.



In 1841 Chatham became a village with a population of 8124. The most frequent crimes during this time were stolen horses, larceny, and theft of whiskey. Whether Chatham had official policemen, as we know them today, is doubtful. But, there is strong suspicion that special constables were hired to work on a fee basis. Actual sentencing of the offenders was often overlooked because of the heavy expenses incurred in criminal prosecution. Anyone wishing to prosecute would have to use the courthouse and jail located in Sandwich. As the village grew, the need for a local court became apparent.

It was not until 1850, that Chatham erected a courthouse and gaol. On July 18, 1847, Kent applied to Parliament, and the County of Kent became detached from the Western District. Thus, Chatham could no longer use the courthouse, and gaol in Sandwich, and had to build its own. Police Court was held in the original Town Hall on King Street, in the upstairs council chambers.

In 1855, Chatham was incorporated as a town, and Leonard Blackburn was appointed Chief Constable. Responsible to him were six constables. The need for an organized force was reinforced with the murder of Abigail Walker. 2

In November of 1855 Abigail Walker was murdered and her husband was found guilty. 2



Mrs. Walker had returned home about midnight intoxicated; when Mr. Walker returned he began to strike her. Mrs. Walker went to bed and it was then, that Mr. Walker beat her to death with a stick.

Although, Chatham was small, it had its share of crimes. According to the 1858 report of the Police Magistrate, larceny and other criminal crimes increased 400%.

The Irish had the highest charges for rows, and disorderly conduct, and blacks had the highest number of charges for stealing. <sup>3</sup>

It is interesting to note that the early police reports classified the offenders into categories of age, ethnicity, religion, occupation and sex.

Early policing, such as it was, seems to have been old-fashioned village constables backed up by a public opinion which strongly favoured law and order. <sup>4</sup>

In order to adequately police the town, a six man force was employed. Chatham was divided into three town wards, each with two constables, to maintain law and order. The following men were enlisted: John Walton and Joshua Biles for Eberts Ward, David Pratt and Donald McDonald for Chrysler's Ward and James Kerby and William Ryan for Northwood Ward.



In 1859 John Goodyear was appointed Chief Constable, as well as Shop and License Inspector. It is unknown why, the force under the command of Chief Constable Goodyear, was reduced to the following three constables: David Pratt for Eberts Ward, Donald McDonald for Chrysler Ward and Leonard Blackburn for Northwood Ward. A change of men occurred in 1862 with Edwin Green as Chief Constable, Constable Samuel Hesklau for Eberts Ward, Constable Thomas Seusbury for Chrysler Ward and James Kerby for Northwood Ward.

The population of Chatham grew to 4,400 in 1864 and the strength of the police force was returned to six men, under the charge of Chief Constable Goodyear. Then, two years later, in 1866, Edwin Green returned as Chief Constable with twelve men under his charge. The preceeding information allows one to deduce that policing was far from the profession it is today. The Chief Constable usually held another position within the ranks of the city, besides that of Chief Constable. For example, Chief Constable Goodyear was always the Shop and Tavern License Inspector too. Chief Constables and men remained for only two year terms. This practice implied a lack of future planning for the position of Chief Constable.



Later on in 1866, Edwin Green resigned from his position as Chief Constable, and Richard C. Brown was appointed Chief Constable.

Town Council appointed Sergeant-Major Brown of her majesty's 20th Regiment (for some years Drill Instructor to volunteer forces in this section of Canada) to be Chief of Police in the Town of Chatham. 5

Sergeant-Major Brown had seven years experience with the police force in Ireland. During the next ten years the position of Chief Constable alternated back and forth between Brown (1867, 1868, 1873, 1875, 1876) and Goodyear (1871, 1872, 1874), with the exception of Chief Constable Smith in 1870, who also acted as Health Officer. Whether there was rivalry between these two men is for the reader to decide.

The following list of charges were made by High Constable Goodyear against Chief Constable Brown in 1876:

1. Accused of frequenting houses of ill repute.  
(Rebecca Bedford, a common prostitute, stated that Mr. Brown took her to Mrs. Hughes on Raleigh Street; a house of ill repute, and that he visited her there often.)
2. Charges that Mr. Brown took prostitutes into his private office.



3. Being a friend to gambling houses, and he screens them against the law.
4. Taking money and compromising felony.
5. Taking stolen property and keeping it when he could have arrested thieves and returned the property to the owner.
6. With letting persons go that were caught in the act of stealing.
7. Doing bailiff's and other business not connected with police and pocketing the funds.
8. Taking money from parties arrested and not recording it in the Police Book.
9. Not doing his best endeavour to arrest criminals.
10. Taking money from prisoners. (charged them with their expenses while prisoners and refusing to refund the balance) 6

Before the reader passes judgement on the morality of Chief Constable Brown, it should be noted that all charges were investigated by a committee; it was recommended that Brown remain Chief Constable for the Town of Chatham.

It is the opinion of the Committee reported to that Mr. Brown has done no act which renders him unworthy or disqualifies him from the position Chief of Police in the Town of Chatham. 7



It appears that the first formal police positions began in 1876 under Chief C. Brown. He had one sergeant, three regular constables and one night watchman under his supervision.

The By-Law appointing members of police and town constables was read in committee.<sup>8</sup>

POSITION	NAME	SALARY(YR.)
Chief Constable	R.C.Brown	\$600.
Sergeant	C.Sommerville	492.
Reg. Constable	G. Masters	420.
Reg. Constable	A.J.McMillan	420.
Reg. Constable	W.J.Morrison	420.
Night Watchman	T.R.G.Rutley	420.

plus sixteen town constables paid on a fee basis

The first truly permanent force began under Colonel A.J.Baxter, who became Chief Constable for the Town of Chatham when Chief C. Brown died.

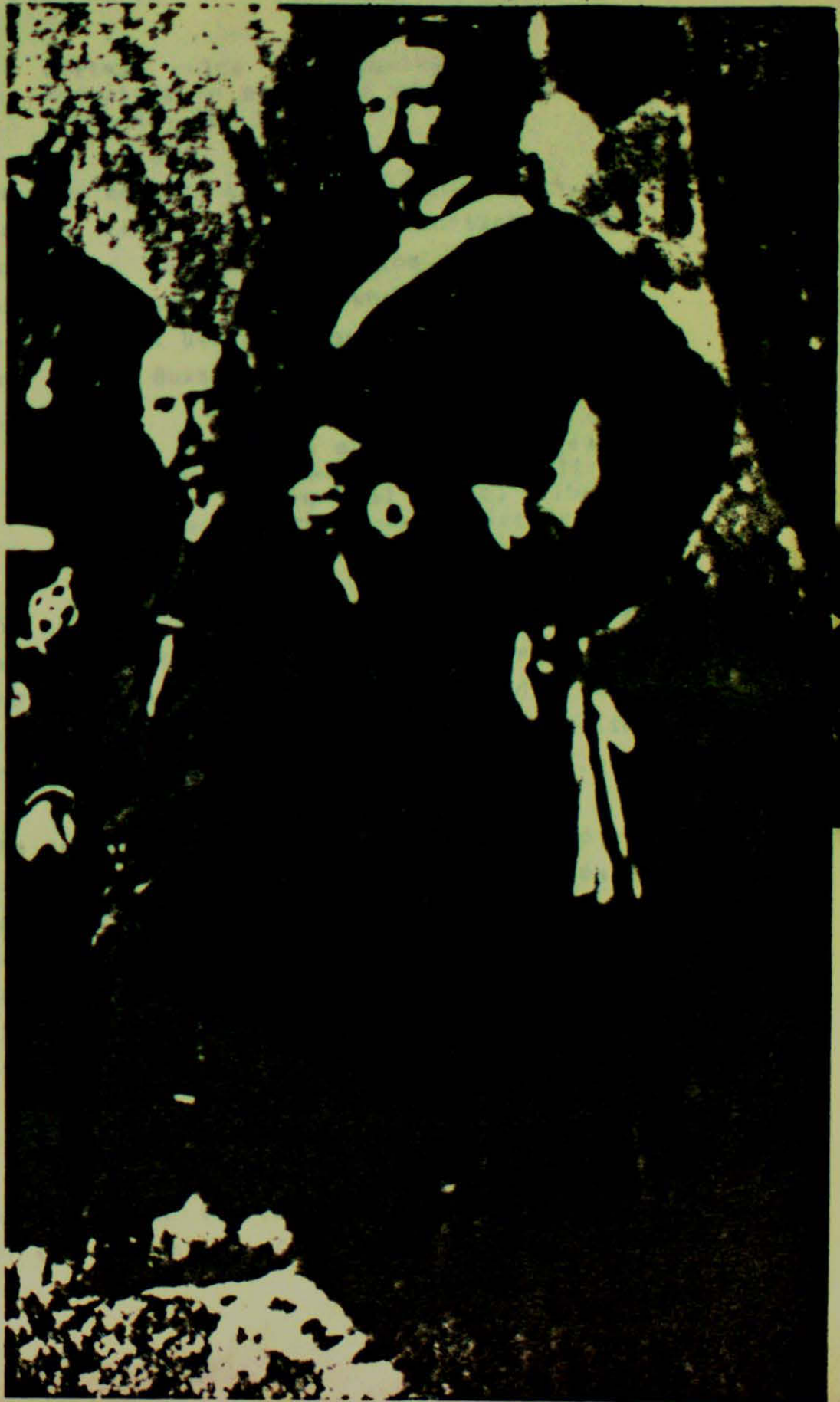
Chatham's policing was separated from what had been a Kent County wide force on October 29, 1877, when an army officer, A.J.Baxter, was appointed Chief Constable. <sup>9</sup>

During this time the control of the police department was the Town Council. Order # 114 stated:

The Chief of Police is appointed by Council and is given full powers to govern and control the police force of the Town of Chatham subject to



Chief A.J. Baxter





certain rules and regulations. The Committee on police is appointed by the Council. 10

The more complex an organization becomes, the greater the chances that conflicts shall surface. One major ongoing controversial issue at this time was whether or not the Thames Street Station required a night watchman. Chief Baxter reported:

It is a dangerous experiment to leave men and women locked up in the cells at the police station all night. There could be accidents; such as fire or even illness that would go unnoticed. 11

The solution agreed upon was to have two men employed instead of the present three on days and three men on night duty, instead of two. The men would alternate staying in the police house when prisoners were there.

The total police force of 1887 consisted of five men. Chief William Young, an ex-mayor and former carriage manufacturer, earned a salary of \$700. per year; Sergeant Guttridge, who was also the Health Inspector, earned \$580. per year; and Constables Thomas Darr and Skirving each earned \$480. per year.

Although the exact qualifications for an officer of this time were not stated, one can gain an impression from a description of the 1889 police force. 12





**CHIEF YOUNG**

---



NAME AGE WEIGHT(lbs.) HEIGHT

Chief Young	50	185	5'10"
H.B.Darr	43	200	6'
A.H.Skirving	35	215	6'2"
P. Dalzelia	28	205	6'1"
R.Rankin	28	219	6'3"

It is apparent that size was a major consideration in the hiring of an officer.

Not until 1899 were the Rules and Regulations of the Force listed in the Police Day Book.<sup>13</sup>

#### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Candidates for the Police Force must appear before the Police Magistrate and Chief Constable, pass a satisfactory examination in reading, writing, arithmetic, and show some general knowledge of the duties of a police officer.
2. He must be found intelligent, able and active of body and mind, of good moral character, and if not known shall produce certificates to that effect; also a certificate from the Medical Health Officer that he is in good health and mentally fit for service.
3. No person shall be admitted to the force whose age is under 21 or over 45 years and who is less than 5'10" in height.

Chatham desired only men with outstanding qualities to act as enforcers of law and order.

According to By-Law #5 for Chatham, the



general instructions of the force were:

"As prevention is better than cure so is the prevention of crime better than its detection and punishment, so the great and primary effort of the Police will be directed towards the protection of persons and property, and the preservation of public tranquility, which only can be accomplished by untiring vigilance, and from an intelligent determination on the part of every member of the force. 14

The above quotation expresses the difficult and challenging goal of Chatham Chief Constable and his men. The Chief who is responsible for, and to, his men has the hardest task of all. Chief Young stated:

I am here practically all the time; certainly always when the men are going on or coming off. 15

The Chief Constable had a long list of responsibilities. For example, it was part of his duty to take care of office work, to take complaints, to make out papers, to collect fines, to keep records and to investigate cases.

The subordinate constables had a very strict code of conduct to uphold. Some of their rules included:

1. Shall concern himself with being a policeman his only occupation.



2. Shall keep out of debt.
3. Shall reside within city limits.
4. Shall not take any reward money.
5. Shall not while on duty, enter a public house or tavern except in discharge of his duties.
6. Shall not be found drinking or tippling, smoking, loitering, gossiping, while on his beat, or standing and talking to anyone except to give information.
7. Shall refrain from expressing any political or religious opinion in an offensive manner. 16

There were not many other work positions that demanded so much of a person.

The next set of policy guidelines was not drawn up until 1899, because the Police Force remained under the jurisdiction of Town Council until 1895. In 1895, the Town of Chatham became the City of Chatham and the City Police Commission was formed. Thus, in 1895 the Police Commission became the governing power over Chatham's Police Force and remains so today. The plan to form a Police Commission Board originated in 1890, but did not take formation till five years later. This was because the Town Council was reluctant to relinquish its power.



After the establishment of the Police Commission, the Council would cease to have the slightest control over constables. 17

Therefore, not until May 10th, 1895, was the inaugural meeting of the City Police Commission held in the Judges Chambers of Harrison Hall. Members of the first Board included: Kent County Judge Bell as Chairman, M. Houston as Police Magistrate, and Mayor Campbell.

The five man police force worked from the police station located on Thames Street, facing Victoria Avenue. The daily routine consisted of:

"four" beats at this time. Number 1 was a day beat on King Street; it lasted from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Number 2 and 3 were night beats. The first was the upper end of King Street; the second was on Wellington to South Street. Number 4 was a day and night combined beat on North Chatham between the Police Station and Baldoon Street. The beats were set up so that 3 of the 4 men could go to church on Sunday. The shifts for the beat were changed every week. 18

Eventhough most of the crime committed in Chatham was typical of a small town; Chatham did have its share of unique crime. Chatham became famous with the Scott Act Dynamitings, in 1888. The dynamitings were the result of



legislation passed in 1887 that allowed communities to vote themselves dry. The skill and patience of the Chatham Force secured an arrest of Macy, the dynamiter. Chief Young was proud of the links in the chain of evidence that convicted Macy and reflected the Chief's detective ability. The Macy cartridge spent 15 years residing at the police station with Chief Young, before it was removed. The cartridge was the same one that was thrown away, by Macy, the night he blew up the residence of License Inspector Evans.

Chatham became even more notorious when the Rankin murder occurred on January 25, 1893. The murder of Constable Robert Rankin took place in Raleigh Township on the eve of January 25, 1893. Rankin was brutally clubbed to death while assisting in the arrest of George Freeman. His slayers were convicted of manslaughter and sentenced. Constable Robert Rankin, appointed to the force in 1889, was one of the younger and bigger men on the force.

The problem originated when George Freeman took up with a young girl of questionable reputation and workmen at a nearby sawmill threatened to tar and feather him. On the night of January 24, 1893, two unknown men

ROBERT RANKIN

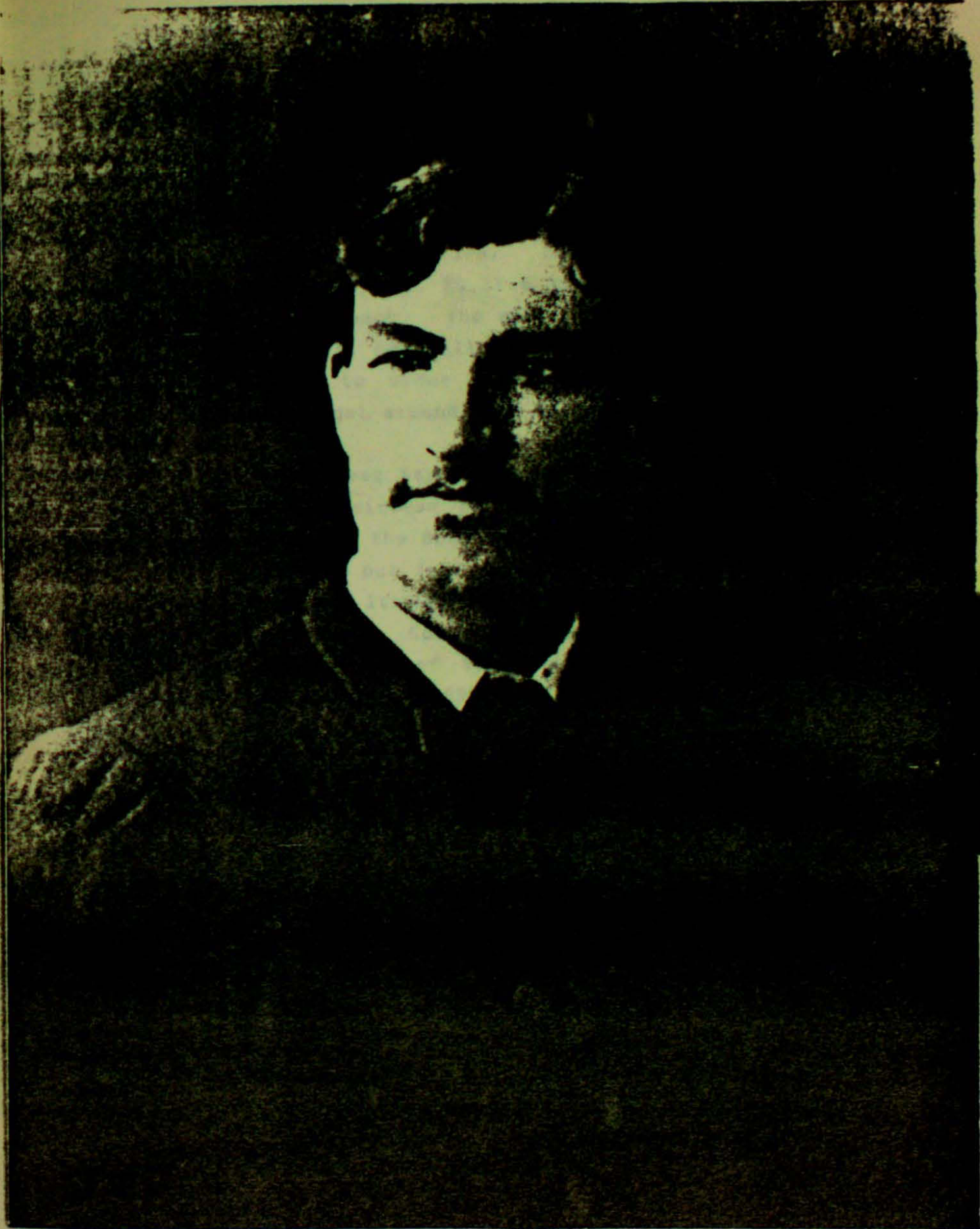
JAN 25 1893



visited the Freeman home and beat up George. A warrant had been put out at Chatham for George Freeman's arrest, on a charge involving the girl. County Constable Alex McDonald was to arrest Freeman, since the family lived in Raleigh Township. But Constable McDonald did not desire to arrest George alone. Consequently, McDonald recruited the aid of Chatham Constables Rankin and Dezelia. When George Freeman saw the men approaching, he ran to his father's house nearby and ordered police away. Then the police tried to approach; Rankin ran around the back of the house, but was met by George's two brothers armed with a hoe and an axe. The brothers began pounding Constable Rankin with their crude weapons. Dezelia ran to help him and fired at Freeman's brothers, wounding them. George Freeman then approached the wounded Rankin with a big stick and hit him blow after blow upon the head. Dezelia ran out of bullets, ran to County Constable McDonald, and then to seek help. Rankin was killed.

Besides, the more sensational crimes, the police also had to deal with the ordinary crimes. Chief Young submitted that the police were strictly enforcing the law regarding the buying, selling and delivery of newspapers on Sunday.





ROBERT RANKIN.

JAN. 25 1893



The force was just beginning to take shape, and the salaries, along with the equipment were low in price. The men were provided with pants at \$4.25 a pair and overcoats at \$24.50 each. The men patrolled their beats on foot; not till 1899 did the Chief ask the Board to order bicycles, so that the men could get around with better speed.

The Thames Street station floor and plumbing was considered to be in an unhealthy condition by the Board of Health. A proposal was made to put in a cement floor for \$130.; but because it was cheaper, a brick floor was installed. Coal was used to heat the station at a cost of \$5.20 per ton. The night policeman of 1898, was given permission to buy a small gas stove to make tea and coffee, but not to exceed \$2.25 in cost. In an interview with a reporter from the Chatham Planet, concerning office furniture, Chief Young stated:

We simply wanted something substantial and cheap - especially cheap. It is not what the desk looks like so much as what it holds. 19

The drawers of the desk were numbered to correspond with cells to keep the belongings of the prisoners. The force used five books to keep track of ongoing.



1. Doors unfastened and articles found.
2. Old Arrest Book - contained particulars of each arrest.
3. The Tramp Book - every transient who visited headquartera and remained overnight.
4. Complaints and Occurrences.
5. Patrol Book - arrangements of beats, and controlling the operation of the men.

Money and equipment were scarce for the Chatham force, but improvisation was abundant. One major improvement that the force did receive in 1905 was a new station, located on Wellington and Market Square.

An invasion of rats, who periaisted in a desire to share the station, forced the city into making another choice of site.

A replacement police station on Wellington and Market Square was opened for business as a combination station and magistrate's court in 1905. 20





1905-1966  
Chatham Police Station  
Wellington St. & Market Sq.



During the time span of 1902-1925, Chatham had three Chief Constables: John Holmes 1902-13, Thomas Groves 1913-24 and Daniel McLaughlan in 1925.

When Chief Young died in 1902, Chief Holmes was appointed the new Chief. Holmes, a member of the force was selected from seventeen other applicants. Prior to becoming a police officer and Chief Constable, John Holmes had many other occupations. The new Chief was a man of vast experience. The range of his past experiences included: foreman of Canada Flour Mills, militiaman and participation in both the Municipal Council and School Board. In addition to this, he was a graduate of the Military School in Toronto and a volunteer, who aided in repelling the Fenian Raiders.

When Chief Constable Holmes retired in 1913, advertisements for a new Chief of Police for the City of Chatham, appeared in the Local Press, Toronto Globe and the Mail and Empire. But once again, the man selected as the new Chief, Thomas Groves, came from within the Chatham Police Department. Thomas Groves promoted from patrolman to Chief, received a starting salary of \$1,000. per year. The reason that Chatham did not choose



to select a man from outside the city was that,

Groves had been a good man, and the city was not prepared to pay a high enough salary to get a better man. 21

Groves had given twenty years of service on the force and had no bad habits. Groves had been a blacksmith by trade before he joined the force in 1885. When Chief Constable Groves retired from the force in 1925, he had served 32 years. At one point, Groves did leave the force for six years, to practice his blacksmith trade, but decided to return to police work. In 1885, one hundred years ago, Groves received a salary of \$40. per month, and was expected to buy his own uniform. Since the Chatham Police Commission did not form until 1895, Groves had the experience of working under both the Town Council and the Commission. In stating his preference of the two, Chief Groves said,

"there is no doubt that the Police Commission is the only system for the control of the force." 22

It is important to note that the Board of Commissioners of Police are appointed, whereas, the Council is elected. Consequently, political aspirations of Council Members could interfere with choosing the best policy decisions for the force. Appointed Commission Members would feel less pressure to





Chief Thomas Groves



please the public at the expense of the best interests of the force.

There was no pension fund for retiring officers in 1925, but the Commission decided to grant the retiring Chief a month's paid holiday, and a position on the force as police clerk. In a closing quotation concerning his years of police work, Groves declared:

A Chief of Police can expect criticism. There is no civic job that is harder to hold. Anything I have done has been done without fear or favour, and in the belief that I was acting rightly and in the interests of the city. I leave it to the people to judge. 23

The shortest reign, as Police Chief of Chatham, was that of Chief Constable McLaughlan. McLaughlan held his office for the brief period of one year, 1925. At this time, the Chief received a salary of \$2,000. for his time and effort. The new Chief Constable did not progress through the ranks of Chatham's force, but came from Pembroke, Ontario. The fact that Chief McLaughlan was an outsider was probably one of the contributing factors, in the scandal that terminated his post. The constables were not complying with the authority of Chief McLaughlan. The scandal began when stolen seat cushions were



found in the Chief's car. An investigation was held and the entire force was asked to resign. There was an overall breach of discipline between the officers and the Chief. Via a written statement by Judge Starworth, the Chief and all members of the force, whose contracts automatically expired December 31, 1925, were let go. All members of the force except Chief McLaughlan, were allowed to resubmit their applications.

The maintenance of an effective force, for the prevention and protection from crime, requires constant effort. Various methods were employed to keep the greatest number of the best men on the force. In the anticipation of the Christmas rush in 1902, two extra part time policemen were hired at a salary of \$2.00 per day.

World War I brought with it changes in staff and policy. Constable Lucas was one example of this. Constable Lucas asked, and was granted, leave from the Commission to go to the front. A Patriotic Fund was set up with an allowance for wages. Constable Lucas received \$66. per month from the Commission and \$10. per month from the City. The salaries of all the men were increased in 1918 so that the Chief received \$1,300. annually, sergeants \$1,100. annually and constables \$1,020. annually. In 1919 the force received war bonuses , proportional to



rank; the Chief received \$100., sergeants \$80. and constables \$60. The hiring of new men followed a process whereby the Commission referred the application to the Police Magistrate and the Chief for examination. Men, who had served as soldiers in the war were favoured as new recruits.

The title Chief of Police covers many responsibilities. In 1905, the Chief Constables Association of Canada (CCAC) was formed and a By-Law, March 19, 1906, allotting the Chief an additional duty.

That the Chief of Police shall be  
Harbour Master of the City of Chatham.

24

As Harbour Master, the Chief Constable was responsible for regulating Police Wharves and Harbours within the City of Chatham; for preventing the encumbering, injury or fouling by animal, vessels or other means of Public Wharves, the River Thames and McGregor's Creek, within the City of Chatham. Even today in 1985, Chief Bird still maintains the title of Harbour Master.

The turn of the century brought both the usual and unusual crimes for the City of Chatham.



One of the more publicized cases was the Jacob Enos murder that occurred during the time of Chief Groves. On July 19, 1910, Jacob Enos, a black man, was found dead with a bullet wound in his eye. The death was preceded by a drunken brawl, which ended in a knife and pistol fight in Chatham's east end. Whether Enos was murdered or shot in self-defense, was a question for Chatham Police. Detective Miller of the O.P.P. helped the Chatham Force search for clues. Chatham Police suspected a man named Jackson and a reward of \$200. was offered for his return. Jackson was returned from Ohio and pleaded self-defense on the charge of killing Jacob Enos.

Even though every day crimes are less sensational, they are often the most challenging, because they are continually repeated. Truancy, the enforcement of By-Laws concerning goods obstructing sidewalks, houses of ill-repute and regulation of the Market House and grounds demanded constant vigilance by the force.

Progress in the form of transportation, included the newest and most frustrating challenge for the early 1900 policeman. Complaints came from citizens that the police were not enforcing the traffic By-Laws. As



cars became common, so did the problems of speeding, accidents, parking and traffic regulations. The problem became so intense in 1923 that Mayor Harrington called a special meeting of the Police Commission and the Chief of Police for the purpose of:

considering what active steps should be taken to eliminate the speed demon from the streets. 25

One solution to the parking problem was introduced by Chief McLaughlan in 1925. The Chief initiated the tying of tags on cars that had violated parking rules. The specifics were reported to the station and if the violations were repeated, the violators were to be prosecuted.

The Police Department, like other public services, is often restricted in its action by the resources that are available to them. The public was demanding more public protection, but the department lacked the manpower to oblige them. For instance, a petition was received by the Police Commission from 63 people, asking for a day and night policeman to be placed at Queen Street for better protection. The petition was refused because the cost would have been too great. To provide efficient protective ser-



vice is costly. The \$4,359. budget of 1902 soon increased to \$14,000. in 1924.

The Chief of Police for the purpose of the Police Commission and in 1923 that Mayor Harrison called a special meeting of the Police Commission and

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The Police Department, like other public services, is often restricted to the action by the resources that are available to them. The public was demanding more public protection but the department lacked the same power to enforce these. For instance, a petition was received by the Police Department from a group of people asking for a day and night policeman to be placed at Queen Street for better protection. The petition was refused because the cost would have been too great. To provide efficient protection was a heavy burden and the department was not



Minutes of meeting

July 22, 1901

Present: Judge Bell and Mr. Harrison. Absent: Mayor.

The Council presented a certificate from the Mayor that the Old Council had been appointed by him a meeting Mayor in his absence from the City.

It was decided according to the Statute that such certificate not being sanctioned by the Council would not qualify Old Council to sit on the Board.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN A REPORT OF

WORK OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR 1901

(From the 1902 Police Commission Minutes)



## Minutes of meeting

January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902

Present Judge Bell and Mr. Houston Police Magistrate.

Ald Couan presented a certificate from the Mayor that he (Ald Couan) had been appointed by him as acting Mayor in his absence from the City.

It was decided according to the Statute, that such certificate not being sanctioned by the Council would not qualify Ald Couan to sit on the Board.

Judge Bell moved that Mr Houston be Chairman for the current year.

Minutes of two last meetings were read and adopted. Carried  
The following report was read from the Chief of Police upon the Statistics of the Police Department for the year 1901.

Oranham Jan'y 20<sup>th</sup> 1902

To the Chairman and members of the Police Commission.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration a report of the work of the Police Dept<sup>t</sup> for the year 1901.

Cases.

The number of cases entered in the Police Court. 289  
and were disposed of as follows

Convictions	170	
Committed for trial	9	
Dismissed	62	
Not disposed of	7	
Withdrawn	41	287
Cases entered under By-Laws	188	
Do Do Statute	156	287



The number of the above cases entered by the chief was.

147

of the above cases under the By. laws. drinks numbered.

46

and under the Statutes the charges for stealing numbered

47

Ages of defendants range from eleven to fifty-five.

and sixty were under the age of twenty one.

The females numbered twenty-eight

### Nationalities

Canadians

225

English

14

Irish

8

Scotch

8

U. S.

26

Switzerland 2, Sweden 2, West Indies 1. — 289

### Religions

Methodist 112, Catholic 61, Presbyterians 26.

Episcopalians 44, Baptists 28, Latter Day Saint 4,

Salvation Army 4, None 10, — 289

### Occupations

that of laborer heads the list with the number 121

while under the head of no occupation which includes

principally females and minors we have

72

Hotel keepers 13, Merchants 12, Farmers 9,

34

Clerks 7, Painters 5, Draymen 5, Sailors 4,

21

Agents 4, Shoemakers 3, Barbers 3, Blacksmiths 2,

12

Physician 2, Watchmakers 2, Butchers 2

6

Photographers 2, Manufacturers 2, Cooks 2

6

Saddler 1, Lawyer 1, Cooper 1, Brickman 1,

4

Baker 1, Junk dealer 1, Saddler 1, Teacher 1,

4

Hypnotist 1, Livery keeper 1, Dentist 1, Artist 1,

3

Editor 1, Veterinarian 1, Florist 1, Plumber 1,

4

### Education

21

Superior 1, Common School 208,

209

Read & write 27, Read only 9, No education 44,

80

28

1



Arrests

the number of arrests made during the year. 143  
 and made by the different officers as follows.  
 Darr 31, Dezelia 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Groves 37, 111 $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Dodson 21, other officers 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  143

Warrants

the number of warrants issued was 56  
 and executed by the officers as follows.  
 Darr 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3, Dezelia 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Groves 5-3,  
 Dodson 9-3, other officers 6, not executed 12, 56

Summonses

the number of summonses made out was 425  
 and served as follows  
 Darr 78, Dezelia 81, Groves 73.  
 Dodson 92, not accounted for 101, 425

Roll Tax

Names furnished on Roll tax Book and took up 266  
 Do added 21  
 287

Amount collected \$170.<sup>00</sup>  
 Money collected in Police Court \$845.<sup>22</sup>  
 \$1015.<sup>22</sup>

Amount yet uncollected on Police Court Rolltax \$47.<sup>22</sup>  
 Number of articles found on the different beats 70  
 and their value, a number being bicycles was \$314.<sup>00</sup>  
 Doors found open on the several beats 124

Tramps

the number of tramps given one night's lodging 96  
 Previous year. 120  
 Year before that 201

Insane

the number took up and notified 47  
 an increase over the previous year of 12

Sickness

Sickness on the force was limited to. 13 days  
 Darr 6 days, Dezelia 7 days. 13 Do



..... *Summary* .....  
 the cost of running the Dept for the past year  
 ..... was. \$4359.88  
 and the men received in addition to their regular  
 salary for criminal fees and collecting Coll Tax. \$29.63  
 and the Clerk of the Police Court has received. \$72.95

..... *Summary* .....  
 I note ten fewer cases than the previous year,  
 nine less under by law, and one under Statute.  
 Drunks are the same as previous year, and the charges  
 for stealing are two more; arrests are greater by twenty;  
 and warrants issued are two less; summonses eleven  
 more. Amount Recd by Police Court Clerk is greater  
 than last year by \$196.<sup>22</sup> and the cost of the Dept. is  
 less by \$147.<sup>22</sup>. the figures given show that the  
 tramp nuisance is still growing less.  
 All of which is respectfully submitted.

Wm Young  
 Chief



The lack of funds allocated to the Police Department put a strain on the men and their working conditions. By 1902 the station on Thames Street had deteriorated so much that rods were installed to hold together the walls. The station itself, was found to be dirty and in need of disinfection at least once a month. The "Chatham Daily Planet" reported in 1904, that,

Judge Houston was of the opinion that the unhealthy state of the station had been responsible for the death of two Chiefs. He would not take \$200. to be locked up there. A place where people are locked up should at least be half way healthy. 26

Numerous complaints were filed about the condition of the cells.

Cells were not properly ventilated. Youths were mixed with hardened criminals. There was no privacy for men and women and there was only one common lavatory. 27

Chatham Police were in desperate need of a new station. Finally in 1905,

the ratepayers approved a \$41,000. debenture issue for a city hall, market shed and police station to be erected on the market square. 28

Even with the new station there was still the problem of lack of space. The lack of space



in the station led to a conflict between the County Police and the City Police. Since the County Police had no cell of their own they had been using those of the City Police. Chief Groves commented,

The station is owned entirely by the city and the county prisoners have been accommodated as a matter of courtesy. 29

The problem was that the station was overcrowded. Prisoners arrested by the County authorities were taking up space in the City Police cells. Also, there was confusion because City Police did not know enough about the County's prisoners and the County Police found it difficult to conform with City Police regulations. Finally, a compromise was agreed upon by Chief Groves and High County Constable Peters. The County was allowed two cells and access to the jail when needed, however, County Police were to leave information regarding their prisoners with the City Police.

The provision of new equipment to apprehend offenders was expensive and therefore, scarce. It was not until 1909 that the mayor proposed a telephone system throughout the city, whereby the police could be reached on their beats. It was tough for constables to



maintain law and order and deal with traffic offenders when they were travelling on foot.

The Board of Commissioners of Police in 1921 believed that employment of Harold Harwillow with his motorcycle for \$25. per week and gas and oil, would aid police enforcement of traffic. Later on that same year, Harwillow was re-engaged as a motorcycle officer.

In 1922 the Commission approved the purchase of 6 pairs of handcuffs and 4 new revolvers for the force. The cost of outfitting the men in uniforms was an annual concern. In 1922 tenders were accepted for 7 police uniforms at \$50. each, winter coats at \$58. each and 7 pairs of trousers for \$13. each. The need for more men and better equipment was a continuous battle between the Chief and the City. The 1923 edition of "The Chatham Daily News" reported Chief Groves publicizing

before the mayor (Harrington) became mayor of the city, he promised me that if he ever did become mayor, he would do all he could to get me 3 or 4 more men on the force and a car. Nothing has even been done in this connection because of the demand to keep the taxes low. 30

The force of 1923 was handicapped because of their small staff; had to depend upon the citizens of Chatham for their information.



The force needed a patrol car.

A man standing on a corner finds it hard to judge the speed of a car. 31

Again, in 1925, the purchase of a car was refused. Instead, the force had to be content with equipment; such as 6 whistles, 6 chain twisters and employment of a special constable for \$12. per week for 12 weeks during the summer season. Finally in 1925, Chief McLaughlan installed equipment, whereby, all prisoners were photographed immediately following their apprehension. A studio was set up in a small anteroom of the Police Court; developing was done at headquarters.

Finlay Low became the new Chief Constable in 1926, after the dismissal of Chief Constable McLaughlan. Finlay Low, born in Scotland, had been a wiper on the Caldonian Railway and eventually railway fireman. After four years with the railroad, Low left to become a constable with the Leuth Police Force (later amalgamed with Edinburgh). When Finlay Low immigrated to Canada in 1920, he joined the O.P.P. in Toronto. After a short time he was transferred to Sarnia and then back to Chatham, where he became Chief Constable.





Chief Finlay Low



The total 1926 force consisted of five men:

NAME	SALARY (annually)
Chief Constable Low	\$2,000.
Sergeant Dezelia	1,400.
Constable Dodson	1,400.
Constable Merrit	1,344.
Constable Glover	1,344.

By 1931 the active force had increased to ten men.

NAME	SALARY (annually)
Chief Constable Low	\$2,500.
Sergeant Douglas	1,700.
Sergeant Glover	1,700.
Constable Harper	1,550.
Constable Sommerville	1,550.
Constable Harrington	1,550.
Constable Nicholson	1,550.
Constable Peardon	1,535.
Constable Donaldson	1,550.
Constable Currie	1,550.
Pensioner Dodson	1,300.
Pensioner Dezelia	1,300.

Chief Low was frequently faced with the proposal to decrease the number of men and complaints that, the men's one day a week off was too much, by the Commission. This proposal may seem ridiculous by today's standards, but one must remember that the country was experiencing a depression.

To have a job and a guaranteed income was envied by many. Another ongoing discussion between the Commission and the Force con-



cerned professional hockey player Fred Peardon. Fred Peardon, who joined the force in 1929, wanted permission and time off to play hockey. His hockey club offered to pay men to do his work. Police Magistrate Arnold, argued that it was good public relations to have fit and trim men on the force. But, Mayor David argued that it was a matter of principle.

That it was not ethical. The department is not run in the interest of sport. 32

Sport minded readers will be pleased to know that Constable Peardon, with the co-operation of the force, was allowed to play hockey. Today, members of the force must comply with their duties as an officer and allow no other interferences.

If at times, the Chatham Police Force seemed a bit unorganized, it was because there was no single law governing the police occupation, until formation of the Police Association of Ontario. Prior to the P.A.O., was the Municipal Act, which referred to police in incorporated villages, towns and cities. The Constables Act pertained to County Police and the Ontario Provincial Police.

On October 11, 1933, twenty police officers met at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto and founded the Police Association of Ontario.



Finlay Low, Chief Constable of Chatham, was one of the founding members.

The new association was a symbol of the intention of policemen to deal with police matters in a more organized and systematic way and with a greater sense of common identity. 33

The founding of the P.A.O. organized the policeman's job into a profession. The motivating reasons behind the formation of the association were many: unequal standards in law enforcement, the force was often governed by a committee of municipal councillors-political tie ins-, there was no opportunity to attend police training school, no Workmen's Compensation and too often, too many hours were worked.

In 1933 first class constables in some different cities in Ontario worked up to an average of 58.76 hours per week. 34

In the beginning, the P.A.O. was primarily an organization of police chiefs and senior officers. Then in 1936, constables were permitted one vote for every ten members of a force. The City and Force of Chatham acted as host for the 1936 and 1948 P.A.O. Conventions.

Since it was the Depression, money was scarce and the force had to economically purchase equipment. It was not till 1926 that the department purchased their first car; a used



Dodge for \$1,200. The department had been in dire need of a car for a long time. An article in the "Chatham Daily Planet" dated June 27, 1925, stressed the need for a patrol car.

Chatham has NOT a police patrol. It is embarrassing when an offender is arrested and remanded to jail for trial must walk escorted by police along main streets, across King Street, and the Park, from trial to jail; especially if found NOT guilty.

Bicycles were the only mode of transportation, other than walking. Bicycles were used on the outskirt beats. The men walked their bikes the first time round, and then rode them the second time round their beats.

Even though, a motorcycle officer was employed to patrol traffic, the first Indian motorcycle was not obtained until 1928.

The amount of uniform gear was limited. The 1927 list consisted of: 1 Winchester .303 rifle at \$62.50, 5 Colt type police revolvers at \$28.50 each, 3 police batons, 3 police whistles and flashlights. The force during the Depression times, had little equipment and much to do. For instance, traffic lights that are taken for granted today, were hand operated signals. The police controlled the signals during rush hour traffic.

The uniforms of the time were a more regimented style than those of today. They were



of the army style, with high bottom collars made from wool, at a price of \$37.50 each. Guns were concealed, and the hats had a high top brim. According to the 1938 Commission Minutes the uniform list included:

ITEM	PRICE
10 overcoats	\$21.00
20 blouses	6.25
16 trousers	5.95
3 breeches	10.75
1 uniform	35.20
11 pair mits	2.00

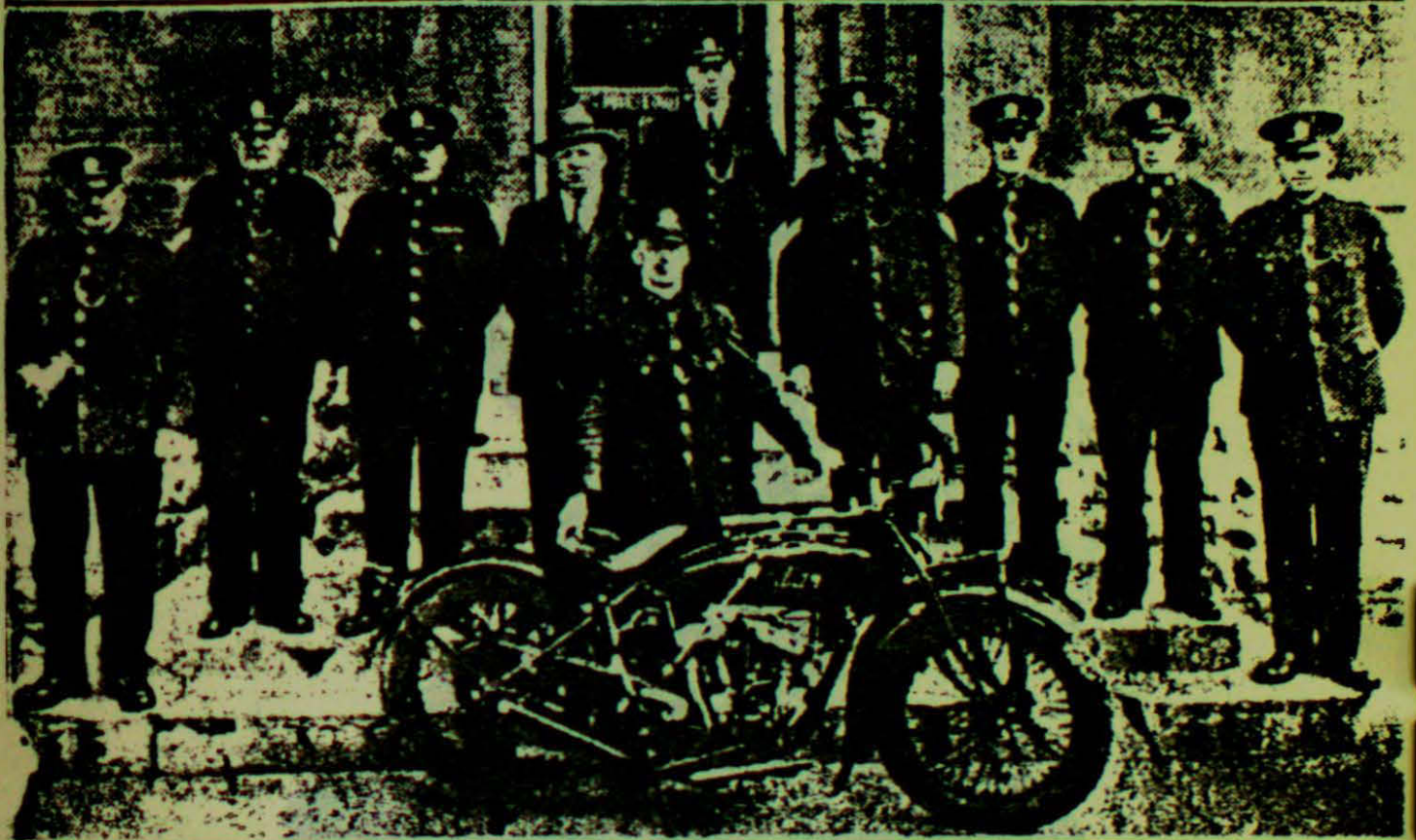
THE Maple City is proud of the record established and maintained by the members of the police force. For its numbers, considering the size of the community, they have done much to prevent crime or to ferret out the offenders. The sergeants are veterans of the force and have given years to the service of the community. Detective Glover and Patrolman Merriell have also been years in the

service. Chief Law is a former member of the Provincial Police.

Reading from left to right they are: Constable Herman Bessie; Sergeant James Hudson; Constable James Harper; Detective Earl Glover; Traffic Officer Donaldson; Chief Constable; Chief Police Findlay Law; the sergeant, Sergeant Peter Bessie; Constable Jack Morrison; Constable Hugh Douglas; Constable Chris Bonerville.



## Chatham's "Finest" Are Not Camera Shy 1928



**T**HE Maple City is proud of the record established and maintained by the members of the police force. Few in numbers, considering the size of the community, they have done much to prevent crime or to ferret out the offenders. The sergeants are veterans of the force and have given years to the service of the community. Detective Glover and Patrolman Merritt have also been years in the

service. Chief Low is a former member of the Provincial Police.

Reading from left to right they are: Constable Herman Merritt; Sergeant James Dodson; Constable James Harper; Detective Earl Glover; Traffic Officer Donaldson (with motorcycle); Chief of Police Findlay Low (in rear); Sergeant Peter Dezehia; Constable Jack Harrington; Constable Hugh Douglas; Constable Chris Somerville.

— Photo by Westlake Studios, Chatham.





Photograph depicting high collar tunic  
as worn by Constable Fred Peardon



THE FOLLOWING PAGE CONTAINS THE 1924 ANNUAL  
POLICE REPORT

(from the 1923 Police Commission Minutes)



## ANNUAL REPORT 1924

\* Age range 11 - 64 years

OFFENCES	# OF CHG.	NAT.	#	PROF. OR TRADE	#	RELIGION	#	EDUCATION	#	M. STATUS	#
1 Assault	15	English	27	Agent	5	Anglican	67	Superior	7	Married	161
2 Assault Bodily Harm	16	Canadian	297	Bartender	1	Methodist	97	Elementary	215	Single	135
3 Assault Peace Officer	2	Scottish	4	Barber	7	M.C.	58	Read & Write	102	Widower	9
4 Assist a prisoner to resist arrest	2	Belgium	6	Brakeman	1	Baptist	23	None	35	Boys 16 & under	54
5 Attempt to procure abortion	1	Assyrian	2	Blacksmith	2	Jewish	7				
6 Attempt to steal	2	Greece	1	Clerk	24	I.D.S.	2				
7 Burglary	23	Italy	1	Cook	2	Salv. Army	6				
8 Cruelty to animals	2	Austria	2	Coal Merchant	1	None	1				
9 Consume liquor other than private	3			Carpenter	5						
10 Conduct game of chance	1			Car inspector	2						
11 Carry concealed weapon	1			Domestic	3						
12 Cause to beg for alms	1			Druggist	3						
13 Disorderly	11			Engineer	1						
14 Drive without licence	1			Electrician	2						
15 Damage to tree	1			Farmer	13						
16 Driver over fire hose	2			Fruit dealer	1						
17 Damage to property	7			Fireman	1						
18 Escape from custody	1			Florist	1						
19 False pretence	13			Grocer	1						
20 Furious Driving Contrary to C. Code	2			Thrasher	1						
21 Gamble on Lord's Day	15			Junk Dealer	1						
22 Liquor other than private	5			Labourer	116						
23 Intoxicated	61			Lather	2						
24 Insulting language	2			Lawyer	1						
25 Insane & Dangerous	6			Manager	3						
26 Indecent assault	1			Merchant	5						
27 Incurable	1			Music dealer	2						
28 Intoxicated driving	3			Machinist	6						
29 Illicit spirit	1			Truck driver	6						
30 Kept liquor for sale	14										
31 Kept gaming house	1			Physician	1						
32 Liquor confiscated	3			Pool room keeper	3						
33 Loose idle persons	7			Plasterer	2						
34 Non payment of wages	3			Painter	2						
35 Non support	5			Pattern Maker	5						
36 Perjury	3			Polisher	1						
37 Receiving stolen goods	2			Produce Manager	1						
38 Sell cigarettes to boys	1			Peddler	20						
39 Seduction under promise of marriage	1			Prostitute	2						
40 Set dogs to fight	2			School boys	22						
41 Theft	72			Salesman	7						
42 Trespass	20			Student	11						
43 Vagrant	10			Shoe Shiner	1						
44 Violation by by-law	44			Spring maker	2						
				Service garage	2						
				Sign painter	1						
				Teamster	2						
				Traveller	1						
				Tailor	2						
				Taxi	2						
				Vet	1						
				Wife	7						
				Waiter	7						



# CHATHAM CITY POLICE

48

Many interesting cases occurred during the time of Chief Low. The Labadie murder of 1929 was one of the major crimes of the time.

Labadie, a gas station attendant just outside the city limits, was held up and shot twice by four black men who had been drinking. Through persistent investigation, clues were accumulated to form a case, resulting in the arrest and conviction of all four men. The O.P.P., Windsor Police and Constable Hugh Douglas were all thanked for their assistance on the case.

The VanGothem murder in 1934 was an unusual case. VanGothem died from a hard blow on the head by an automobile crank. The murder took place on King Street in Chatham.

Crimes were becoming more sophisticated.

Chatham experienced an epidemic of safe blowing. A special meeting of the Commission was called by Chief Low in 1931, on account of safe blowing in the district. The epidemic faded out in six weeks, but the force was soon busy solving a wave of break and enter crimes. Chief Low had to haggle with Mayor Davis to obtain a temporary unmarked car for four weeks. The department had no unmarked car of its own and before the temporary car, the men had to use their own cars on their own time. It was 1937 before the department purchased a scout car.

Should any information of the above named parties be learned, communicate with VICTOR A. S. WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER OF THE TARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE, or FIN. LOW, CHIEF CONSTABLE CHATHAM, ONTARIO.



# CHATHAM CITY POLICE

## \$1000. REWARD

About 1.40 a.m. on the morning of Sunday the 22nd Day of September, 1929, John Labadie, an employee at a gas station in this City was **MURDERED**

by being shot three times while attempting to serve a supposed customer.

The parties responsible for the shooting are said to be five negroes who were riding in a car described as a sedan, bearing a Michigan license, and the negro that did the shooting was described as being about five foot ten inches, thin faced, light color, like a mulatto, dressed in a light spring coat with black spots throughout. He cannot be further described.

The Province of Ontario are offering \$500 and the City of Chatham an additional \$500 reward for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the parties responsible for the murder of John Labadie.

Salaried police officers in the Dominion of Canada are excluded from receiving any part of above reward. In the event of more than one person claiming a share in said rewards, it shall be apportioned in such manner as the Attorney General deems just.

Should any information of the above named parties be learned, communicate with VICTOR A. S. WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER OF THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE, or FIN. LOW, CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHATHAM, ONTARIO.



Some of the ordinary occurrences of the 1930's were: bootlegging, drunkenness and traffic offences. Unforeseen as a crime today, vending machines were once considered a crime in the City of Chatham. The public felt that fortune vending machines were permissible, but that candy machines should be disallowed. Children should be saving their money in a bank, instead of spending it on vending machines. It may seem to the reader that Chatham was conservative; it was just a reflection of hard times and little money.

Finlay Low died in 1939, after serving thirteen years as Chatham's Chief Constable. An advertisement for a new Chief was placed in the papers. Sealed applications in the applicants own handwriting stating age, experience, qualifications, and references were submitted to the Board of Commissioners of Police. The Police Commission chose C.E. Bagnall, age 31, to be Chatham's new Chief of Police. Previous to his appointment, Mr. Bagnall had been a senior sergeant with the Guelph Police Department, an O.P.P. Constable and had attended Hamilton Police Training School.

When Chief Bagnall assumed his office, his staff consisted of fourteen men and one lady stenographer.





Chief C. E. Bagnall



RANK	NAME	DATE JOINED
Chief Constable	C.E. Bagnall	1939
Detective Sergeant	H. Douglas	1926
Sergeant	J. Harper	1926
Acting Sergeant	C. Sommerville	1926
Acting Sergeant	Wm. Donaldson	1927
Constable	E. Glover	1920
Constable	J. Harrington	1927
Constable	C. Nicholson	1928
Constable	F. Peardon	1929
Constable	S. Currie	1929
Constable	Wm. Murdoch	1924
Constable	R. Letts	1938
Constable	D. Mahon	1938
Stenographer	M. Lugg	1937

The years of World War II affected the routine of all Canadians, even the routine of Chatham Police Force. Many of the men asked for, and were granted leave of absence to enlist and fulfill their sense of patriotic duty. Sergeant Wm. Donaldson applied for a leave of absence, which was granted for the duration of the war; Sergeants Douglas and Harper were granted leave for two weeks of training at London, to attend camp with the 2nd Kent Battalion; Constables Cushman and D. Reynolds were granted leave on their acceptance in the R.C.A.F.; and D. Mahon was granted leave from 1943-45 to join the Royal Canadian Navy. The men left the force with an additional months salary, a letter of appreciation from the Commission and a guaranteed position upon their return. To





Chatham Police Force

1939



compensate for the decrease in manpower, the force hired new temporary officers.

The end of W.W.II brought prosperity and although Chatham was growing again, the total force was still only fifteen men and one stenographer. Their salaries were:

RANK	ANNUAL SALARY
------	---------------

Chief	\$3,100.
Detective Sergeant	2,100.
Patrol Sergeant	1,900.
1st Class Constable	1,700.
2nd Class Constable	1,600.
3rd Class Constable	1,500.

The force grew to 35 men in 1956 and to 42 men in 1960. The new position of Deputy Chief was created in 1959, to relieve Chief Bagnall from some of his office pressures.

The first man appointed to the new position was Staff Sergeant William Murdoch. The salaries, like the staff number, increased.

So, by 1960 the pay scale appeared as:

RANK	ANNUAL SALARY
------	---------------

Chief	\$9,000.
Deputy Chief	6,000.
Inspector	5,700.
Staff Sergeant	5,300.
Traffic Sgt. & Sgt. of Det.	5,250.
Sergeant	5,000.
Patrol Sergeant	4,750.
Detective	4,750.
Corporal	4,650.
1st Class Constable	4,525.
2nd Class Constable	4,200.
3rd Class Constable	4,000.
Probationary Constable	3,800.



The force was fast becoming a professional organization, where men chose policing as their career. Long Service and good conduct medals were awarded to the following men:

Chief Bagnall	28 years
Deputy Chief Murdoch	27 years
Sergeant Donaldson	34 years
Sgt. of Detectives Peardon	32 years
Inspector Mahon	23 years

The force received recognition for their fine work, above and beyond the call of duty. Commendations were awarded to Inspector Mahon and Constables Nicholson and Denike for rescuing an elderly man, who attempted suicide by drowning in the Thames River. The policemen of Chatham worked extra hard. A 1962 survey found that the police strength for Chatham was 1.5 officers per 1,000 population, whereas, province wide the strength was 1.76 officers per 1,000 population.

By the late 1960's and 70's, the force had acquired high levels of maturity and professionalism. The average length of service for members of the force in the sixties was 14 years. Long Service Medals from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police were awarded to many during this time.



# 1968

Sergeant Harry Lee	21 years
Detective Cobb	21 years
Corporal Bell	20 years
Constable Harding	20 years

# 1969

Sgt. of Detectives Tom Bird	20 years
Corporal Donald Thompson	20 years
Staff Sergeant Ted Willmore	20 years

# 1970

Corporal Lou Nicholson	20 years
Detective Wayne Parker	20 years

# 1971

Corporal Jim Benoit	20 years
Constable Ralph Nicholson	20 years
Constable James Bedford	20 years
Constable Samuel Filby	20 years
Clerk, Mrs. Kay Bondy	20 years

# 1972

Detective Garland Babcock	25 years
Constable Andrew Fenton	20 years

# 1974

Staff Sergeant Rollie Simmons	20 years
Constable Norman Everingham	20 years
Constable Milton Dodman	20 years

In order for the officers to efficiently perform their duties, more civilian staff had to be hired. Consequently, in 1970 the civilian staff was increased to 7 and the



officers increased to 53; a total staff of 60.

The force felt a loss in 1974 when two long time members retired. Deputy Chief William Murdoch retired April 1, 1974. He had served 35 years with Chief Bagnall and almost 49 years with the force. Chief Bagnall, age 67 retired after serving 35 years as Chief of the force, because of eye problems.

Many policy changes were implemented during the time of Chief Bagnall. In 1941 the police cadet system was sanctioned by the Commission.

It gave Chief Bagnall the authority to engage two youths desirous of becoming police. The youths were to have secondary education and under the age for compulsory military training. They would earn \$750. per year. 36

If the cadet proved to be satisfactory he would earn a \$100. per year raise. From the cadet stage, he graduated to junior constable, so that in the event of a force vacancy, trained men would be available. The idea began when vacancies were created on the force during W.W.II and there was a scarcity of trained men.

The educational qualifications were very



very basic. Chief Bagnall stated,

"There were no educational qualifications except the ability to read and write." 37

Chief Bagnall introduced the first requirement for Grade 8, which progressed to Grade 10 and finally to the present day requirement of Grade 12. Height and weight requirements were also emphasized by Chief Bagnall. His reasoning was,

The bigger the man, the less chance that they would be provoked into a fight." 38

In the 1940's, in-service training became prominent. All constables of the department were attending classes of instruction under the supervision of Inspector James Harper. Weekly lectures were given on Department Rules and Regulations, the Criminal Code, The Highway Traffic Act and more.

A good constable was expected to have many qualifications.

The P.A.O. compiled these in check list form in 1950.

1. Honest and dependable.
2. Sound judgement and common sense
3. Physical stamina and ability to exert force



4. Intelligence to act quickly and effectively
5. Courage to tackle desperate criminals
6. Moral character not open to criticism
7. Courteous and polite
8. Cool headed

The 1955 Regulations for an officer candidate stated that he must meet the criteria of:

1. A British subject
2. Between 21-30 years
3. At least 5'10" and 160 lbs. or more
4. Certified to be in good health, mentally and physically fit for duty
5. Proof of at least 2 years of high school education or its equivalent and passes the educational test required by the Chief Constable
6. Of good moral character

There are numerous disadvantages that coincide with the challenges of law and order. The Association listed a few in 1950.

1. Three quarters of duty performed at night
2. Extra work on special occasions
3. Work on Sundays
4. Work on legal holidays
5. Duties require him to be out regularly in all kinds of inclement weather
6. Liable to call of duty at any time
7. Risks to be taken without forethought of own accord

To keep progressing with the times amendments must be made in policy. An amendment to the regulations of the Police Act was made in 1963 to permit candidates of 19 years, instead of 21 years, to apply for force positions. In 1969 there was another change in



policy concerning recruits. Instead of parading recruits before the Board of Commissioners at public meetings for an interview, a review board (hiring board) was established. The new review board was comprised of the Chief, Deputy Chief and two officers.

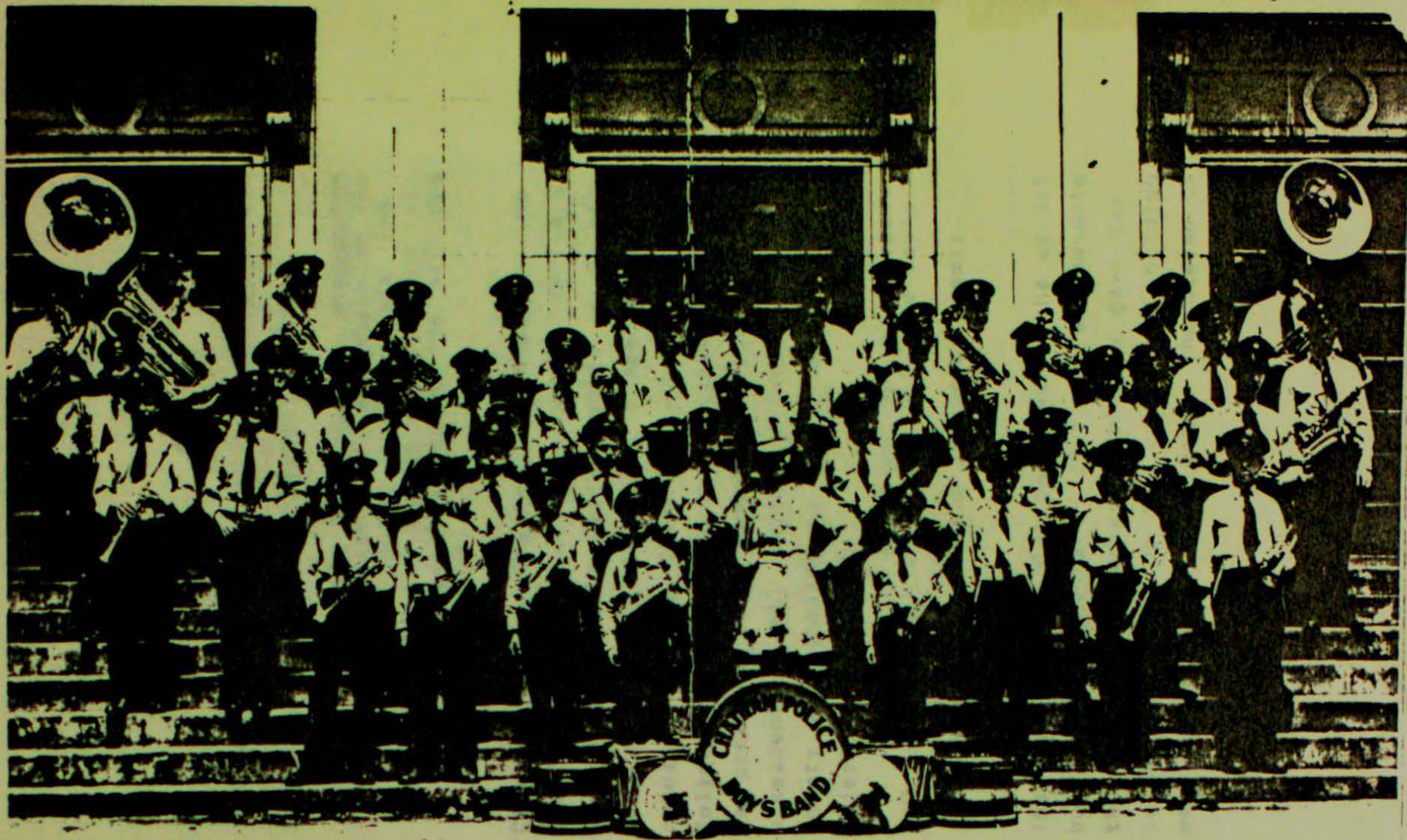
Policy change also took the form of title modifications. The term "Chief Constable" was reformed to just "Chief" in 1960. The title "Chief Constable" originated from the Old Municipal Act. The constable section of the Act stated that the department was to consist of several constables and ONE constable appointed as Chief Constable. Then, in 1960, the Chief's Association of Ontario gathered and shortened the title to "Chief" to simplify dealings with the American forces. The American police did not understand the degree of authority contained in the title, "Chief Constable".

In pursuant to Ontario Regulation 780/73, the Police Act, and in accordance with the agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Chatham Police Association, ranking titles were changed in 1974.

Inspector	changed to	Staff Inspector
Staff Sgt.	changed to	Inspector
Sgt. of Det.	changed to	Inspector
Uniform Sgt.	changed to	Staff Sergeant
Detective	changed to	Det. Sergeant
Corporal	changed to	Sergeant



1948



Chatham Police Boy's Band



Several new programs and co-operations were initiated during Chief Bagnall's reign.

In 1944 Harold Nash and his supporters obtained a charter of incorporation for the P.A.O., which would enable the Association to become involved in collective bargaining for police officers in Ontario. 41

Clare Bagnall of Chatham, was named in the charter as provisional director of the P.A.O. One could describe Clare Bagnall as an activist. In 1945, he called a meeting, which resulted in the formation of the Chatham Police Association, with Detective Harrington as president and Sergeant Currie as vice-president. All active officers in Kent County were invited to join. Some of their objectives included:

- promotion of efficient police service
- sponsorship of Chatham's Police Boy's Band and
- active involvement in sports committees.

The first police club room, above the market building was opened in 1948, to accommodate the P.A.O. conference. The City gave the police the room for the purpose of holding meetings and social functions. The demise of



the market building prompted Gordon Colpitts, a member of the Commission and retired member of Imperial Oil, to enable Chatham Police to purchase a new club room. The Imperial Club, as it is known today, was acquired from Imperial Oil via donation to the Rotary Club, who in turn, sold it to the Chatham Police Association in 1969. The money acquired by the Rotary Club, went for charitable purposes.

Geographically, Chatham is situated in an area that is midpoint for many other police forces. Chatham is between Windsor and London and surrounded by smaller communities. The position is such that co-operation amongst the forces and the communities is essential for effective law and order.

The war years, with the scarcity of everything, were especially hard on police departments. Chief Bagnall pointed out that,

"Relations with the O.P.P. in Chatham have always been good. I felt there was a place for good relations; we had to cooperate. There was no fighting over jurisdiction. Good will and good relations were the key."

The forces often combined what little equipment and men they had. For example, the O.P.P. requested an extension of the O.P.P.



telephone in Harrison Hall to be established in the City Police Station. At this time, the O.P.P. resided in a little office in the old Harrison Hall, located one block from the Wellington Street station. The O.P.P. force consisted of three constables and two traffic officers. When they went on call, their office was left closed with the door locked. Consequently, Chief Bagnall had an extension from the O.P.P. phone hooked up so that their calls could be automatically switched to the Chatham Police Station. The Chatham Force would take the call and give the O.P.P. their messages. An interdependency, ongoing today, was soon established between the two forces.

Co-operation had been paramount between - Chatham's Force and those of the smaller communities encompassing Chatham. For instance, in 1940, the Chatham Force provided twelve weeks training for Mr. R. Jefferies, the new Chief Constable of Ridgetown.

Interaction with the community is vital in maintaining police crime prevention service. The years of Chief Bagnall, and even moreso today under Chief Bird, display active involvement in several safety and crime - prevention programs, such as:

co-operation with the Y.M.C.A. for a children's safety program  
 - 1954 - safety talks and films were shown at elementary schools by Sgt. Willmore (continues today under the sup-



ervision of Sgt. Johnson)

1957 - the Chatham Ontario Traffic Clinic was operated by Sgt. Willmore, assisted by his staff and officers from the O.P.P.

- 1961 - E.M.O. - Emergency Measures Organization

it was requested for the Chief to act in co-operation with the E.M.O. Committee of Chatham and Kent, to recruit and train a complement of auxillary police to augment the strength of the regular police in time of emergency of war or national emergency

- 1965 - police supervised an adult safety patrol - adults were trained and supervised by the police to cover dangerous street crossings

- 1973 - safety officer, Const. Pletsch, co-operated with the Kinsmen Club in their Elmer Safety Elementary Program

- 1973 - initiation of Police Week in Chatham

- 1973 - hiring of three summer students under the Youth and Law Program of Ontario (Youth Experience 1973)

Chatham Police faced new crimes and offences because of war years, their aftermath and the transition of society into the 1970 paced lifestyle.

The adjustment period of Chief Bagnall, to a new position and city, was short. Just a few months after his appointment as Chief, the



McDonald murder occurred. The murder took place at Adelaine's Beauty Parlour on Fifth Street South. Mrs. Adelaine McDonald, former beauty queen, was shot to death with a rifle by her husband in her beauty parlour. There was speculation that Mrs. McDonald and her husband were fueding over a separation. Mr. McDonald was convicted of murder.

Chathamites were once again surprised by the aggressive capabilities of man. On March 22, 1945, Herbert Victor Cross and his girlfriend were seriously beaten by four Walpole Island indians.

Robert Johnson, Walter Johnson, Russel Riley, all indians, were convicted on manslaughter charges and sentenced to 10 years in Kingston Penitentiary. 43

Murder is a most disturbing crime, but the murder of a police officer is an even more disturbing crime. For the second time in the history of the Chatham Police Force, an officer was killed while on duty. The first death, of officer Rankin occurred in 1893; the second, Officer Douglas Reynolds, became a victim too, on December 28, 1947.

Reynolds was attacked by "tough boys" on King Street close to the intersection with William Street. 44





DOUGLAS REYNOLDS.

Dec. 30 1947

Killed in line of duty.





Funeral of Const. Douglas Reynolds

1947



In front of the C.P.R. Hotel, Officer Reynolds tried to arrest James Whaley. Officer Reynolds was not a large man in stature and Whaley resisting arrest, threw Reynolds down on the sidewalk. Whaley was charged with murder but convicted on a charge of manslaughter.

Fortunately, the third crime involving an officer, did not result in the officer's death. In 1969, Officer Dodman needlessly lost his arm. Constable Milton Dodman was shot with a high powered rifle while investigating a family quarrel. Dodman, along with other officers, was involved in a hostage situation. Even though precautions and tear gas were employed, Dodman, who was seeking cover behind a lamp post, was shot in the left arm. Constable Dodman had his left arm surgically removed above the elbow and was fitted with a prosthesis.

One of the saddest cases in the history of Chatham was the Worth murder-suicide in 1950. Percy Worth, shot and killed his wife and then himself, in front of their six children.

The murder of Mrs. Evelyn McPhee in 1967, was investigated by Chatham Police and resulted in the arrest and conviction of Harold Ortt. This was one of the most gruesome murders committed in Chatham; Evelyn McPhee was



stabbed several times with different knives. Harold Ortt was the last man in Kent County sentenced to hang. There were two trials. At the first trial, Ortt was found guilty and sentenced to hang, but the Appeal Court ordered a new trial, because of the charge to the jury by the judge. Then, before the new trial came about, the Criminal Code was amended and Ortt's sentence was changed to life imprisonment at Kingston Penitentiary.

A fingerprint from the tip of a finger off the edge of a door panel, enabled Chatham Police to convict Gerald Archer for the non-capital murder of Belva Russel in 1971. Belva Russel lived with her common-law husband Reg, on Adelaide Street South. Both Reg and Belva had been out drinking that night, but left for home at different times. On his route home, Reg recalled being hit in the jaw by a man on the staircase. Later on, it was learned that earlier that evening, Archer had accosted Mrs. Russel in the Merril Hotel. When questioned, Archer denied ever being in Bell's apartment. Detective Boyle proved Archer wrong. The cause of death was attributed to a head concussion, the result of blows to the head. The fingerprint evidence that Detective Boyle found on the lower portion of the door between the kitchen and the living room, was the conclusive evidence that brought Gerald Archer to justice.



There have been two unsolved murder cases during the time of Chatham's Police Force. The first case occurred in 1950, across from the Sugar Company, in the Thames River. A man's body was found with a cement block tied around his neck. The identity of the man was never discovered. The man's fingerprints were erased, because of the time spent in the water and had to be surgically removed. The fingerprints were checked with R.C.M.P., F.B.I. and Interpol, but still, no record of the unidentified man was ever traced.

The second unsolved murder, in 1975, was that of Mary-Lou Smith. The shot body of the 20 year old girl was found floating in the Thames River. After the body was reported found, the police learned that a shed on the Smith's farm had been broken into and her brother's rifle stolen. The murder remains unsolved and the rifle still remains in the police station today.

The most scandalous crime Chatham has known, was the Horsburgh case. This was a very timeconsuming and frustrating case for the Chatham Force. The case received coverage throughout Canada and the United States. The reason was as former Chief Mahon said, "it was old morality verses new morality". 45 Reverend Horsburgh, the 45 year old minister of Park Street United Church, was arrested June 29, 1964 on eight charges under the Juv-



venile Delinquent Act. Subsequently, after a lengthy trial, Mr. Horsburgh was found guilty. Then later, on appeal by Mr. Horsburgh, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed the charges for various reasons. The Horsburgh case is a prime example of the often distasteful and stressful duties of a police department.

Industrial growth in Chatham during and following the war years, brought with it industrial problems. Problems bring strikes, which presented many new challenges for the Chatham Police Force. The 1942 Commission minutes stated,

that during the year the City experienced industrial difficulties which were being kept under police surveillance.

The Chatham Branch of Chrysler's sit down strike was just one of these. Chief Bagnall was ordered by the manager of the plant to kick out the men. Chief Bagnall - displaying his diplomatic skills, much needed as a Chief of Police - told the manager and his men to go back to their office; then alone, Bagnall went into the warehouse and talked to the striking men. "You've got no business here; either work or leave". 45



The men on strike were plainly told, that if they refused, the Chief would return with policemen and force them out. The men, realizing the wisdom of the Chief's words, decided to follow Chief Bagnall out of the plant.

One of the nastiest displays of civil disobedience took place in 1967 at the Canadian Dominion Sugar Company. Demonstrations were staged by the United Farmers Organization in protest of the plants closing. The Chatham Police called on the O.P.P. for back-up; 100 men were standing by at the Chatham O.P.P. station. Luckily, the Chatham Force defused the explosive situation and the O.P.P. backup was not needed. There were several more labour relation problems that caused Chatham officers much overtime. Strikes were stirring at International Harvester, Union Gas, Eaton Spring and Rockwell Standard.

It is important not to overlook the perpetual routine occurrences that involve the larger part of a police department's time. Chief Bagnall and the men who made policing their career, demonstrated their ability to fight any type of crime. In 1939, troublesome crimes included -- chicken stealing, car stealing, whiskey stealing, coal stealing and window peeping. By 1974, crime became more sophisticated; officers began dealing with illegal drug crimes on a routine basis.



World War II caused additions to the long list of police department duties. In 1942, 315 enemy aliens and 210 monthly reports were received from enemy aliens on parole.

The issuance of taxi driver licenses has always been a concern of Chatham Police; and during the war, this area of responsibility also increased.

That whereas the condition of war that now exists makes it difficult to obtain and maintain male taxi drivers, Chatham Police grant the privilege of those operating a taxi cab business to employ female drivers. Female drivers must wear a uniform approved by the Chief of Police and all applicants must be approved by the Commission and drive 7 a.m.-7 p.m. 46

The Chief of Police must be able to meet the challenges presented by major crimes, as well as minor public concerns. Besides his other responsibilities, the Chief was given the additional task of inspecting all female taxi driver uniforms, parking meters, dog supervision and revolver registration. Public concerns, as well as major crimes, are of equal importance to the Police Department.

Chatham's rapid growth and industrial expansion calls for increased police protection. 47



Public concern and awareness of hooliganism increased when Officer Reynolds was killed in 1947.

The intersection of King and William Streets attracts hooligans. If disturbances are started again --- let the officers bring those batons into play and bump the noggins of a few of those hooligans. 48

The price of progress is often expensive and automobile accidents are just one of the ways society pays. The 1960's saw a rise in automobile and alcohol related offences.

The annual increase of vehicular registrations in the Chatham area continues to increase the city's congestion of the traffic arteries, thus year by year, increasing the number of motor vehicle accidents resulting in death, injury and loss of personal property. 49

In 1967, 1203 accidents were reported.

Canada celebrated its centennial birthday in 1967 and Chief Bagnall commented that, "it was hard on the force. The centennial year created many challenges and extra duties for the department." 50 It was the heaviest workload of any year reported to that date.

The late 1960's proved to be trying times for the Chatham Police Force. The times were changing and the types of crimes were changing with them.



Civil disobedience and a militancy of minority groups not previously experienced were very much evident. 51

In addition to contending with labour - strikes, the force faced newer and more challenging problems; such as, an organized motorcycle group and illegal drugs.

The co-operation that did, and still does exist, between the Chatham Police and the O.P.P. was reaffirmed in 1969. Through co-operation with the O.P.P., the robbers who stole \$19,000. in clothing from Bob Davidson's clothing store, were apprehended. The two forces combined efforts, the use of road stops on 401 Highway, a tracking dog and an aircraft to capture the four thieves.

Illegal drug and alcohol related crimes became common occurrences in the 1970's. For example, the number of drug cases rose from 19 in 1969, to 60 in 1970; the number of minors charged with drinking in 1970 was 262.

Since the invention of the car, traffic accidents have kept police busy. In 1970 alone, there were 1188 traffic accidents and 3 traffic deaths. Chief Bagnall had predicted the complications caused by cars back in 1952.



The traffic problem on the North American Continent has become a real one. 52

In fact, preventive measures in the area of traffic had been an ongoing process for some time. The Third Annual Traffic Conference in 1952 was hosted by Chatham. Chief Bagnall was director of the conference and chairman of the convention committee.

Real evidence of the increased workload of the Chatham Police Department in the 1970's was the new power operated card index file and the power operated legal size file that were installed for the records department.

Both Chief Bagnall and the requirements of the time were instrumental in updating equipment.

Chief Bagnall established a detective department of the force in charge of Sergeant Hugh Douglas, with Detective John Harrington as his associate. They are to have their own headquarters where they will keep records. 53

One section of the office was equipped with photography and finger printing equipment. According to Chief Bagnall, the first detective equipment was quite crude, but did the job. The first photograph equipment consisted of an old fashioned Brownie camera that was bought for \$4.00. In order to stabilize the camera, a plumbing pipe was used for a stand. The camera was fastened to the stand



by two heavy elastics.

The only form of communication between the Market Square Station and the men on their beats, was as red globe light. The light on King Street at the bend was suspended on wire from one lamp post to another. When an officer was wanted to come in off the street, the light was turned on and the officer would contact the station from a call box. The force only had one second-hand car that was not used for patrolling. The car was used only for checking on calls; one hour service was considered good service. By 1941, the force's transportation capabilities increased to two cars with two-way radios and a motorcycle with a sidecar.

Chief Bagnall redesigned the 1939 army style uniform. By 1940, the blue serge blouse was replaced with shirts and ties and by 1941, the men saw the end of high neck uniforms. Even though, Toronto normally set the pattern for uniforms, Chatham was greatly influenced by the United States. For instance, while Toronto was still sporting the Old English Bobby style uniform, Chatham was wearing an army style uniform. The Maple Leaf badges on the caps are a special Chatham design, with the crest of the City of Chatham on them. They were developed by A.L. Thompson, City Manager in the 1920's and are still worn today. The tunic collar pins that have been



worn since the 1940's are designed in the shape of the Maple Leaf, with "Chatham" printed across them. The Sam Browne holster strap, today worn only with dress tunics, was added to the uniform in 1948. The 1955 uniforms came from the Parliament Clothes Shop.

CLOTHING	PRICE
Uniform Great Coats	\$39.75
Raincoats	28.70
Inspector Uniform	55.90
Police Uniform	55.90
Traffic Officer Uniform - tunic	62.15
-breeches	1.50
Police Shoes	10.50
Uniform Shirts	3.69
Black Ties	.75
Chevrons	1.50

Chief Bagnall, himself, brought in the shoulder flashes in 1960. The current uniform is a standardized Ontario Police Uniform.

The death of Officer Reynolds, in 1947, caused a public outcry for better protection equipment for the officers. Under the rules and regulations of the time, every officer was provided with a minimum of a revolver, a baton, ammunition and handcuffs. The stir of public concern for the welfare of the officer enabled the Chief to purchase tear gas batons. The 1955 Regulations listed every



officer as being equipped with:

Revolver and Holster  
Handcuffs and Key  
Sam Browne belt  
Billie  
Badges, including plain clothes badge  
Warrant Card  
Flashlight  
Memorandum Book  
Regulation Book  
Whistle and Chain

To stay one step ahead of criminals, police need current equipment. Thus, by the 1960's the number of vehicles increased to six cars, two motorcycles and one used panel truck. This increased to eight cars and two Harley-Davidson motorcycles in 1968. A filing cabinet replaced the photo albums for storage in the detective office. The department received permission from the Commission in 1961, to establish an identification branch. The branch was to be responsible for fingerprints and the processing and developing of photographs. A telex system was finally approved, but not installed until 1965. The new system interconnected 140 municipal forces, the O.P.P. headquarters and detachments, the Attorney General's crime lab and the Department of Transportation. Walkie-talkies were purchased in 1969 and a Borkenstein



breathalyzer in 1970.

The force had outgrown the Market Square Station. There had been several complaints from the Police Association to the Commission, noting the absence of an interrogation room, a lecture room, a report room, showers and only one typewriter. Finally, the long awaited new police station on Third Street was officially opened August 30, 1966. The price was \$275,000.00 and many years of negotiation. All that remains of the old market square station are the two gargoyles that sit above the Third Street Station's front entrance. The new station was renovated in 1974 to install a lunchroom and report writing facilities at a cost of \$16,500.00

If the criteria for a good officer is to have good rapport with the public, Fred Peardon, more than met that criteria. Fred Peardon was a well-known, well-liked member of the Chatham Force for 37 years, from 1929-1966. Fifteen of the 37 years, Peardon spent in uniform and the next 22 years were spent in the detective office. Before joining the force, Peardon was a baker by trade and a Chatham Maroon goalie. After his work with the force, Fred Peardon took a position as





Official Opening  
Third St. Police Station  
August 30, 1966





CHATHAM  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chatham Police Station  
24 Third St.  
- night photo -



Justice of the Peace for 10 years and County Court Officer for 7 years. After meeting Mr. Peardon, one would not be surprised to find that the best aspect of his 37 years on the force, "was the social aspect in dealing with the public". 54

When asked what advice he would give the force of the future, Peardon replied,

"to keep up with the times and continue educational training. It is important to co-operate with the public; maintain good will with the public". 55

Chief Bagnall ended his 35 year command in 1974. After 35 years of service, it is fair to say that he laid the foundation for the reputation of the present force. Chief Bagnall, himself, said that he felt his best accomplishment was,

"the building of the force, itself, from almost non-existent to one recognized as one of the better smaller forces in Canada". 56

Many hours were put into the building of the force. Chief Bagnall was an extremely busy individual. For his first 15 years as Chief, he worked from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., seven days a week and never took his allocated two week holiday.

Bagnall was only newly appointed as Chief when the war began and a number of good men had left to fight.



"The men that I inherited had no training. The only so-called training was to go out with another police officer". 57

Thus, Bagnall, saw the need and initiated police training for all officers. Mr. Bagnall will always be remembered for his many accomplishments as Chatham's longest reigning Chief of Police. His advice for the force of the future is, "keep up with the times; keep on top of changing times". 58

When Chief Bagnall retired, Donald Mahon became the new Chief of Chatham's Police Force in 1975. Mahon began his police career in 1939 with 13 other men. Between 1939 and 1981, Mr. Mahon took only one leave of absence from the department, during W.W.II from 1943-45, to join the navy.

The total staff under Chief Mahon in 1975 was 64, consisting of 58 men and 6 civilians. Chief Mahon was the leader of an extremely competent staff team. He improved the organization of his team when he designed and implemented the platoon system. Medals of appreciation and outstanding service were granted to several staff members. Long Service (20 year) medals were given to the following team members:

Clerk, Sally Moorhouse	1975
Constable Robert Letts	1977
Constable Murray Jenner	1977
Constable John Skipper	1977
Constable Don Van Horne	1978
Constable Gordon Baker	1978





Chief D. B. Mahon



The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal was awarded to:

Chief Mahon	1977
Superintendent Tom Bird	1977

Two special constables were appointed to the force in 1977. Mrs. Sally Moorhouse and Mrs. Olga Hawrylyk, clerical employees were sworn in for the purpose of acting as police matrons for escorting and searching female prisoners.

Since the creation of the force; "prevention" has always been the ideal goal. During the time of Chief Mahon, active prevention took many forms; such as safety lane inspections, enrollment in scuba diving courses, school safety projects, the Neighbourhood Watch Program and an information display booth at the Jaycee Fair. Unfortunately, even when preventative measures are taken, "to err is human", and crimes are still committed.

One of the most tragic crimes that Chatham Police had to investigate was the Abel murder. On July 15, 1975, Robert Abel - brutally killed his wife and children while they were sleeping. Mr. Abel was apprehended by Chatham Police, charged with non-capital murder on three counts, but found not guilty, by reason of insanity.

The drug problem that began in the time of



Chief Bagnall escalated during the time of Chief Mahon. The 1974 report to the commission stated that,

drug and drug related crimes are on the increase; there have been sizeable seizures of marijuana.

The narcotic category increased from 110 cases in 1974 to 153 cases in 1975. This increase prompted the commencement of a joint forces operation between Chatham City Police and R.C.M.P. By October 6, 1975, Constable Purdy from the Chatham Force was working full time on drug enforcement with the Chatham R.C.M.P.

The combined drug squad was very active in 1976. 59

Overall, there was an increase in demand for services. To provide the force with capabilities to meet the demand, a budget of over one million dollars was forecasted. To keep up with the times and service demands, more sophisticated equipment was purchased. The integrated radio services project was installed in 1975. In 1976, police cars were furnished with screens, hand held radar guns were purchased, as well as one alcohol level tester.

Chief Mahon was into his 43 year on the force



when he retired in 1981. Former Chief Mahon recalled that his most enjoyable time on the force was, "the contact with the men; the feeling of doing a public service". 60 His advice to the force of the future is, "to maintain its integrity and advance technology". 61

When Chief Mahon retired in 1981, Thomas Bird was appointed the new Chief of Police. Chief Bird, originally from Toronto, joined the Chatham Police in 1949. Before joining the Chatham Force, Tom Bird served in the R.C.A.F., from 1943-45 in W.W.II. He was honourably discharged in 1945 with a commissioned rank and wireless airgunners wings. Chatham's present Chief had always wanted to be a police officer. But, when he tried to join Toronto's force, they refused him because of his height, 5'9". It was his employment as a material expeditor and paymaster of a Construction Company that eventually brought Chief Bird to Chatham. While in Chatham, the Chief met his wife, to whom he has been married 38 years. The desire to be a policeman was still alive, so Tom Bird decided to apply to the Chatham Force and was hired by former Chief Bagnall.

Currently, Chief Bird and Deputy Chief Nelson Somerset oversee a staff of 67 men, 9 civilians and 5 civilian radio operators.



# COMPLEMENT OF THE CHATHAM POLICE FORCE

## IN ORDER OF SENIORITY

AUGUST 21, 1985

NAME	RANK	BIRTHDATE	APPOINTED
BIRD, T.J.	Chief of Police	Dec. 31/25	Feb. 6/49
SOMERSET, N.J.	Deputy Chief	Oct. 23/35	May 22/59
PLETSCH, F.A.	Staff Inspector	Mar. 03/33	May 5/61
DENIKE, W.	Inspector	Feb. 12/39	Jan. 02/62
BOYLE, J.M.	A/Inspector	Apr. 21/32	Jan. 04/60
PARKER, K.W.	Det. Sgt.	Dec. 08/26	Feb. 27/50
MYERS, L.H.	Staff Sergeant	Aug. 23/39	Nov. 03/63
THOMPSON, E.G.	Staff Sergeant	Sept. 25/41	Aug. 07/64
RIPLEY, V.A.	Staff Sergeant	July 21/36	Jan. 25/59
ROSKAMP, D.	Staff Sgt.	Aug. 18/49	Aug. 4/69
BENOIT, J.	Sgt.	Apr. 04/31	June 22/51
WHITE, R.D.	Sgt.	Oct. 23/46	Mar. 07/66
SHOEMAKER, I.W.	Detective	May 25/45	Mar. 07/66
PURDY, G.	Detective	Jan. 25/47	June 02/69
REEVE, T.M.	Sgt.	Feb. 17/54	June 03/74
ILES, R.N.	Sgt.	Apr. 07/53	May 01/74
JOHNSON, E.	Sgt.	Jan. 01/45	Sept. 03/65
HERDER, C.	Det.	Mar. 09/52	Sept. 03/74

### FIRST CLASS CONST.

SKIPPER, J.A.	1st Class	Mar. 14/33	May 31/57
BAKER, C.G.	"	Jan. 19/29	May 26/58
VAN HORNE, D.L.	"	June 10/34	Dec. 19/58
BRODIE, J.V.	"	July 21/29	Feb. 27/59
MALOLEPSZY, J.P.	"	Jan. 17/42	Aug. 07/64
MC LAGAN, J.I.	"	Feb. 23/41	Nov. 05/65
SMITH, J.B.	"	Apr. 26/47	Feb. 27/67
HUFFMAN, R.B.	"	Nov. 24/47	June 02/69
MORRELL, K.R.	"	Feb. 25/50	Oct. 25/71
BOURDEAU, R.J.	"	July 14/50	June 03/74
MC GUIRE, W.E.	"	Apr. 02/50	Mar. 24/75
BERTINO, M.R.	"	Apr. 11/51	Mar. 24/75



NAME	RANK	BIRTHDATE	APPOINTED
LUTES, D.E.	1st Class	May 03/46	Aug. 05/75
VITEK, D.J.	"	May 23/53	Oct. 14/75
GUTTERIDGE, M.D.	"	Jan. 17/55	Oct. 20/75
KELLIER, W.G.L.	"	Aug. 16/53	Feb. 02/76
LUDWIG, W.	"	July 05/53	Feb. 07/77
LACHINE, F.S.	"	May 11/49	Mar. 28/77
KENNEDY, C.G.	"	Nov. 26/54	Aug. 02/77
HERDER, R.J.	"	Dec. 16/56	Nov. 14/77
FLIKWEERT, G.	"	May 24/57	Jan. 09/78
LOUWERSE, B.	"	Mar. 14/57	May 08/78
SAUNDERS, E.L.	"	Jan. 26/46	June 12/78
BARNES, J.F.A.	"	July 25/57	Sept. 05/78
SANDERSON, G.R.	"	June 03/58	Nov. 20/78
PORTER, F.W.	"	Aug. 08/57	Oct. 10/78
PACKHAM, G.W.	"	Nov. 20/52	Mar. 12/79
NIVEN, J.R.	"	Dec. 24/57	Oct. 09/79
MIFFLIN, T.M.	"	Oct. 18/58	Jan. 07/80
WIERSMA, C.J.	"	May 11/54	May 05/80
WALSH, C.	"	Nov. 17/57	May 05/80
GYORFI, A.R.	"	May 10/52	June 23/80
POOLE, D.J.	"	Feb. 03/60	June 23/80
EASTON, D.	"	Sept. 12/54	June 15/81
CURRIE, M.	"	Jan. 17/60	June 15/81
DICKSON, P.H.	"	Oct. 20/57	July 06/81
MARTIN, B.	"	Jan. 16/59	Apr. 05/82

#### SECOND CLASS CONST.

WEBBER, S.	2nd class	Apr. 25/60	May 09/83
DEBIASI, U.	"	Dec. 13/59	May 09/83

#### THIRD CLASS CONST.

LITTLEWOOD, J.	3rd class	May 15/59	Mar. 19/84
VIEIRA, G.	"	July 23/63	Mar. 19/84
TETZLAFF, T.	"	June 07/60	Mar. 19/84



NAME	RANK	BIRTHDATE	APPOINTED
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### THIRD CLASS CONST. cont....

SCOYNE, G.	3rd class	Aug. 03/63	July 16/84
BAKKER, P.	"	Mar. 05/63	July 16/84

### FOURTH CLASS CONST.

BERGSMA, W.	4th class	May 21/63	May 13/85
BISKEY, B.P.	"	Jan. 01/60	May 13/85
MYERS, K.A.	"	Feb. 09/63	May 13/85
PREVETT, J.B.	"	Feb. 12/58	June 17/85

### CIVILIANS

STONER, D.	Exec. Asst.	Oct. 28/45	Aug. 10/81
MULLALY, S.	Office Supv.	May 10/33	June 27/55
SERRUYS, D.	Sr. Cl. Typist	Dec. 12/59	Nov. 13/78
HAWRYLYK, D.	Int. Cl. Typist	Apr. 26/49	June 05/72
O'NEIL, R.	Jr. Cl. Typist	Dec. 27/55	Jan. 15/79
LAIDLAW, A.	Jr. Cl. Typist	Oct. 26/41	May 29/81
THIBODEAU, D.	Jr. Cl. Typist	June 28/60	May 29/81
VANDENBERG, L.	Jr. Cl. Typist	Sept. 21/54	Aug. 10/81
YOTT, K.	C.R.O.	Aug. 09/43	Apr. 14/84
WILLIAMS, J.	C.R.O.	Dec. 15/62	Apr. 14/84
NEWBY, C.	C.R.O.	June 06/58	Apr. 14/84
LANGLOIS, L.	C.R.O.	June 09/60	May 22/84
SCHALK, C.	C.R.O.	June 08/64	May 09/85
EVANS, B.	Jr. Cl. Typist	Dec. 21/58	July 19/85





CHIEF TOM BIRD



Policy, with reference to education, has changed immensely since the 1800's. Now, instead of just being able to read and write, many of the men are currently pursuing, or have graduated, from programs offered by the Universities of Western and Windsor. Programs such as:

1. Art General - Police Studies
2. Art Advance - Police Studies
3. Diploma in Police Management Studies

Many men have participated in programs at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa. The curriculum include courses of:

1. Drug Investigation
2. Identification Methods and Technological
3. Administration
4. Crime Prevention
5. Technical Traffic Investigation

The goal in obtaining further education is to advance the police profession. Educational training also provides the Chatham Force with an excellent resource pool to draw from when selecting senior staff. In 1985, there are 14 staff members enrolled in post-secondary courses; 9 are participating in regular certificate programs at the Ontario Police College and University and 5 are taking police related courses.

The entire recruiting process has become



more sophisticated. There are 10 phases of physical and mental qualifying stages, that each candidate must pass before entering the force as a probationary officer. For example, a candidate must:

1. Be 18 years or over
2. Produce proof of completing 4 years of high school
3. Be of good moral character, habits and have 3 references
4. Have weight proportional to height

The qualifying stages include a series of knowledge tests, physical fitness tests and an interview by senior officers. The Chatham Board of Police Commissioners make the final decision for each hopeful candidate. The better qualified an officer is, the greater the potential for more efficient law and order.

The constantly changing laws of justice often make it difficult to confirm the conviction of an offender. Consequently, more and more, crime preventative measures are being pursued by the force to ensure citizen protection.

The name Eric Johnson has been associated with the word safety for many years. Sergeant Johnson has implemented and supervised numerous projects; such as Neighbourhood Watch, Victim Assistance, extended alcohol and safety projects to the secondary



school level, taken on Police Week activities, spoken at clubs and groups and co-operated with the O.P.P. in Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.).

Co-operation amongst the forces has always been important to the officers of law in Chatham. In the words of R.C.M.P. officer Jack Briscoe:

"it is immaterial about what force you work for, especially in a small community. We all have the same goal; therefore, co-operation is paramount."

The escalation of drug related crimes has united City Police, O.P.P. and R.C.M.P. even closer through information exchange. The Chatham Force has a joint forces officer, who works with the R.C.M.P. from the R.C.M.P. office. The Chatham City officer aids in drug investigation activities in Kent County. The officer, a volunteer, works with the R.C.M.P. on an 18-24 month rotation exchange.

When people who work together are able to have fun together, a genuine kinship must be felt. Proof of the open co-operation amongst Chatham Forces is the Joint Forces Ball being held by Chatham Police, the R.C.M.P. and the O.P.P. at the Armouries on September 21, 1985.

The Chatham Force is active in investigations



that reach beyond its borders. Criminal Intelligence Services Ontario (C.I.S.O.) is a province wide force that fights against organized crime. Chatham was selected as one of the twenty-three municipal forces in Ontario to test the effectiveness of the service. The service proved worthwhile and the various Provincial Police Commissions and Federal Police soon employed the service too. The Chatham Police Department with its own C.I.S.O. office, computer and fourth full-time officer are still actively involved in this project.

The current detective department performed 5,355 investigations in 1984. Photographs, fingerprints, footprints, tool marks and pry marks are often the pieces of evidence that solve a case. In 1984 alone, 672 fingerprints were taken. The new Visu-print MK11 acquired by the force develops fingerprints by fuming Cyanoacrylate ester, an element found in super glue.

It is a credit to the force that the 1984 report can state, that no murder, attempted murder or manslaughter occurred in Chatham for the year. This enables the police to concentrate their time and talents on the less publicized, but continual crimes of: assault, theft under \$200.00, fraud, narcotics and misuse of alcohol. Impaired driving remains a problem. In 1984, impaired driving



charges increased 45% to 181 cases. Reinforcing the problem of drinking and driving, is the fact that in 1984 four traffic related deaths occurred; all of which drinking was involved. One of the reasons that drinking and driving remains high is the change in penalties for those convicted. In the old days, the penalties were much more severe. An offender was put in jail for seven days; there was no fine or excuse. Then at one point, offenders were put in jail for seven days plus their car was impounded for three months.

Keeping traffic offences down to a minimum has been and still is, a challenge for the Chatham Police. There has been an increase in enforcement of the Criminal Code with respect to traffic.

It takes many resources to maintain a quality force to protect the citizens of Chatham. A budget of over \$3 million is required to adequately finance valuable personnel and equipment; such as 13 vehicles and computers (especially C.P.I.C.).

In the words of Deputy Chief Somerset, "the police profession is a continuous learning process. One can take pride in the fact that Chatham is a safe place".

Good community relations between the force



and the people of Chatham are a vital ingredient to ensure law and order today. As Chief Bird stated, "the forte of the Chatham Force is contained in its good community relations. Ours are second to none in the province".

Both the Chief and Deputy Chief see more computerization as a necessary step to advance with the times.

Commenting on the future, Chief Bird said,

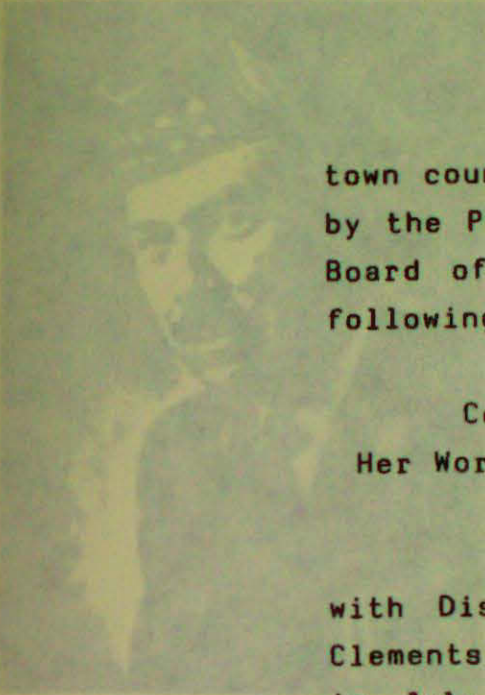
"computerization is on the front burner. The OMPAC committee foresees computerization of the entire record system by late 1986-87. A computer dispatch with terminals in cars would be very beneficial".

Deputy Chief Somerset stated that for the future, he would

"like to see the force more computerized. Computer terminals in the cars would be an asset".

The main similarity between the past Chatham Force and the present Chatham Force is their goal to prevent crime and maintain law and order. The policeman has evolved beyond a man of strength and character, to an educated professional as well. Policy has become more complicated. Instead of taking orders from a





town council, there is in place, as directed by the Police Act of Ontario, a very capable Board of Commissioners of Police, with the following members:

Colonel R.D. West, C.D., Chairman



Her Worship, Mayor Margaret Archibald, Q.C.

Mrs. Margaret Illman

Alderman Douglas Sulman

with District Court Senior Judge G. Brian Clements being a long serving member resigned in July of 1985 because of a very heavy workload in his own court and throughout the Province.

From a wheelbarrow to carry intoxicated individuals, the force now uses computers to investigate organized crime. The 1985 Chatham Police Force, headed by Chief Bird, has developed into a highly competent organization. Chatham Police, 1985, an accomplishment to be proud of.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE  
CITY OF CHATHAM



Col. Ralph D. West, C.D.  
Chairman



Alderman Doug Sulman  
Member



Mayor Margaret N. Archibald, Q.C.  
Member



Margaret Illman  
Member



His Honour Judge G.B. Clements  
Member



## CHIEFS OF POLICE

### CITY OF CHATHAM POLICE FORCE

1877 - 1887	Chief A. J. Baxter
1887 - 1902	Chief Wm. Young
1902 - 1913	Chief John Holmes
1913 - 1924	Chief Thomas Groves
1925	Chief Daniel McLaughlin
1926 - 1939	Chief Finlay Low
1939 - 1974	Chief C. E. Bagnall
1975 - 1981	Chief D. B. Mahon
1981 - present	Chief Tom Bird



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