

Blatchford, Ralph

Former deputy chief dies in Kingston

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Former Deputy Police Chief Ralph Blatchford died Monday at age 61. Mr. Blatchford, who had been ill for some time from complications of a blood disorder, died in Kingston General Hospital Monday morning.

After more than 40 years in uniform, Mr. Blatchford retired in March from the Belleville Police Force after serving as deputy chief since 1980.

He began his career in police work in 1944 when he began with the Provost Corps while serving in the army. After leaving the police arm of the forces in 1947, he worked as a constable with the Stratford Police Department until 1951.

Mr. Blatchford began his long career in Belleville in 1960 as sergeant after serving with CNR police and Fort Erie Police.

He achieved the rank of inspector in 1965 and was named deputy chief in 1980 by then Chief Doug Crosbie.

Mr. Blatchford, in an earlier interview with The Intelligencer, said the establishment of the force's new headquarters on Dundas Street East was "the crowning touch" on his career.



RALPH BLATCHFORD

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Chief Bob Begbie says the new police headquarters - reputed to be the finest of its size in the province - will stand as a tribute to Mr. Blatchford's dedication to the city police force.

"His name is right out there on the plaque and will serve as a reminder to all who pass by what kind of a man he was and what he's meant to this force and the city," said Begbie today.

"He was a very dear friend and a very devoted police officer and family man," said Begbie. "He sure will be missed in the community. He was active in his church and was always concerned about people."

Mr. Blatchford was instrumental in the design and layout of the new police headquarters and Begbie said the late deputy chief's family can be proud of the accomplishments Mr. Blatchford achieved in the interests of his fellow officers.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey Jean Damm, a son, Lorne, of

Kingston; son, James, of Langley, B.C.; and son, Robert, of Prince Rupert B.C. He was predeceased by one daughter, Janice Marie. He is also survived by one brother, Joseph, of London; and was predeceased by one brother, David.

The Kiwanis Club of Belleville named Mr. Blatchford an honorary member and he was clerk of sessions for St. Columba Presbyterian Church and was a member of the board of trustees for the church.

He had served in the Second World War and saw action in Italy and Northern Europe during his tour of duty.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, from St. Columba Church with burial to follow at Belleville Cemetery. A full police funeral service is slated.

Visitation at the John R. Bush Funeral Home will be from 7 until 9 p.m. this evening and from 2 until 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.