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March 12, 1976



**30 YEARS LEFT TO GO** Cobourg Police Chief Gene Butler was honored by his force this Wednesday for 30 years' of dedicated service.

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# Thirty years ago Gene emptied metres

In 1946, when Gene Butler joined the Cobourg Police Force, they needed a man to collect money from the parking metres.

That was all right with the young Cobourg man, though. He wasn't becoming a cop for the adventure of it -- not in those days.

The job paid \$1300 a year -- about \$110 a month starting salary with a guaranteed raise of \$25 a year.

The same job is worth \$10,000 a year today, but more astronomical things than that have changed.

For example, thirty years ago, when two emergency calls came in in one week, that was a very busy week.

And to answer those calls, the five constables would jump on their bicycles and pedal to the scene.

Police cruisers did not arrive in Cobourg until 1948. Gene Butler will never forget that first car.

The fact is, there are a lot of things that Gene Butler is reminiscing about lately that he will never forget. Thirty years is a long time, he admits, but it's funny, it doesn't feel like a long time.

Wednesday afternoon, to wish their chief another 30 years, the 18 men and five women of the

Cobourg Police Department, celebrated his passing of three decades of service.

Gene Butler has stood as their chief for five years. He sifts through memories which include his own ups and downs and those of his men. It makes him feel a little old and a little weary. Probably, some of the past is even better left unturned.

"I never wanted to quit in 30 years, and I still don't. But it was much easier being a constable 30 years ago.

In 1945, Cobourg was a town of about 6,000 people. But according to Chief Butler, the biggest changes in Cobourg don't result from a doubling population. Society is responsible. Worldwide attitudes are responsible. People have changed," he says.

"When the kid next door stole a length of lawn hose in those days, the neighbor took care of it. Today you call the police. We had problems 30 years ago, but they were handled by the people concerned. They weren't police

problems.

The dramatic difference came in 1966 and 1967," says the chief.

"We were completely unprepared when the drug culture descended upon us. We had to adapt to it, to learn about it. But it has caused an awful lot of difficulties in law enforcement."

Ten years later, Chief Butler says serious crimes are still being committed by people under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Drinking has increased since the lowering of the drinking age -- it is not getting better.

"No, it hasn't made me staunch, seeing all this. We're dealing with the worst of society, and yeah, it gets to you. But it hasn't made me staunch."

What concerns him as much as anything about Cobourg's increasing crime rate, is the lack of respect for property he says he sees in young people.

"It's the kid who will walk down the street and punch an aerial off a car that worries me.

The law was no different 30 years ago than it is today. But the awareness of the public of the law is

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### Gene Butler remembers

Continued from Page 1 making it harder to enforce it. There is nothing more degrading than an open-handed slap across the face. But we can't do that. Does the public really want it that way?

What the public sees in law detection is what they get, he says.

"I don't believe in underhanded detection or abuse. I don't believe in sneaking around out of

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view to catch speeders. If you can't apprehend someone out in the open and above board, well then you don't."

Since being made chief, Gene Butler's job with the force has changed considerably. He spends most of his time extricating himself from administrative tangles. Seldom will he get involved in criminal inves-

tigation.

In the course of 30 years the attitudes of a young man, fresh out of the Army when he hooked up with th

"I don't believe in sneaking around...."



HE WAS SPEECHLESS, HE REALLY WAS Chief Gene Butler acted as embarrassed as he looked, at the fuss his department made over his 30 years of service.

TAKING A BETTER LOOK Constables look over they presented to the chief this Wednesday.

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department, have evolved.  
"Black was black and white was white when I was out there on the beat. The law said you couldn't drink until 21, and when a father was caught serving liquor to his 17-year-old son in the home, that was against the law.

"It has to be that way for a constable. There is no other way. But I'll tell you, I see sides of it today I never saw when I was on the beat. Like the shoplifter, before he was just a thief. Today, I see motives.

It makes it harder."



**WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IT TOGETHER** Staff Sergeant Homer Seale watches with satisfaction as his long-time colleague and friend, Gene Butler is honored.



the gold pocket watch which

**HE WAS SHY, SHE WAS PROUD** Chief Butler and his wife, Mavis, accept roses and a gold engraved watch from the force.