



CORPORAL R. MASON
Police Chief

Operation of the police force in Acton is explained here.

The days of the one-man police force have long gone the way of the moustache cup and buggy whip business. To replace the lone town constable, who not only enforced the law but also acted as the municipal dog catcher, the census taker, building inspector, truant officer and street sweeper, there is a highly mobile, specially trained three-shift police force.

Confronting municipal councils are two alternative methods of law enforcement.

Under the first alternative, the municipality establishes its own police commission, which operates a locally-controlled municipal police force.

The other alternative open to municipalities in Ontario with a population of less than 5,000 is to enter into a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police for police service within the town.

It is the second alternative that Acton chose many years ago.

Under the existing contract with the O.P.P., Acton has a six-man police force under veteran Corp. Ray Mason looking after police work in Acton.

By choosing to operate under contract with the O.P.P., the major benefit gained by the town would appear to be a less expensive form of police protection, free from local interference in its exercise of duties, plus the additional benefit of being integrated with a province-wide interconnected organization.

Acton detachment is under the

Six man O.P.P. police force patrols town 24 hours daily

supervision of district headquarters in Burlington and comprises Corp. Mason and Constables Mervin Harness, Bruce Kressler, Bruce McArthur, Nick Farion and Peter Campbell.

Another advantage to being under contract with the O.P.P. is that the special services and facilities of the provincial police are immediately available through their radio link with Ontario headquarters, which is interconnected with all police forces in North America through a modern Telex system.

Soon to be installed in the Acton police office will be a radio monitoring system to keep the local office abreast of all calls and information broadcast over the police radio system.

Working on three eight-hour shifts, the local detachment patrols the town 24 hours a day on foot or in the cruiser, with constant supervision over the industrial, commercial and residential areas.

Although facilities for the police force have been improved in the past few years, Corp. Mason anticipates the detachment will require larger and more up-to-date office quarters and a lock-up. He foresees the growth of the detachment will necessitate a full-time stenographer for the office.

Training and duty for a policeman never end and the men of Acton detachment attend training courses at Burlington on their own time. They take lectures and training in the use of tear gas, small arms and machine guns, the Criminal Code, the Liquor Control Act, Highway Traffic Act, crowd control and the latest methods of criminal investigation.

Every five years, the constable is required to take a refresher course in St. John Ambulance first aid training.

Before a candidate is accepted in the provincial police, he must meet certain requirements, which include high school graduation, physical attributes and provision of character references. After acceptance, the recruit attends a police college for a six week basic training and on graduation joins a detachment as a probationary constable.

Citizens requiring the assist-

ance of the police department normally make their request by telephoning the police office at 853-1250.

With no secretary in the office, it quite often happens that the police officers on duty are not in the office. In this event, a recording machine cuts into the telephone circuit and a citizen's request is recorded. The operation of the recording device turns on the red light at the corner of Mill and Main Sts. When the policeman sees this signal on, he immediately returns to the police office to play back the tape.

During 1965 the local detach-

ment had no major crime to deal with. Traffic violations, break and entry of buildings, and violations under the Liquor Control Act comprise most of the entries in their daily log.

Each policeman has a monthly quota of car safety checks that must be met. Accident prevention instruction and school safety patrol assistance are additional duties.

As well as all the federal and provincial regulations the local detachment is required to enforce, they also are responsible for the enforcement of local by-laws as established by Acton council.

Co-operation with the Milton detachment which supervises neighboring Esquesing and Nassagaweya townships results in additional benefit. Cruisers and additional officers from Milton have been made available to assist Acton in crowd control and transporting prisoners to jail in Milton.

No arrested persons are kept in Acton as there are no facilities. All court cases are heard in Milton. Acton officers must attend these court sessions on their time off and they are reimbursed by alternative time off later.

To police any community properly, there must be co-operation between the police and public. Corp. Mason says he and his staff enjoy excellent co-operation and relationships with the people of Acton.

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ACTON — ONTARIO

Committee of adjustment deals with minor variances

Following is a report outlining the operation of the Committee of Adjustment.

The Town of Acton controls the building within its boundaries by adopting zoning and building by-laws. These by-laws define, among other important matters, the size of your lot, the foot frontage, the distance your building must be from the front lot line and the side lines.

To deal with minor variances to their by-laws, the Town Council, by permission from the Provincial Government, have established a Committee of Adjustment.

Since a minor variance is not clearly defined, it is the responsibility of the committee to take each application received, process it according to the established rules and regulations, and make a decision.

It might be interesting to know that when an application is received, everyone within 200 feet of the affected property is notified by letter and may attend the meeting. All meetings are public hearings with the local press in attendance.

When a decision has been reached, a copy of the application, the minutes of their meeting, and the motion outlining their decision, is mailed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Provincial Government.

There is a 14-day waiting period. During this time, the committee's decision may be appealed by the Minister or anyone vitally concerned. If, during the 14 days, no appeals have been received, the committee's decision is final.

The present committee is comprised of Murray Smith, Ernie Marks and Garnet McKenzie. A member of the committee is appointed for a three year term by the Town Council.

At the present time, the secretarial work for the Committee of Adjustment is done in the town office and anyone making an application pays a fee of \$10 to help cover the cost of processing their application.



G. W. MCKENZIE
Chairman