

# History traces development of Milton police department

The history of Milton Police Department is an colorful one. Bonnie Dumstra, a secretary of the Police Department has compiled the history of the local force dating back to 1700's. The following has been compiled from old by-laws on record at town hall and the story appears here as she wrote it.

The history of the Milton Police Department as it is known today dates back a scant 10 years, to its formation in 1960. To obtain a clear picture of law enforcement in this area, however, one must go back 2200 years, to the origins of the Town of Milton itself.

Although available history is not explicit, it would appear that the first pioneers to settle in this area arrived at the turn of the 18th century. At any rate, we are told that it was John Graves Simcoe, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who was instrumental in opening up the districts beyond Niagara, upon his arrival in Canada in 1792.

The first industry, a grist mill, was established in the little community later known as "Martin's Mills" by Jasper Martin in 1822. A saw mill and ashery followed in 1825 and set the stage for the growth and expansion which resulted in the incorporated Town of Milton in 1857.

Prior to this incorporation, it would appear that law enforcement was initiated by the Government of Upper Canada. A history compiled by the Ontario Provincial Police tells us that, when the first Parliament of Upper Canada convened on Sept. 17, 1792 at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first Police system was established. Upper Canada was divided into Townships and Counties and the Counties additionally grouped into districts. Milton was in what was known as the Home District. During the second session of Parliament in May, 1793, pecciaiona qwem made to create the position of High County Constable for each District and to nominate a sufficient number of Constables for each area. This, according to the Ontario Provincial Police history "perpetuated the english Common Law requirement that every free, fit and proper person be liable to service as a constable, that all persons might enjoy the badge of free citizenship."

Policing was carried out thus by unpaid, untrained citizens until the middle 1800's when town and city police departments were instituted.

The first Chief Constable for the incorporated Town of Milton was Daniel M. Bowman, appointed in 1857. For the sum of 20 pounds per year, Chief Constable Bowman enforced all Town By-Laws and the Criminal Laws of the Province, served all summons and warrants and attended each session of the Mayor's Court and all Council meetings. He was also responsible to see that all monies arising from fines or fees in discharge of his duties were paid into the general funds of the town. Should Mr. Bowman desire to leave the confines of the Town, it was necessary to obtain prior permission from the Mayor and at least two councillors. Even at that, he was required to appoint and re-imburse a competent substitute to act in his absence. If he neglected to do so, the Mayor very obligingly did this for him and deducted a corresponding sum from his yearly wage.

In 1860, the Chief Constable's salary was converted to dollars and cents and for the sum of \$50.00 per year, the duties of Found Keeper were added to his roster. As can well be imagined, in the days of the horse and buggy and the rural town, pound keeper, in itself, must have been an onerous duty.

The next significant entry in the Town's By-Laws concerning Law Enforcement shows the appointment of Michael Conway as Chief Constable in 1873. For the increased wage of \$60.00 per year, Chief Constable Conway carried on all the above duties. In addition, he was awarded the title "Inspector of Licences" which enabled him to carry out periodic inspections of all taverns, inns, ale or beerhouses or any other places of entertainment. These inspections earned him an additional \$20.00 per year.

As a matter of interest, the population of Milton was, at this time, approximated at 1,400 persons.

In 1883, Stinson Bradley became the third recorded Chief Constable for the town of Milton. Essentially, his duties remained the same. However, he was given the authority to disperse all persons blocking a sidewalk on the Sabbath and was expected to be present at the Town Hall on all occasions when it was rented for concerts and other entertainments for the express purpose of preserving order. It bears noting also that, while Chief Constable Bradley's starting salary was set at \$25.00 per year, he was allowed to retain the fees from convictions.

John Crowe took up the reins as Chief Constable in 1889 at a starting salary of \$25.00 per year. Court fines were again returned to the town coffers. However, along with his normal duties, Chief Crowe was appointed "Sanitary Inspector" and, for an

additional \$10.00 per year, supervised all sanitary conditions within the town and forwarded his reports to the Board of Health.

1892 marked a turning point in the history of Law Enforcement for the Town of Milton. When Chief Constable M. S. Bradley was appointed in that year, a night watchmen, James Davidson, was also appointed to assist him. Nightwatchman Davidson received \$100.00 per year for his duties, plus a sum supplemented by the Citizens' Committee. He came on duty every evening at 8:30 p.m. in winter, 9:30 in summer, and remained on patrol until 7:00 a.m. when his duties terminated with the ringing of the town bell.

In 1893, Thomas Currie replaced Mr. Davidson as nightwatchman. He patrolled the town from 10:00 p.m. till 6:00 a.m. in summer and from 9:00 p.m. till 7:00 a.m. during the winter. Once again, termination of his duties consisted of ringing of the town bell.

William Chapman became Chief Constable in 1907. His salary began at \$25.00 per year and, in addition to all the aforementioned duties, was appointed "Truant Officer". He was responsible to the Trustee Board of the Public School to carry out the duties of Truant Officer and make subsequent, periodic reports to them.

In 1915, Charles R. Jones obtained the position of Chief Constable for the rather remarkable salary of \$50.00 per month. Mr. Jones was paid this sum for "the faithful performance of his duties which meant that his whole time shall be at the service of the Town". There is no doubt this is true for he was additionally assigned the tasks of "Bread Inspector" and "Waterworks Inspector". As Waterworks Inspector, Chief Jones was compelled to visit Milton's reservoir when requested and report on same, inspect all taps and turn water on and off on order of proper

authority. As well, when he was not otherwise occupied with Chief Constable's duties, he was to report to the Town Hall where he would be assigned work from any of the other Committees of the Town.

W. A. Chapman was hired as Chief Constable in 1918. For a beginning salary of \$12.50 per month, he carried on all the above duties.

There is no record of another Chief Constable until Dan McMullan took over the job in 1930. In addition to normal police work, the duties of water inspector were increased. Each August, he was required to inspect all water services and see that water was not wasted by leaking taps. He had also to ascertain the number of persons living in each household, measure lawns where necessary, and report to the clerk by September 1 of each year, all purposes for which water was being used in every house and factory

in town. The Chief Constable was already "Sanitary Inspector" and School Attendance Officer". To these positions now were added "Weed Inspector", "Inspector Under the Liquor Control Act." and "Poll Tax Collector". As well, Chief Constable McMullan was expected to furnish such relief duties deemed necessary from 8:00 p.m. till daylight. For the execution of all these duties he received the sum of \$65.00 per month.

Melvin Hatfield succeeded Chief Constable McMullan in 1933 at a starting salary of \$60.00 per month. His duties remained unchanged.

In 1943, by which time the population of Milton had risen to approximately 2,000 persons, Frank McNiven was named Chief Constable at a salary of \$100.00 per month. Water meters had been installed in the town and the job of reading same on a quarterly basis fell to the water inspector. The Chief Constable also took over the position of "Assessor and Enumerator" with all the duties thus entailed and was named "Relief Officer" and "Register of Aliens".

In 1946, another major innovation took place in the history of Milton's Law Enforcement. When William George Canning was named Chief Constable at a salary of \$125.00 per month, Vincent Mallon was also appointed Night Constable. At that time Mr. McNiven went into assessment and enumerating full time.

Const. Mallon was on patrol from 9:00 p.m. till 6:00 a.m. with Wednesday nights off, except for Saturday and nights before a holiday when he commenced duty at 7:00 p.m. He was also expected to check traffic for the safe crossing of school children every day at noon whenever the Chief Constable was away and to attend all hockey games for the purpose of maintaining order. For the faithful performance of these duties, he received \$116.66 per month.

In 1948, Douglas L. Caniff became Chief Constable for \$175.00 per month. In essence, his duties remained as previously

mentioned. He was responsible for the maintenance of all records in respect to his duties and was expected to report on same to the Town Council on a monthly basis.

In 1948, Hugh Warrington became Chief Constable. The duties and salary were unchanged. However, it was noted that Chief Constable Warrington had to provide his own uniforms.

In the same year, Sam Hall was appointed Night Constable. The hours were unchanged and he was paid at the rate of \$125.00 per month. On his rounds, Constable Hall was specifically expected to check for fires, water service leaks, street lights and the water pressure in the Town Hall. He checked the locks on all stores, warehouses and garages and disbursed all persons loitering in doorways or on the streets.

Mr. Hall became Chief Constable in 1951 and his salary increased to \$200.00 per month. Ted Babuk took over the duties of Night Constable for \$175.00 per month.

During the next five years, a considerable growth in population was experienced. From 2,460 in 1951, Milton mushroomed to a Town of some 4,410 persons by 1956. Subsequently, the Town fathers deemed it expedient to increase the size of the Milton Force to four men. An agreement was made with the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police to assign four members of their Force for the purpose of policing the town. The reason for this Provincial Police takeover rather than the formation of its own police department is believed to be a question of economics. The town paid the salaries of these men and provided an office for them. All other costs were borne by the Province.

However, when Milton's population reached 5,520 in 1960, it became necessary to form our own Police Department.

Murray Ray Andress, a former Ontario Provincial Police officer, was appointed Chief of the new Milton Police Department on Oct. 1, 1960, a position he holds to this day. The Force originally con-

sisted of four men and was complemented by Sgt. Robert Moreau, also a former Provincial Police officer, and two recruits, Constables Keith Robertson and Len Pickett.

Now in its 10th year of operation, the Milton Police Department has increased in numbers from four to nine men. Although many constables have come and gone since its inauguration, the nucleus of the Force has remained the same.

The staff of the Milton Police Department presently consists of Chief of Police Ray Andress, Sgt. Keith Robertson, Sgt. Bill Patterson, Const. Len Pickett, Const. Bob Burke, Const. Roy Smith, Const. Wayne Eastwood and Const. Barry Elliott.

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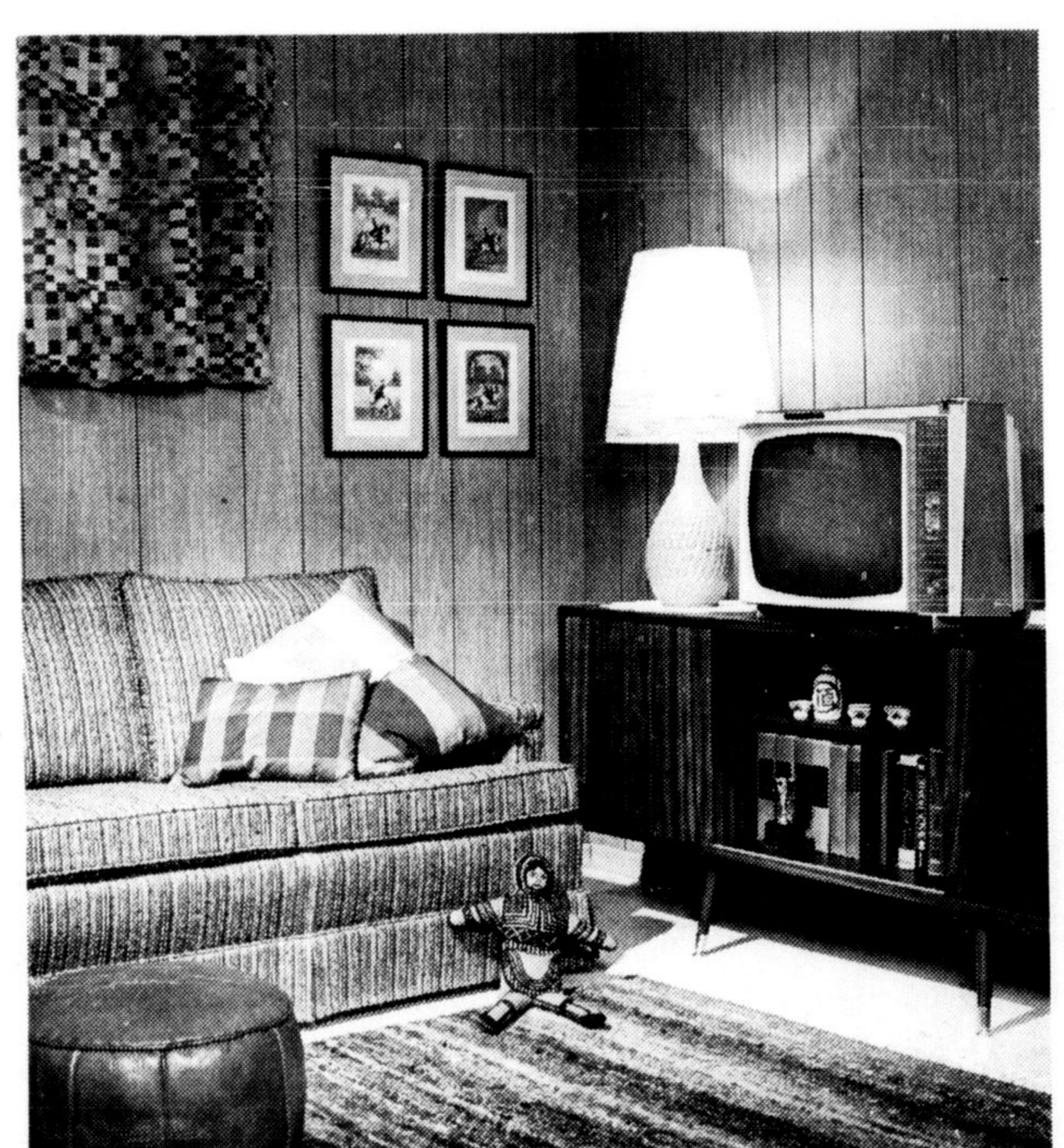
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SOON KELS0 POOL will close for the summer and it will be back to school for life guards who have spent a lot of the summer at the pool. Front row left to right are Susan Davies, Sharron Proctor, Fran Horning and Mary Wills. Back row left to right are Phil Mahon, Bob Ramberg, Andy Kadziolka, Bob Trull and Rick Cox.—(Staff Photo)



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