

100 YEARS



**ANNUAL
REPORT | 2021**



Cover page photos (clockwise): Hamilton Harbour headquarters, later the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service marine facility, looking toward the boat wells; 1928 Hamilton Motorcycle Squad; Board of the Hamilton Police Association of Hamilton formed on July 20, 1921 with Ernie May in the front center; No. 5 Hamilton Harbour Police Vessel and center photo of Constable Reg Pryer circa 1921.



Photograph above taken in 1936 of Ernie Goodman and Leonard Lawrence (on the right).

ABOUT THE HAMILTON POLICE MUSEUM

In 2010 the Hamilton Police Museum opened its door to the public at the historic Tisdale House (built circa 1825) located at 314 Wilson Street East, Ancaster, Ontario.

Inside the museum, are historic and educational archival materials relating to local police history that includes police uniforms, equipment, documents and photographs.

The museum is managed by the “Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum Inc,” Board of Directors with the support of the Hamilton Police Service and the Hamilton Police Services Board which results in our continued success.

The Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum became Incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in the Province of Ontario on September 16, 2019 through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society.

The Society operates a Tuck Shop called the “Call Box” at the Hamilton Police Service, Central Station at 155 King William Street, Hamilton and sells various clothing, souvenirs and memorabilia with the logo and name of the Hamilton Police Service and the Society.

We are supported by a group of volunteers, most of whom are retired police members of the Hamilton Police Retirees Association, as well as others who share their time and expertise to conduct tours of the museum, assist at open houses, set up displays and operate the Tuck Shop.

WHAT’S INSIDE

1921 – 2021

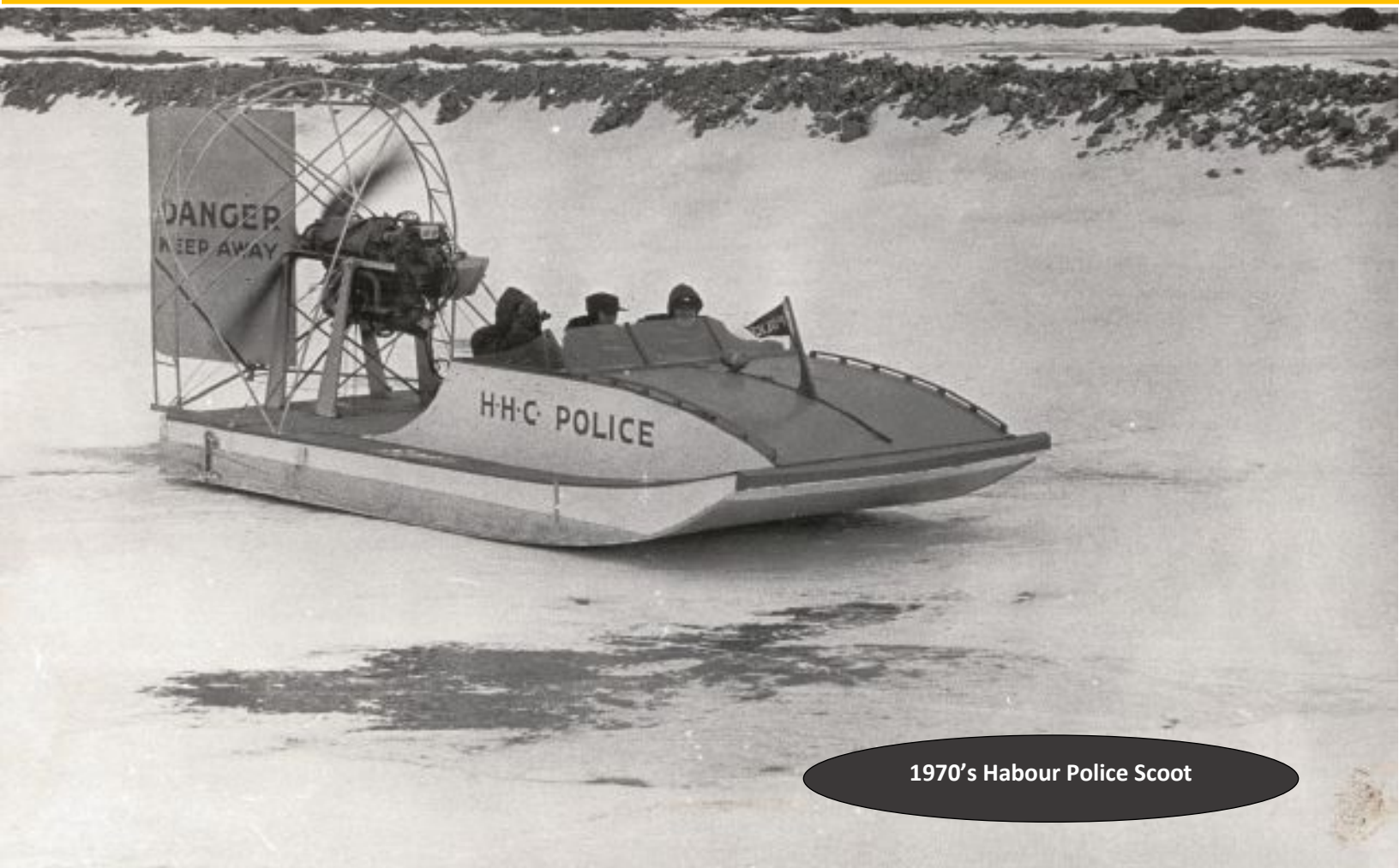
Marking 100 years of
motorcycle and marine
patrols in Hamilton and
the formation of the
Hamilton Police

MISSION

Our Mission is to collect, preserve and manage artifacts and archival materials related to the Hamilton Police Service. Through our collections, we will strive to inspire learning and increase public awareness of local police history to foster a mutual understanding and respect between the police and the community.

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1970's Harbour Police Scoot

Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum Inc., I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report.



It's been another challenging year for everyone, as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect every aspect of our lives. We applaud all emergency response agency workers who continually provide essential day-to-day services for their communities and all others who provide supporting services. We think of those who have experienced illness or loss during this time.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and another year of the museum closure, Board members continue to volunteer their time and work in support of the museum by meeting virtually and furthering our purpose of collecting, preserving, and managing artifacts and archival materials related to the Hamilton Police Service.

The Tuck Shop "Call Box" located at Central Station was closed for most of 2021 to ensure the safety of our volunteers; however, we continued to sell merchandise to support museum operations.

We produced our second Annual Report for 2020. The report has been posted to the Hamilton Police Retirees Association website.

I continue to connect with members of the public by posting photos and articles about our local police history online through social media on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us and those who have contributed articles and stories.

Thank you to our members and to those who have donated funds or artifacts in support of the museum. I also want to thank Hamilton Police Service, Chief Frank Bergen, and his management team for their ongoing support of the museum.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am optimistic that in the year ahead the museum will reopen so we can welcome visitors back inside the museum and the Tuck Shop "Call Box".

Constable David Kerkhof
President and HPS Historian

Message from the Board of Directors

Due to the pandemic and public health guidelines in place in 2021, the museum remained closed to visitors. Despite the closure, there have been opportunities for the Board to continue their work and to maintain a connection with our members and the public through email, video conferencing and social media platforms to continue to promote public awareness and interest in our local police history.

The Tuck Shop “Call Box” has been closed for most of the pandemic; however, Michel Fauvelle and his volunteers continue to generate sales to support museum operations.

The Board of Directors held six meetings in 2021. Four virtual meetings: February 22, April 19, June 14, and September 20 and two in-person meetings: November 19 and December 3. In addition, we held our third Annual General Meeting virtually on November 1.

On November 19, the Board was invited to Central Police Station to meet with Chief Frank Bergen, Deputy Chief Ryan Diodati and Staff Sergeant Sara Beck to discuss the museum. This was the first in-person meeting for all Board members in two years. We discussed the status of the museum, enjoyed a luncheon and a tour of renovated spaces at Central Station. Below is a photo of the Board of Directors with Chief Bergen at Central Police Station.



Board of Directors with Chief Bergen taken at Central Police Station on November 19, 2021

Tisdale House - Since the November 19th meeting, the Board received a renewed facility agreement for Tisdale House, and we have learned about exterior maintenance work that will be completed at Tisdale House by the City of Hamilton in 2022.

Inside the Museum - The former Community Services office furniture has been removed to create a second display room. Both display rooms are being painted. There is much work ahead to reimagine the space and our displays within our limited finances.

Grants - We were successful in obtaining our first grant – the Heritage Organization Development Grant

(HODG) - through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. A second grant application has been made to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund.

Mohawk College Student's Video - We reached out to the Mohawk College Broadcasting – Television & Communications Media program and arranged for media students from the winter 2021 semester to produce a video regarding the museum as part of their learning. The result is a video entitled: “An Introduction to Local Police History: Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum” which has been posted to our Facebook page. We are grateful for the time and effort the students put into making this excellent production.

Collections - We continue to build our museum collections. During the closure we continued to receive donations from individuals, as well as numerous articles that were located during the Central Station reorganization.

New Software - In December we received a generous donation from Dave and Lynda Bowen to purchase a new collections management software program called PastPerfect. The software, designed by museum professionals, combines collection and contact management into an easy-to-use software package. The new software will help us to streamline our ability to input and search for artifacts.

Commemorative Street Light Pole Banners to Honor Hamilton's seven Fallen Officers and PSD Troy - The Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum has agreed to purchase banners in cooperation with the Hamilton Police Retirees Association, Hamilton Police Association, and the Hamilton Police Service to be displayed during the month of May on streetlight poles in front of Central Police Station. The banner design has been created by Graphics.

Annual Reporting - Our second Annual Report for 2020 was completed and produced in hard copy and electronic format with the assistance of the Hamilton Police Service, Graphics Branch. This year's Annual Report focusses on marking 100 years of marine and motorcycle patrols and the formation of the Hamilton Police Association which have contributed to Hamilton's rich police history.

Board Members - We wish to extend our appreciation and thanks to Terry Hill for his work and contributions as a Board member and supporter of the museum for many years; and to Staff Sergeant Greg Doerr for his time and support on the Board. We welcome Staff Sergeant Sara Beck and Lynda Bowen as new Board members.

With thanks - We are grateful for the ongoing support of our donors, members and partners during this time, and we thank all of those who continue to work with us to preserve Hamilton's local police history.

Thank you to our volunteers, most of whom are retired sworn and civilian members, as well as others who have shared their time and expertise to maintain the museum and operate the Tuck Shop.

Although nothing is etched in stone, we hope to open the museum to the public sometime in 2022 and resume working with volunteers in the future.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Constable David Kerkhof, President

David Bowen, Vice President

Michel Fauvelle, Treasurer

Alison Hood, Secretary

Staff Sergeant Sara Beck, Director

Lynda Bowen, Director

Pieter Ciere, Director (Curator)

Kelly Dziemianko, Director

Jayne Lawson, Director (Archivist)

Bob Slack, Director



VISION

**To be the best community resource / museum showcasing
Hamilton police history.**

HAMILTON POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM INC.

BALANCE SHEET AUGUST 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Tuck Shop Bank Account	\$10,336.95
Society Bank Account	\$989.97
Cash on Hand (Tuck Shop)	\$86.00
Total Current Assets	\$11,412.92

Fixed Assets - There are no Fixed Assets

Inventory

Value of Tuck Shop Inventory as of August 31, 2021	\$14,228.97
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TOTAL ASSETS **\$25,641.89**

LIABILITIES - There are currently no liabilities.

EQUITY

TOTAL EQUITY **\$25,641.89**

Equity equals what remains after subtracting liabilities from assets.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES AUGUST 31, 2021

REVENUE

Memberships	\$400.00
Tuck Shop Sales	\$7,205.00
Donations	\$275.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$7,880.00</u>

EXPENSES

Tuck Shop Purchases	\$6,524.08
Jones Deslauriers Insurance	\$972.00
Ontario Museum Association Fees	\$202.00
Bank Service Charges	\$101.55
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$7,799.63</u>

Surplus of revenue over expenses for the year \$80.37

Net assets, beginning of year **\$11,246.55**

Surplus of revenue over expenses for the year \$80.37

Net assets, end of year **\$11,326.92**

FINANCIALS

1921 postcard photograph of
Officers Bill Davey and Reginald Pryer (left).
Officer Pryer was a member the first
Motorcycle Squad.



1921 - 2021

A Century of Motorcycles

By Alison Hood, Secretary of the
HPS&M

One of the first specialized units created by the Hamilton Police was the Motorcycle Squad. In 1919 Chief William Whatley proposed the formation of the Squad to improve the response time to crimes, as well as assist in daily patrols.



Chief William Whatley
1915-1924

**Hamilton Police Department
First Motorcycle Squad**

1921



Harry Burville

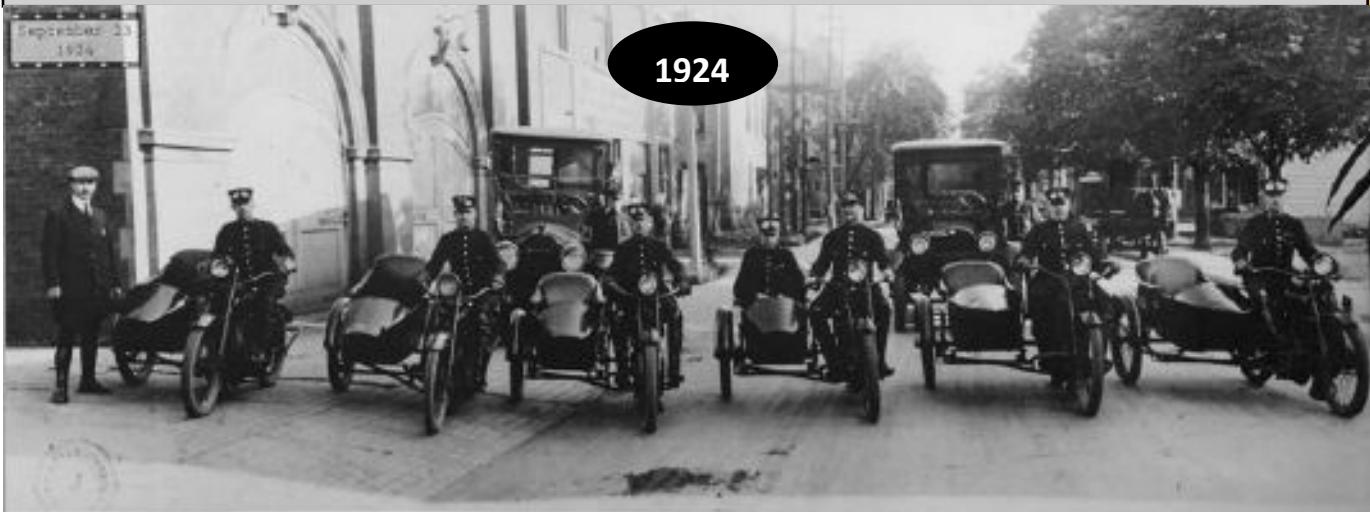
John Williamson

Reg Pryer

Ernest Edwards

James Bleakley

1924



Ernie Edwards

Dave Green

George McLeod

Rose Battenham

Charlie Gent

A.O Jackson

John Selfe

Bert Merritt

Douglas McGregor

Ernie Barrett

1927

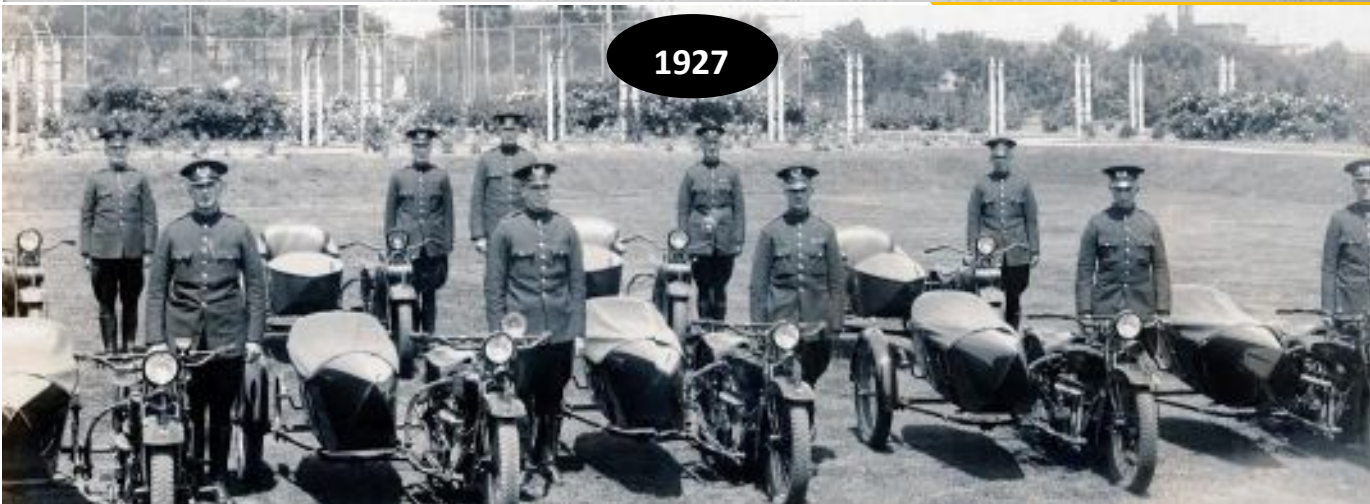


Photo taken at Gage Park, Rose Garden

Left to right: Alfred C. Wilkinson, Dave Green, Irwin Hurst, Harry Allen, Stan Edge, Herbert Withune, Alfred O. Jackson, Peter Maxwell, Charlie Gent, Ernie Barrett

In July 1918 the Hamilton Police Department purchased its first motorcycle and assigned **Officer John Williamson** for that special duty. By 1921 the first Motorcycle Squad was formed and consisted of **Officers Harry Burville, John Williamson, Reginald Pryer, Ernest Edwards and James Bleakley.**

Sadly, **Reg Pryer** crashed into a pole at Sanford Ave. and King St. and was killed answering a “hurry-up” call with Officer McGregor. He was the first motorcycle officer to be killed in the Line of Duty in Canada.

James Bleakley resigned from the Hamilton Police Department to join the TH&B railway police. He served for 23 years retiring in 1963 as chief.



INSPECTOR OF OFFICERS BURVILLE

"Sort of unnerves you to see yourself in a picture taken years ago — this was in 1929. I believe the rank was created to give me promotion. Those were 45 grand years. I enjoyed them all, and I enjoyed working with the men of the Hamilton Police Department. Many have gone, but I remember them with affection."

Harry Burville joined the Hamilton Police Department in 1912 as a Constable. In May 1916 he resigned to enlist with the 205th “Tiger” Battalion and went overseas later to serve with the Twelfth Brigade Machine Gun Company, Fourth Canadian Division. In 1919 he returned and was reinstated. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1926 and to the rank of

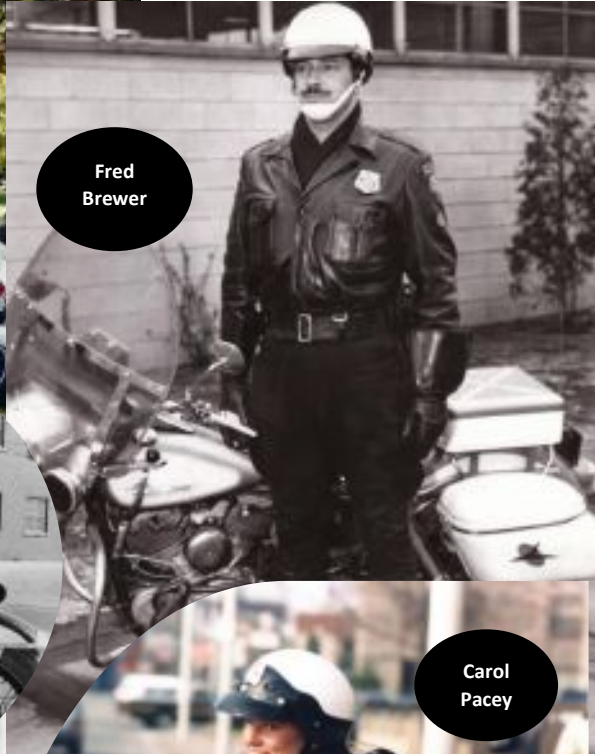
Inspector of Officers in 1939. In 1946 he was made a Deputy Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for Ontario retiring in April 1957. He was a charter member of the Police Association and past president in 1942. He served on numerous boards and was involved with many community groups.

In a September 13, 1924 article published in a Hamilton newspaper by C.B. Corrigan he wrote about the “winged policemen” and “gallant officers”. The ten men on the squad in order of seniority are: **Ernest Edwards, Charlie Gent, John Rolfe, Douglas McGregor, David Green, George McLeod, Ernest Barrett, Fred Raynes, Alfred O. Jackson, and Robert Patton.** Officer Edwards is “in direct command of the flying squadron, subject of course to the orders of Chief Coulter and Deputy Chief Sayer”.

There were six motorcycles in 1924. “Each is equipped with a side-car, so that two officers can be rushed at once to the scene of any crime or trouble. The officers are proud of their machines and regard them almost affectionately. They “groom” them as thoroughly as army dragoons do their horses. That is attested by their shiny appearance in the accompanying photo.” (See the 1924 photograph of the motorcycle squad above.) “The squad is divided into three shifts for morning afternoon and night duty.” Officers work eight hour shifts 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Two officers work the day and afternoon shifts and four work the night shift. During the night shift each officer telephones the station every 20 minutes in case of a complaint or trouble. There were no specific beats; however, night shift officers patrol specific areas of the city. Motorcycle officers can respond faster than the patrolman or patrol wagon, which stops to pick up men, or when the patrol wagon is in the extreme west end.

Six of the ten motorcycle officers in 1924 served in the Canadian or British armies during the Great War. Five officers saw active service and received war decorations as follows: Officers Barrett, Jackson, McLeod, Patton and Raynes. Officer Rolfe enlisted but did not serve overseas.

Today motorcycle patrols are diversified into specific services such as special events and traffic and most recently has been absorbed into the newly formed Traffic Safety Unit.



Fred
Brewer



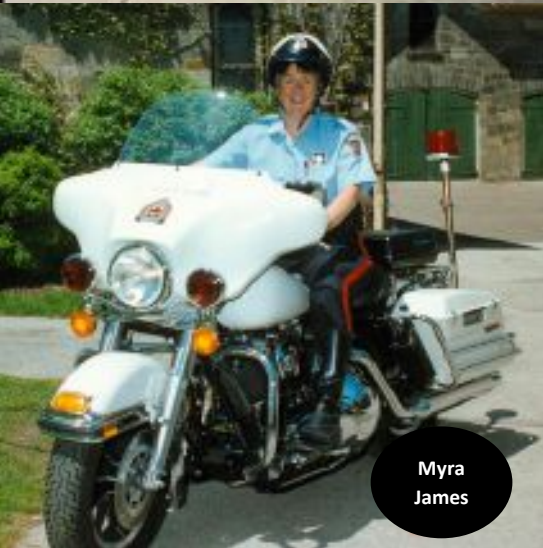
George
Giacinti



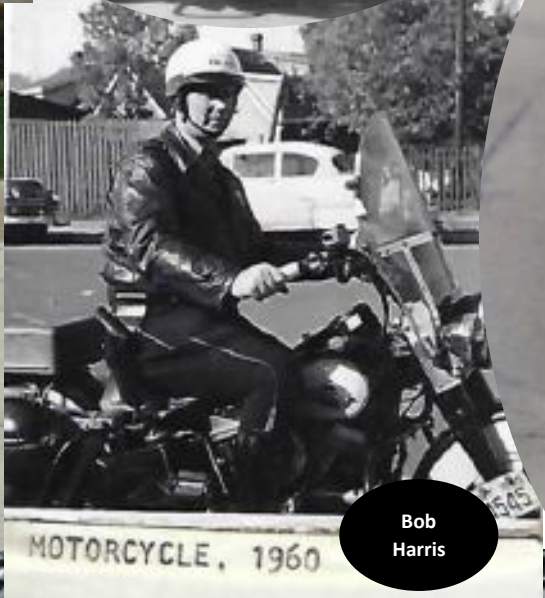
Bernie
Matthews
1957



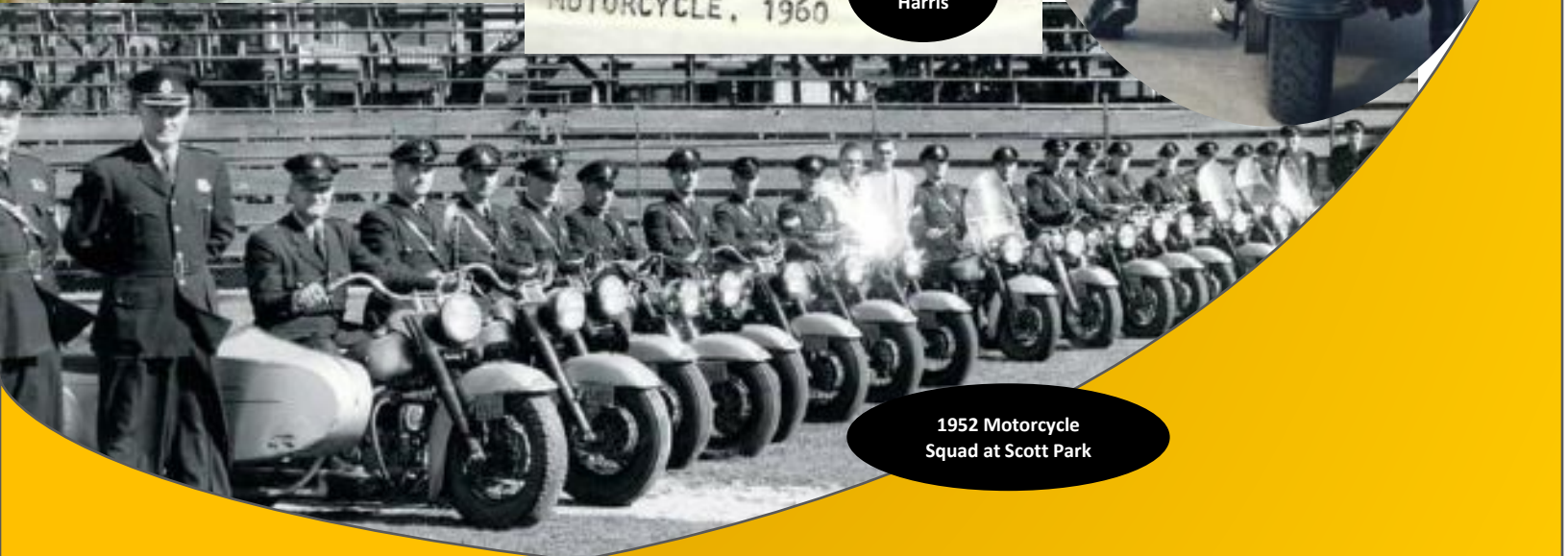
Carol
Pacey



Myra
James



Bob
Harris



1952 Motorcycle
Squad at Scott Park

HAMILTON POLICE ASSOCIATION TURNS 100!

The first official meeting to form the Police Association of Hamilton occurred on July 20, 1921.

By Constable David Kerkhof, President of the HPHS&M

Why a Police Association?

Since the inception of Policing in Hamilton, pay and benefits were negotiated by the Chief Constable as there was no formal bargaining that occurred between the City and any other representation of the members of the Service. Other labour organizations and unions were forming across the country to improve working conditions and pay. One of the most famous Labour Movements in Canada was the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. In fact, at one point the entire Winnipeg Police Force joined the strike and the members were subsequently fired for doing so.

Why was there such a push at that time for labour rights? After WWI, there was a recognition by struggling Canadian workers that employers prospered on the backs of the workers who were unfairly compensated. Adding to that, unemployment was high, and returning soldiers from WWI had difficulty finding employment. Inflation was high making food and housing unaffordable. Immigrants were especially hit hard by these circumstances. (*Canadian Encyclopedia*).



Hamilton also had its fair share of labour issues being the industrious “ambitious” City that it became over the 20th Century. The famous Transit Workers Strike of 1906 was an early example of this.

This push for labour rights also became an issue for members of the Hamilton Police. This especially began to change when soldiers returning from WWI joined the Police Force. The first push to unionize occurred in 1918. They may have been inspired by police in Winnipeg who formed the Winnipeg City Policemen’s Federal Union in July of that year. It was affiliated with the Trades & Labour Congress of Canada as local Charter #40.

A headline on the local paper on September 17, 1918 read, “**Police Want Charter for Union Here**”. About 50 officers (out of about 75), signed and paid

fees towards forming a Police "Union". They had sent a telegram to the Dominion Trades Congress in Quebec City to form the "Hamilton Federated Police Union". (The Trades Congress acknowledged receiving applications from Hamilton and Windsor Police to form unions. This, however, drew the ire of the Hamilton Police Commissioners as well as Police Chief William Whatley. Whatley, after hearing that there had been a meeting to organize a union, stated, *"When I heard of it, I ordered all who were present at the meeting to appear before me in my office. I then informed them that I was aware of what had taken place and advised them that a union organization would not be approved."*

Magistrate Jelfs was quoted as saying that, *"there will soon be legislation passed to make it illegal and an indictable offence for police officers to form a union."* He further added that a *"union of police officers would not be tolerated here,"* and, *"I will never consent to arbitration."*

Representatives from the proposed Union Board requested to meet with the Police Commissioners to explain the benefits of a union but Jelfs refused. Things even got a little nasty when Jelfs called union organizers "Germans" and Irish "Sinn Feiners". Remember the context of this occurring during WWI. Police members later called Jelfs out on this statement and he denied making it.

The paper further discussed that the members of the Police were upset over a lack of raincoats, wanting legal representation for any charges brought against officers, in addition to a salary increase and a request for one day per week off (at that time officers had one day per month off). Chief Whatley had allegedly promised rain gear, but police members did not believe he would be true to his word until the War was over. He was very firm in reminding officers that coats were the property of the City and they would be shared between officers.. His concern was the rising costs of uniforms.. For example, he stated cloth in 1918 was \$8 per yard and was going up to \$12 per yard in 1919.. 'Blue Serge', which is what was used to make uniform tunics cost \$3.50 at the start of WWI and was up to \$12.50 in 1918.

Police officers pushing for a union compared themselves to Police in Toronto and Brantford who were not only paid higher but in Toronto they received

a special "war bonus". "The men say there would have been no need for a police association if they had decent treatment." Apparently because of the meeting of Police Commissioners on September 17, 1918, Hamilton Police Officers were granted one day off per week.

Hamilton Mayor Charles Booker stated, *"I don't think we should ask the policemen to patrol their beats without raincoats, and one day a week off is a most reasonable request."* However, there was still talk of a police strike unless all grievances were addressed. Magistrate Jelfs was quoted as saying, *"I don't think the department would suffer in the least if all these men quit the service."* He later pointed to St John New Brunswick where a similar issue had occurred and the whole police force was dismissed:

Much has been said about the "right" policemen have to organise on trade-union lines. So they have a legal right. But their Superior officers have the legal right also to dismiss them if they disobey orders. So much for the legal right.

Not much was documented about further efforts to unionize that year. The following is an excerpt from the Hamilton Herald newspaper on January 15, 1919:

Hamilton Police Department Budget for 1919

"If the police force is not increased to its full complement of men, the police expenditures for the ensuing year will be even less than last year, when affairs were so economically managed that a balance of \$3300 was left out of an appropriation of \$150,000, that is, unless some unforeseen expenditures arise. "Chief Whatley's estimate of this year's appropriation is approximately \$170,000. This is only \$20,000 more than last year's appropriation, which took care of three unexpected salary increases. Of this estimate \$22,000 is to provide for the increase in the payroll that will naturally follow, if the police force is raised to full strength, as it is expected it will be when the ex-members of the department return from overseas and are taken back on the strength."

"Last year's uniforms cost \$6500, this year the cost will be \$8000, due to the increased price of cloth. Following the installation of a pumper on the steam-heating system, \$840 was saved in coal bills. The

pumper cost only about \$275. It is expected that it will affect a material saving again this year.”

“Simple addition and subtraction shows that Chief Whatley will this year, if his plans work out, operate the department at actually less cost than last year, and at the same time add to instead of impairing its efficiency.”

On February 19, 1919, the Globe and Mail reported that the Toronto Police Union had applied for a Charter and that this move was “supported” by the union advocates of the Hamilton Police. The article further states that a Royal Commission had been appointed to look at the role and ramifications of police forming unions.

Looking again at Winnipeg, the new union’s membership voted overwhelmingly to join striking workers during Winnipeg’s 1919 General Strike. Though they ultimately remained on duty during the strike, their sympathies towards strikers was clearly evident by their lax conduct in maintaining law & order. The fall-out from these actions resulted in mass firings. (WPA History) News of this had no doubt travelled to Hamilton and may have influenced members here. Nonetheless, in November of 1919 Hamilton Police were awarded salary increases as well as improvements to the Benefit Fund for Police Widows.

For whatever the reason, the idea of forming a ‘union’ did not gain any more traction. However, the idea of forming an ‘association’, rather than a ‘union’ came about in 1920. The October 21, 1920 edition of the Hamilton Spectator reported that Police had met and decided and planned to form an Association. The Globe and Mail reported that Police in Hamilton had planned to form an “association” which was to later be affiliated with an association in Toronto. They wanted to meet with City Council regarding salary increases and a change to the benefit fund. Those that were part of this movement were the pioneers who would eventually incorporate into a formal Hamilton Police Association the following year.

The first official meeting to form The Police Association of Hamilton occurred on July 20, 1921. At this meeting the Police Association was formed and duly incorporated. Elections were held and the first President was Sergeant Ernest May, Vice President

William MacLean, and Second Vice President William MacBeath.

In 1945 The Police Association received a Provincial Charter and it was decided that year to combine celebrations of the Charter as well as a 25 year anniversary in recognition of those pioneers from 1920 leading to the establishment in 1921. The celebrations occurred at the Royal Connaught Hotel where Mayor Sam Lawrence had the opportunity to present to his son, Detective Leonard Lawrence (on the right in the photo below), President of the Police Association with the Provincial Charter.



The Association handbook at that time stated that “The purpose of the Police Association is to unite the members of the Police Department fraternally; to provide them with legal assistance, hospital benefits, death benefits and numerous other forms of assistance; to uphold the honour of the police profession and to elevate the standards of the police service. Every member of the Hamilton Police Department is a member of this Association, and also a member of the Police Association of Ontario, the parent Association.”

It should be noted that since that time the Association has not only represented its members in contract negotiations, pushing for benefits and salary as well as defending members who have been charged, but it has been heavily involved in community programs. From donating vehicles to the Canadian Red Cross during WWII, to affording Hamilton citizens the opportunity of enjoying performances of concert artists at the Association Annual Concert for charities, to being involved with the Hamilton Police Minor Athletics Association, assisting in Community charity work and assisting members with benevolence, the

HPA has had a long history of assisting not only its own members, but the Hamilton community at large.



The Association reached another milestone on January 4, 2021, when Detective Constable Jaimi Bannon became the first sworn female officer to lead the Hamilton Police Association. The Association had

previously been led by a woman, Joanne Englehardt, who was a civilian member of the police service.



1942 Police Association Concert

Back row – left to right – Jim MacRae, Sgt. Bill Davidson, Don MacRae, Bill Burgess

Front row – left to right – Bill Croft, Alex Roughead, Edward Roecker (guest artist), Charles Boecker Sr., George Caton

The Police Association of Hamilton

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1943



PRESIDENT C. PRESTON

Immediate Past President

HARRY BURVILLE

President

CLARENCE PRESTON

Vice President

WALTER HAGAN

Secretary

WILLIAM MYERS

Treasurer

WILLIAM DAVEY

Links Committee

A. CURTIS
GEO. CHAPPEL

WALTER HAGAN
Chairman

W. DAVIDSON
A. SPEAKMAN

Entertainment Committee

A. ROUGHEAD
R. STEWART

CHAS. BOECKER
Chairman

E. C. HOWELL
LEN LAWRENCE

Past Presidents

1921 - - ERNEST MAY	1930 - FRED EDDENDSON	1939 - WILLIAM MYERS
1922 - WILLIAM McLEAN	1931 - WILLIAM MADDOCK	1940 - WILLIAM DAVIDSON
1924 - ALEX ROUGHEAD	1932-4 - ALEX ROUGHEAD	1941 - ALBERT SPEAKMAN
1925-8 CHARLES BOECKER	1937 - JAMES CURTIS	1942 - HARRY BURVILLE
1929 - ALEX ROUGHEAD	1938 - WILLIAM DAVEY	

Concert and Year Book

A. ROUGHEAD E. HOWELL L. LAWRENCE WM. F. CROFT

MORE PAST ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1943	Clarence Preston
1944	Walter Hagan
1945 – 1957	Leonard Lawrence
1948	John Arno
1949 – 1954	William Sanderson
1954 – 1961	William Snelling
1962 – 1966	James Cooke
1967 – 1968	George Larson



Police Association picnic Dundas Driving Park

Detective Sergeant Ernie Barrett (1920 – 1955)

100 years ago, Ernie Barrett a member of Hamilton's first motorcycle squad and a member of the Police Association of Hamilton.

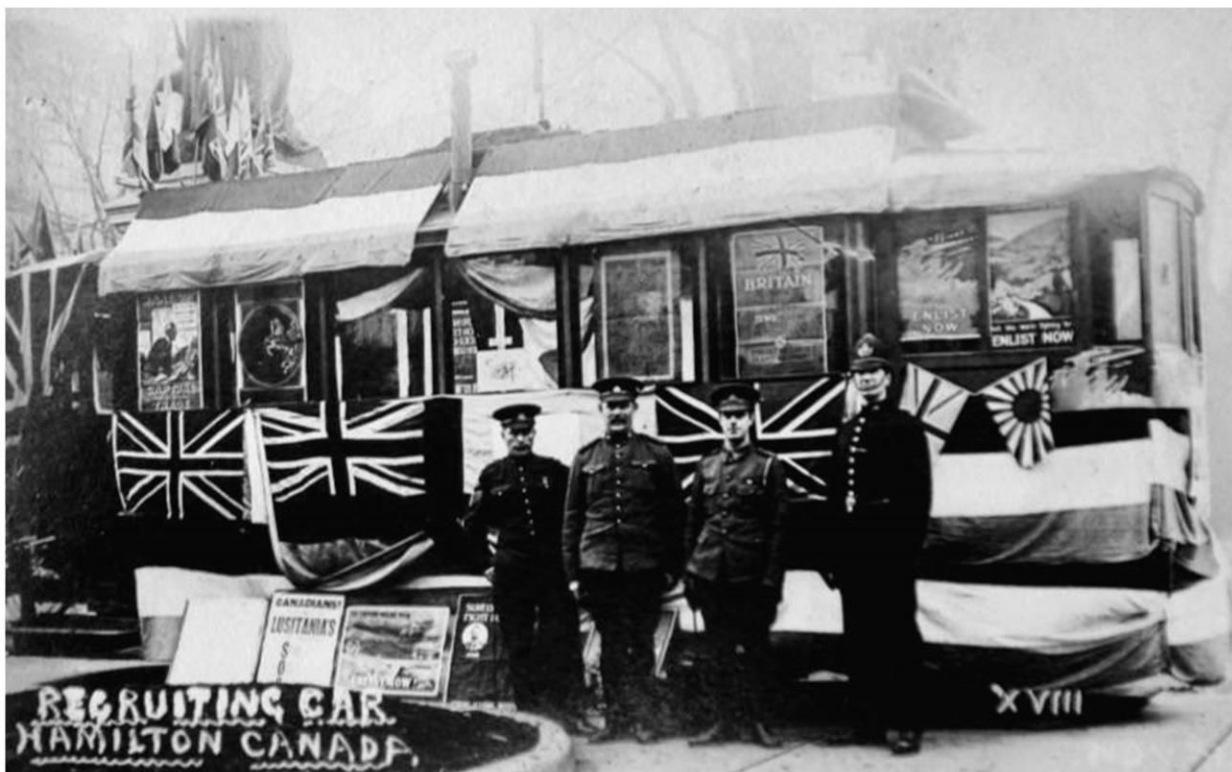
By Lynda Bowen, Retired Superintendent and Dave Bowen, Retired Inspector, Hamilton Police Service

Ernie Walter Edward Barrett was born September 25, 1895 on Emerald Street North in Hamilton to Thomas Barrett and Jane Kirby. He was one of eight children born between 1886 and 1906. His father died in 1910 and his mother remarried.

Ernie was 19 years old at the start of World War 1 and he enlisted in Hamilton. He posed for a "Real Time" postcard at the Recruiting Office on James Street North at some point. In the photo below, Ernie is second from the right. We do not know



Constable Ernie Barrett
1924



the identify of the police officer. At the time of his enlistment, he had been in the Militia with the "13th Regiment" in Hamilton, which later became the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Ernie fought with the Canadian Regiment (also known as the Fourth Battalion or the "Mad 4th") throughout the war. He fought at Ypres and Vimy Ridge. His grandson Albert reported that Ernie suffered gas attacks, a bullet wound in one leg, a bayonet in the other and shrapnel in his back at different times. A shell once landed near him during battle and killed all his friends and buried him alive for eight hours. He finally dug himself out. He only talked about the war with his granddaughter (Lynda Bowen) about the dirt and bugs, the cold and water and 'de-lousing' stations everywhere.

In 1915 Ernie married Bridget Hyland in Kent, England. In 1916 Bridget gave birth to a girl (Florence); however, Bridget died shortly after the birth and Ernie was left with a newborn.

Army records show that Ernie sailed to Canada with the baby Florence, in September 1916. When he arrived in Canada and gave the baby to his mother to raise. Ernie sailed back to England where he was on duty again in November 1916. His turn-around time was about one month in each direction.



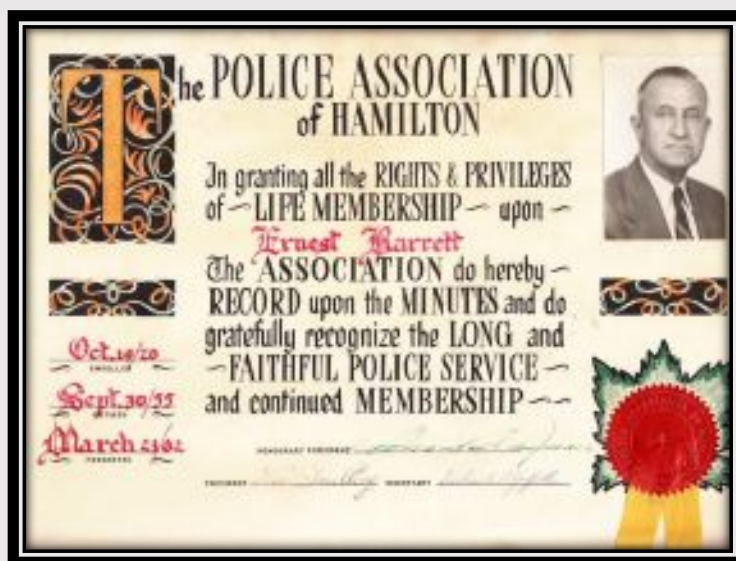
Ernie and Lucy Barrett at 1926 police picnic.



In August 1918 Ernie married Lucy Mannering in Chichester England. After the war ended, Ernie and Lucy came to Hamilton. They had two children; Claude Cyril Ernest Barrett was born in 1920 and Albert Barrett was born in 1921.

Ernie worked at Stelco for a short period and then was hired by the Hamilton Police Service. He was one of the founding members of the Police War Veteran's Association and "Fourth Battalion Association".

For most of the 1920's Ernie drove a police motorcycle. At that time there no police cruisers so officers responded to calls for service on foot or by motorcycle. That did not stop during the winter, they had to keep driving in all conditions which must have been something to see in the snow. They used a sidecar in the winter to help keep themselves upright. In the 1920's Ernie also became a member of the Hamilton Police Association which was founded in 1921.



In the 1930's Ernie became a Detective and then a Detective Sergeant. He was an investigator in many high profile police cases.

In 1944 an arsonist set fire to the Moose Temple on Catherine Street. Ten people died and forty-seven were injured. Twelve children were orphaned and three more lost one parent. Ernie and his partner Sam McGee arrested Arthur Dunsmoor who was sentenced to prison for life.



OFFICERS ESCORT ACCUSED MAN—Detective Sam Magee, left, and Detective-Sergeant Ernest Barrett, right, are seen leaving police headquarters to-day with Douglas Dunsmoor, centre, after he appeared before Magistrate H. A. Burbridge on a charge of murder arising out of the Moose Temple fire tragedy, May 24, when Mrs. May Martin was burned to death and nine others suffered burns and injuries that proved fatal. Dunsmoor was remanded for preliminary hearing of the charges June 16.

In 1946 Ernie met Evelyn McLean Dick when she sat on the corner of his desk to report her husband John Dick missing. Quite by chance Evelyn knew Ernie's son Claude (who was also a police officer) from elementary school. (Evelyn Dick was a murderer in one of Hamilton's famous cases.)

In April 1951, a man was murdered in northern Ontario and his car was stolen and sold in Niagara Falls. Ernie and his partners arrested Lloyd Weiss at the Wentworth Arms Hotel in Hamilton with some of the deceased's property. He was found guilty in October 1951 and hung in January 1952.

In the Nominal Roll for 1951 Ernie was listed as one of three Sergeants of Detectives with Stan Gaylard and J. Wittun. There were also four Detective Sergeants (J. Freeborn, Sam McGee, Clarence Preston and A. Robson) and ten Detectives.

Ernie worked until 1955 when he retired. He then worked at the Wentworth County Sheriff's Office for another ten years and then retired again in 1965. He died in February 1975.

Photos and information courtesy of the Bowen family and the Hamilton Spectator.

Timeline

April 1, 1912

Hamilton Harbour Commission (HHC) comes into existence.

1921

Hamilton Harbour Police is created by the HHC.

1938

Shore Patrol, a branch of the Hamilton Harbour Police, is formed.

1969

Shore Patrol and Hamilton Harbour Police amalgamate as the Harbour Police.

February 1986

Harbour Police is disbanded by the HHC.

1986

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service (HWRP) Marine Unit assumes policing of the Hamilton Harbour.

1996

Halton Regional Police Service partners with the HWRP Marine Unit.

January 1, 2001

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service becomes the Hamilton Police Service. The HHC becomes the Hamilton Port Authority.

2008

Halton Regional Police Service partnership ends when they relocate to Bronte Harbour; however, both Services work



1995

Marine 776

A Century of Marine Policing

By Constable David Kerkhof, President of the HPHS&M and HPS Historian

2021 marks a century of marine policing in the City of Hamilton.

In many ways, Hamilton grew as a city because of its location at the western end of Lake Ontario, first known as the Head-of-the-Lake. In the early years there was no canal for larger vessels to enter Hamilton's harbour. Beginning in 1823, engineers started building the Burlington Bay Canal. Workers dug a channel through a natural sandbar on the eastern end of the harbour. The canal was completed in 1832, one year prior to the incorporation of the Town of Hamilton. The sandbar is now known as the Beach Strip and the trench is known as the Burlington Canal over which now sits the Skyway and Lift Bridges.

As Hamilton Harbour grew to become one of Canada's largest and busiest ports; so did its need for public safety and policing.

Retired Constable Darryl N. Buckle wrote about the history of marine policing in the 1986 Ontario Police Journal (vol 3, number 3):

"A three-hundred-foot-wide trench had finally been dug across a natural sand bar, to join Lake Ontario and Burlington Bay, thus creating a fine new canal which would allow easy access by quite large ships into the Bay for the first time. As a historic side note, Burlington Bay is now designated on all

maps as Hamilton Harbour but was originally called Lake Geneva before becoming Burlington Bay. In 1846 the "bay" became legally a part of Hamilton by an incorporating statute."

The shipping canal allowed for trade and development and economic growth for the new City of Hamilton. The Hamilton Harbour Commission (HHC) came into existence on April 1, 1912, through an Act of Parliament. (HHC was replaced by the Hamilton Port Authority in 2001). The HHC, an administrative organization, was created by the "city fathers" and was empowered to borrow and spend money, acquire, own, sell or lease property and generally attend to the business of what was fast becoming a very busy port.



The first Chief of the Hamilton Harbour Police, the late Howard Sager, is standing in a dinghy used for shallow water work, such as body recovery. Cst. Jack Bye is kneeling in front. Photo circa 1955.

Retired Constable Darryl N. Buckle further wrote:

"In 1921, after two young ladies were drowned while canoeing on the Bay, the Commission created the Hamilton Harbour Police and appointed Howard Sager as the first Chief. More men were hired, a power launch was purchased, and the Harbour Police were in business. The year 1938 saw a subsidiary branch of the Hamilton Harbour Police formed, designated the "Shore Patrol". Jack Bye was the first member, by the way. The two branches of the Harbour Police were combined under a new Chief, Robert (Bob) Malcolmson when he assumed command in 1969. Bob left the service to become the head of the Law and Security

department at Mohawk College two years later and Chief William (Bill) Bailey (photo far left) was appointed in his place; he in turn was replaced by Chief Frank Smith (photo second from left) who remained in command of the Force until February 7, 1986, when the Hamilton Harbour Police ceased to exist.

"The strength of the Harbour Police was 17 members, although at one time there were 25 members during a period of time which may now be regarded as its prime. In September 1977 issue of PORTFOLIO, published by the Hamilton Harbour



Commission, may be found the following description of the Force; "The HHC Police Force has total responsibility for Harbour security, both winter and summer. The 23 men and 2 officers are also responsible for life saving, pleasure craft licensing, water safety, patrol duty, radio communications and dozens of other duties on a year-round basis. The budget for equipment, training costs and payroll will be priced in excess of \$500,000 for the current year. It is interesting to note that the entire police budget is provided by the HHC."



**Hamilton No. 5 Patrol Boat
1970 Port Authority Photograph**



The HHC Police once had five patrol boats patrolling the Harbour. Now only three former HHC police boats remain:

No. 5 is in private hands in Hamilton. No. 4 is in Minnesota. No. 2 sits in storage at the Harbour Authority. Restoring No. 2 was the focus of an article in the Hamilton Spectator in March 2012. No. 3 was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954.



HHC Police patrolled the waters at the height of the prohibition days when "rum-runners" used high-powered boats to move liquor across Lake Ontario for the likes of Ben Kerr and Rocco Perri. Harbour Police were sworn as Special Constables and didn't carry firearms. Initially they were trained in-house but began attending the Ontario Police college in 1962.

The two units that were amalgamated in 1969 as the Harbour Police and remained that way until February 22, 1986, when the Hamilton

Harbour Commission disbanded the Harbour Police. Economic constraints for the HHC were such that it could no longer support a budget for its own police force. Thus, the responsibility for policing the Hamilton Harbour became the responsibility of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service. The policing responsibility now included not only the Hamilton Harbour, but also Cootes Paradise and those parts of the cities of Hamilton and Stoney Creek which extend into Lake Ontario. As commercial trade, vessel traffic, smuggling, and particularly leisure water activity increased, so did a greater need for police presence in and around the bodies of waters in our region, including those found in conservation areas.

The boundaries of responsibility temporarily increased in 1996 when the Halton Regional Police partnered with our Marine Unit to provide a more complete service. It operated with four full-time members and a varying number of seasonally posted officers.

On January 1, 2001, the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police and its former Municipalities merged to become the Hamilton Police Service.



2000 Halton and Hamilton Police Marine Officers
Back row: Cam Rumpel, Andy Olsen (Halton), Mike Worster, Scott Olfeld (Halton)
Front row: Bob Lester, Rich Solecki (Halton), Leslie Lee, Shawn Kubas

In April 2008, the Halton detachment of the Marine Unit moved from Hamilton's base of operation located in Hamilton Harbour, to their new home at Bronte Harbour. With the move, the Hamilton and Halton Marine Unit partnership ended but the Units continue to work together to provide improved coverage of the waters along the shores of Hamilton, Burlington, and Oakville.

The Unit gained fame in April 2011 when they rescued a group of high school rowers who were caught in a freak storm. The members received the Canadian Safe Boating Counsel "Rescue of the Year" award, the first time this award was given to a professional organization.

In August 2019, the Marine Unit moved to a temporary facility located at 110 Harbour Front Drive as the City was developing the Harbour Front where the old facility existed. The old building was torn down the following year.

Currently, the Marine Unit operates with four full-time police officers and six "spare" officers for vacation





coverage and emergencies. The Marine Unit actively patrols from mid-April until mid-November. In the off-season they perform ice rescue and traffic enforcement. In 2016, the Marine Unit joined the other Units of Support Services Division by adding a Unit Patch to their uniforms.

At present, the Marine Unit operates two patrol boats used for regular patrol as well as for search and rescue operations. They are also utilized during emergencies as well as safety checks of local recreational boats. In 2016 the Hamilton Police Service purchased a 28-foot Zodiac Pro 870 RHIB ([rigid-hulled inflatable boat](#)).

It is equipped with twin Mercury Verado motors. In 2019, the Marine Unit also acquired a 12-meter (39') Metalcraft Marine Interceptor. An ARGO amphibious vehicle is used to patrol the sandy shore as well as to patrol and perform rescues on ice.

The Marine Unit is an example of how diverse policing operations have become with the large influx of non-



ARGO amphibious

commercial boats and the challenges of effectively patrolling large areas.

Marine Unit operations will locate to a new state of the art facility being constructed on Harbourfront Drive. There it will serve the needs of the City, it's Harbour and Head-of-the-Lake, while ensuring continuous enforcement, search and rescue operations, and marine safety education for the public.



<http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/2930255-marine-unit-on-patrol/>
<http://www.thespec.com/news-story/2238477-long-retired-police-boat-shines-again/>
<https://militarybruce.com/cops-on-the-water-the-hamilton-harbour-police/>

Houghton, Margaret, 2008, First Here, What happened when in Hamilton
 Photos and information courtesy of the Hamilton Harbour Commission
 and Hamilton Port Authority and The Hamilton Spectator.

HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE MEMBERS PASSINGS 2021



George Bartkus
Steve Binch
Patti Duckworth
Ken Gerrard
Brian Howe
John MacLeod
Brian Mullan
Deborah Robertson
Mike Ryan
Marv Sagar
Mike Thomas
John Winn





In Remembrance of Chief of Police Brian John Mullan

Brian Mullan served as the sixth Chief of Police of the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police Service, created by amalgamating Hamilton and suburban forces in 1974.

He grew up on the east Mountain and was the son of Scottish immigrants, Jack and Florence Mullan. His father worked at Stelco and his mother worked at the Royal Bank. He graduated from Barton Secondary School and took business administration at Mohawk College. Later, he took administration courses at McMaster University and the

University of Toronto.

Brian spent 35 years (1974 - 2009), as a proud Hamilton Police Officer. He worked as a Uniformed Officer, in the Youth office, Fraud office, Court Services and Human Resources. He was promoted through the ranks to Staff Sergeant, Inspector, to Superintendent of the Mountain Station in 1998 and then to Deputy Chief in 2001; ultimately rising to Chief of Police in 2003, where he served for 6 years, retiring in 2009.

His legacy includes increasing the number of officers in the downtown, boosting the hiring of visible minorities and creating the four-horse Mounted police unit. He oversaw operations for the 1996 Grey Cup and Days of Action protest and pioneered the use of new civil forfeiture laws in shutting down the notorious Sandbar crack hotel.

He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1994, received the Ontario Police Exemplary Service Medal in 1995 and was appointed to the Order of Merit for Police Forces in 2007.

After his retirement from policing, he served on the Parole Board of Canada and the provincial Judicial Approval Advisory Committee. He was a member of many organizations and board of directors including, FBI National Academy of Associations, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and Hamilton Health Sciences.

Brian passed away on July 19, 2021, at 67 years of age after a brave and courageous battle with cancer. Brian is survived by his wife Loretta, daughters Ashley and Stephanie, two grandchildren and his brother, Wayne.





**HAMILTON POLICE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM INC.**

Mailing Address:
155 King William Street
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7

hpshistorian@gmail.com

Membership Application Form

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name			
Address		City	Province
			Postal Code
Phone		Email Address	
If an Organization, please include representative's contact information			

2. SELECT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- ☐ **Active Membership \$20.00** Individuals who support the purposes of the museum and who are: (please check applicable box below)
- ☐ presently serving member of the Hamilton Police Service;
 - ☐ retired member of the Hamilton Police Service;
 - ☐ retired member of a department which amalgamated to become the Hamilton Police Service; or
 - ☐ an employee of the Hamilton Police Association
- Active members are Voting members.
- ☐ **Associate Membership \$20.00** Individuals who support the purposes of the museum. Associate members are Non-voting members.
All memberships are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

3. ADDITIONAL DONATION

I would like to make a donation ☐ In Honour or ☐ In Memory of \$			
Name			
A NOTE ACKNOWLEDGING THIS DONATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:			
Name		Email Address	
Address		City	Province
			Postal Code

4. PAYMENT INFORMATION

- ☐ Interac e-Transfer payable to: hamphsm@gmail.com (Q. Where is the museum located? A. Ancaster)
- ☐ Cheque/Money Order payable to Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum Inc.
Please return the completed application with payment to: 155 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A7
- ☐ Cash (accepted in person only – do not mail cash)

5. COMMUNICATION PREFERENCE

Please send Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum correspondence, notices, publications, etc.:

- ☐ By regular mail to the address shown under Contact Info ☐ By email to the address shown under Contact Info
- ☐ By internal Hamilton Police Service mail to: ☐ Please DO NOT send any communication

6. PRIVACY POLICY

- ☐ I agree to receive Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum correspondence, in all formats including email, to stay informed on museum related developments.

Privacy Policy: The information you provide to the Society allows us to inform you about events and activities, and to notify you of issues, events or special offers which may be of interest to you. The Society does not trade or exchange mailing lists and does not provide private information to any other individual or corporation without permission. Please contact the Society for further information.

7. VOLUNTEER

I am interested in contributing to the museum by volunteering to:

- ☐ Prepare displays and exhibits ☐ Museum tours and exhibits ☐ Tuck shop functions

OFFICE USE ONLY			
Membership Payment Record		Donation Payment Record	
☐ e-Transfer \$		☐ e-Transfer \$	
☐ Cheque \$	(Cheque Number)	☐ Cheque \$	(Cheque Number)
☐ Cash \$		☐ Cash \$	
Payment Processed by:			Date
Membership Approved by:		For Year	Date
Entered Member/Supporter Database by:			Date

GET INVOLVED

Please consider volunteering your time and/or expertise to help support the protection and promotion of Hamilton's local police history.

Please contact the HPS Historian, David Kerkhof if you would like to become involved.

hpshistorian@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH US



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HOURS OF OPERATION

Fridays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

SUPPORT US

As a not-for-profit organization we rely on the generosity of people like you. Please join our Membership or consider a donation to the Society to support our work. Our Membership form can be found on page 35.

We also rely on the generosity of active, former and retired members and their families who donate artifacts and photos. We gratefully accept these items and incorporate them into our archives and/or exhibits. Please keep the Museum in mind if you have old photographs, digital images, or other articles of police memorabilia you would like to share with us or donate to the Museum.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum Inc. is an affiliate member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association, Ontario Historical Society and Ontario Museum Association.

With Thanks

Thank you to the following for their support:

- Hamilton Police Service
- Hamilton Police Services Board
- Hamilton Police Association
- Hamilton Police Retirees Association

Thank you to our Volunteers and Members.

Thank you to our Donors.

Thank you to Pat Howard for sharing her time and expertise.

A special thank you to Dave and Lynda Bowen for their generous contributions.

