

# Winnipeg Police Museum & Historical Society Inc.

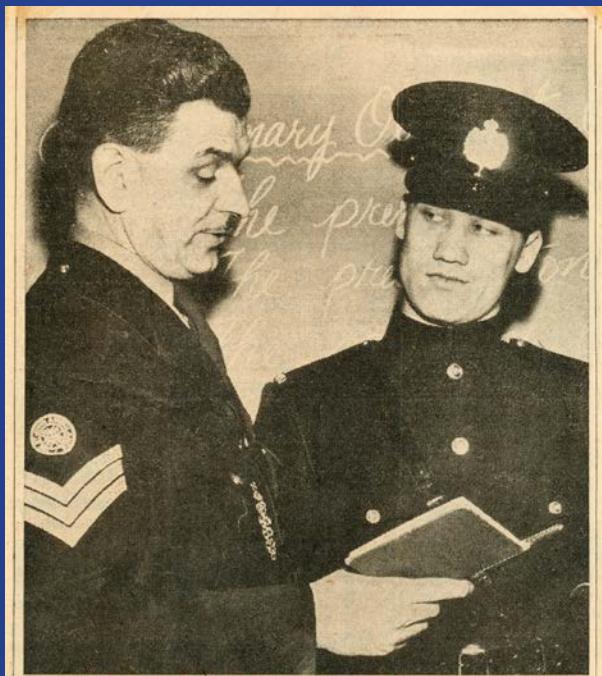
## 2015 Annual Report

**Superintendent  
Charles TULLY**



The Winnipeg Police Museum gratefully receives pictures, articles and historical information from anyone who wishes to provide these types of items as either a donation or a temporary loan for reproduction. In particular, the Museum would like to acknowledge and thank former Superintendent Charles TULLY (retired) for the loan of his scrapbook detailing his illustrious career with the Winnipeg Police Department. The pictures and newspaper articles contained within were carefully scanned and preserved in digital archives held on the Museum Servers. These provide a wealth of historical information for future generations to draw upon.

(The front and back covers of this 2015 Annual Report also feature pictures from this collection)



Instructor Charles Tully and Rookie Alexander Mortimer

## Chief's Advice to His Rookies — Be Impartial as the Rain

By JIM SHILLIDAY  
Tribune Staff Writer

Are rookie policemen handed a pair of handcuffs, a sheaf of parking tickets and ordered to "go out and do your duty"?

Not in Winnipeg. At least not until they have a good idea what their duty is. Chief Constable Robert Taft says his men are never

given a chance to forget their duty — to act as public servants.

A citizen's complaint of unjust police action receives immediate attention and, if justified, is acted upon, says the chief.

### A Pep Talk

Before acceptance, a police recruit has his public responsibility laid down by the police superintendent and deputy chief. Then he gets

a special 15-minute pep talk from the chief.

He maintains he never varies his lecture. If the advice is given and followed, Winnipeggers shouldn't fear they're being pushed around.

What does the chief say? Put yourself in the shoes of 24-year-old Alexander C. Mortimer of Stirling, Scotland, when he marched before the chief this week.

Mortimer, former Scots Guards Regiment soldier and city abattoir worker for the last three years, began training as a probationary constable today.



The policeman you know: Const. Charles Tully stretches to check an unlocked transom on his beat.

WINNIPEG, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1954



Const. C. Tully demonstrates how to operate the newly installed traffic signal light at the corner of Haskins Avenue and Oak Street. The light, which will be operated by patrol boys from River Heights school, will be on only during the time children leave and arrive at school. Shown here are (left to right) Jim Johnston, of 631 Cambridge Street, a patrol boy; C. S. Gow, principal of River Heights school; Const. Tully and Lorne Howden, of 1164 Dorchester Avenue, a patrol boy.



# THE WINNIPEG POLICE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • JANUARY 20, 2016

## *BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2015*

The Board of Directors is pleased to report to the membership that the 2015 operating year predominantly involved the successful transition of the Museum from the Police Training Academy at 130 Allard Avenue, to the Winnipeg Police Headquarters Building at 245 Smith Street. There were no tours in 2015, as the museum itself was closed while the artifacts, displays, records, etc. remained packed up pending the move to the new location. This move was somewhat delayed as we awaited completion of the Headquarters Building. Other museum activities still continued throughout the year even though the museum itself was closed.

On August 17th, 2015 Curator Jack Templeman, along with volunteer working parties, started moving museum artifacts to The Headquarters Building which continued over the next 4 months. Some of the items went into the museum location itself, while others were placed into a large storage area on another floor in the building. The Curator along with other volunteers continued to work on the setup of displays in the museum itself. The completion of this task will continue until the official opening of the headquarters buildings in the summer of 2016.

The Board of Directors would like to thank our volunteers for their many dedicated hours of work on the museum's behalf. This entailed a lot of commitment, and of particular note we wish to recognize the following persons who came out as many as five to eight times lending assistance on this task: Rick Enns, Lyn Giles, Eric Hrycyk, Ken Jensen, Alex Katz, Lawrence Klippenstein, Mike McDonald, Tammy Skrabek, Earl Skundberg, Morris Strembicki, Ernie Tomchuk, George Walker and Randy James (Board Director).

There were many volunteers who only came out a couple of times to assist. However the Board would also like to thank them as well: Des Depourcq, Chris Lundgren, Garth Mccombe (Board Director), Dave Rees, Gary Walker, Don Wardrop, Craig Waterman, Bruce Ormiston and John Burchill (Board Directors). All of these volunteers helped ensure a very successful move.

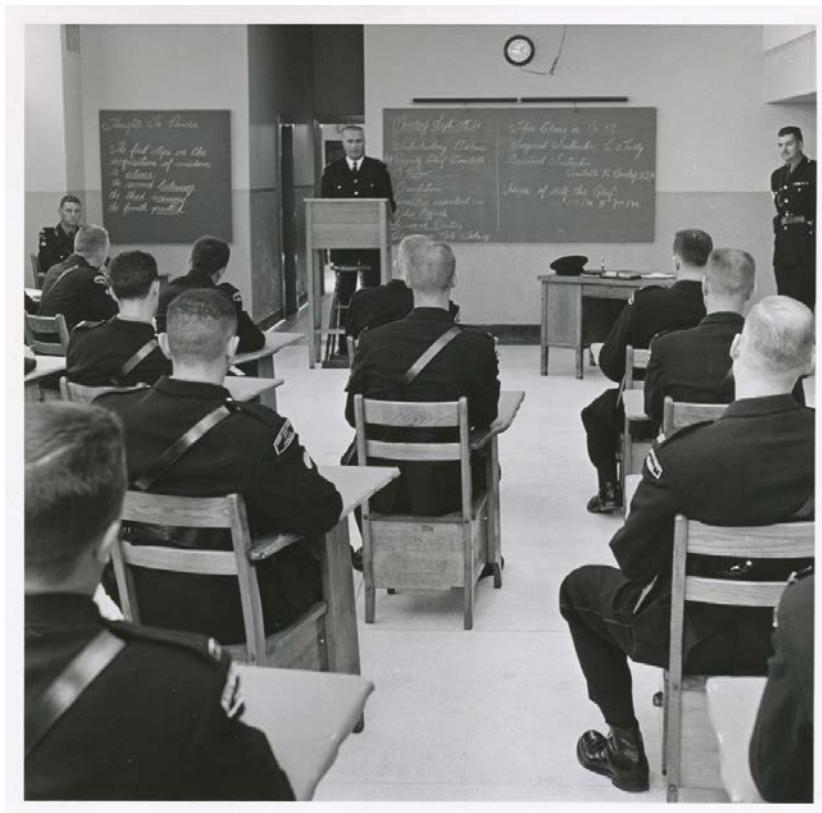
The Board of Directors held six meetings during the year being: Feb. 25th, Apr.22nd, June 23rd, Sept. 16th, Nov. 17th, and Dec. 13th.

**The museum operates in accordance with its mandate which is:**

- a) To discover and collect any material related to the local police services,
- b) To promote the research and recording of the history of the local police services,
- c) To provide for the preservation of material collected and to ensure its accessibility to those who wish to examine or study it,
- d) To promote the rebuilding and refurbishing of police equipment and apparatus,
- e) To promote and encourage public interest in police history.

A monthly report on museum activities is submitted to the Board President, and to the Superintendent, Support Services by the Museum Curator, Jack Templeman. The Board is very pleased with Jack Templeman's services and look forward to his continued involvement with the museum. The Assistant Curator, Bruce Honey, has certainly proved to be a significant asset to the operation of the museum and the Board is pleased with his involvement as well.

The Board wishes to thank the Winnipeg Police Service Executive for their co-operation and assistance during the year, as well as our two major funding organizations – The Winnipeg Police Association and the Winnipeg Police Credit Union. These groups, along with many other individuals and organizations who contribute to the museum, directly ensure our continued success. Their efforts and generosity are very much appreciated.



**Recruit class of 1961 (Charles Tully Scrapbook)**

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

**March 11th** - Curator Templeman attended the Winnipeg Police Service Volunteer Appreciation Night hosted at Canad Inns in Polo Park, where two museum volunteers were honoured for their work on restoring the Hoverhawk Hovercraft and the Police Bomb Truck. Retired Constable (and former Museum Board Director) Rick Enns, and Volunteer Derk Derin, were recognized with Certifications of Appreciation presented by Chief of Police Devon Clunis. Both Rick and Derk had worked well over a thousand hours each on the projects, which are now completed and ready for display to the public.

**April 24th** - the 1978 and 1987 Cruiser Cars, as well as the Bomb Truck were on display at the Awards Day Service. This was the first public showing of the bomb truck and was very well received.

**August 17th** - was the starting point for volunteer work parties to begin moving artifacts from the Police Training Academy to the new Winnipeg Police Headquarters museum and storage areas. The steel jail cell was the first large item to go and be set up in position.

**September 13th** - the 1978 and 1987 Cruiser Cars along with the Bomb Truck and Bomb Robot were displayed at a Car Show at West Kildonan Shopping Centre which is the biggest show of its kind in the city. All exhibits were well received, especially the working bomb robot.

**September 27th** - the museum supplied and manned the display at the Annual Police and Peace Officer Memorial Service at the Legislative Building.

**On November 25th** - Chief of Police Devon Clunis accompanied by Vice President John Burchill, conducted his first brief tour of the museum.

**November 28th** - the 1978 and 1987 Cruiser Cars along with the Bomb Truck took part in the Grey Cup/Santa Claus Parade together with 7 Volunteers walking in Buffalo Coats & Frieze Coats. Director Bruce Ormiston rode in the 1987 Cruiser Car as the Acting Chief of Police.

**December 1st and 8th** - there were Family Night tours of the new Winnipeg Police Headquarters including the Museum. It was estimated that over 700 people toured each evening. In addition there was a media tour and a number of unscheduled small group tours conducted by museum staff or officers working in the new building. All comments have been very good.

# Significant Museum Activities

January to June 2015



**January 21st**

The Annual General Meeting of the Museum was held at the Winnipeg Police Training Academy.

**March 11th**

Derk Derin and Rick Enns receiving their awards during the Winnipeg Police Service Volunteer Appreciation Night



**JANUARY**

**On January 24th**

The Police Bomb Truck was freshly painted and a few minor finishing things are to be done inside the box but it is registered and will be taken out for ceremonies later in the year.



**FEBRUARY**

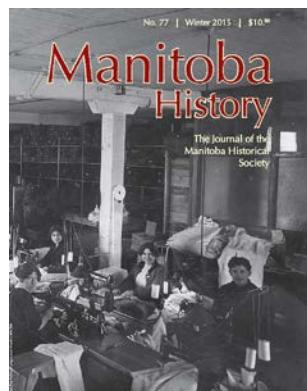
**February 1st**

Curator Templeman gave lectures on the History of the Winnipeg Police Service to Recruit Class 158 and Lateral Recruit Class 158.

**February 25th**

A regular meeting of the Museum Board of Directors was held.

**MARCH**



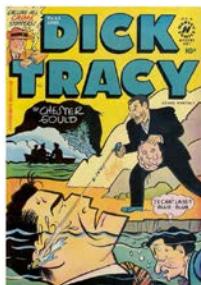
VP Burchill publishes research paper on Comic Crimes in Manitoba History Journal



Mayor Bowman takes the wheel of the restored Bomb truck on display outside the Immanuel Pentecostal Church for the WPS Awards Day ceremonies.

April 24th  
WPS Awards Day

April 2nd  
Vice President John Burchill presented a history lecture for the Manitoba Historical Society at the Asper Jewish Community Campus.



## APRIL

April 22nd

A regular meeting of the Museum Board of Directors was held.



April 25th

The Reo Patrol Wagon was displayed at the Winnipeg Police Association Charity Ball.



May 2nd

The Museum took part in a Police Patch Collectors Show that was held at the Training Academy.

May 29th

The Museum office suffered its 4th "minor flooding" by water from an air conditioner on the second floor of the Academy. Most damage was to papers on the desk and cabinet but nothing of importance was lost.

## MAY



April 29th

Curator Templeman presented a history lecture of the Winnipeg Police Service to East St. Paul Lion's Club.



Inspector Gord Friesen in period uniform and Director, Patrol Sergeant Rich McDougall as the piper.



June 19th

The Museum loaned out an old bicycle and uniform for Take your Bike to Work Day.

## JUNE

June 24th

Officers from Community Relations displayed the 1978 and 1987 Cruiser Cars at the Fred Douglas Lodge for the Senior's BBQ and Car Show.

June 29th

Curator Templeman, Assistant Curator Honey, and Volunteer Derk Derin took the 1978 and 1987 Cruiser Cars and the Bomb Truck for display at the Crime Stoppers Charity Golf Tournament at the Rossmere Country Club.



# Significant Museum Activities

*July to December 2015*

**July 31st**

The Police Museum was authorized to start moving artifacts into the new museum space at the Winnipeg Police Headquarters Building, 245 Smith Street.

Packed exhibits waiting to be moved.



**July 3rd**

Curator Templeman presented a lecture on history of the Winnipeg Police Service to Auxiliary Cadet Class #9.

**August 21st**

Community Relations Officers took the 1978 Cruiser Car to an event at the Winnipeg Speedway.



**September 27th**

MACP Slain Officers Memorial



**JULY**

**AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER**



**September 13th**  
West Kildonan Shopping Centre Car Show



**September 16th**

For the first time, a regular meeting of the Museum Board of Directors was held at the new Police Headquarters Building with a tour conducted afterwards.

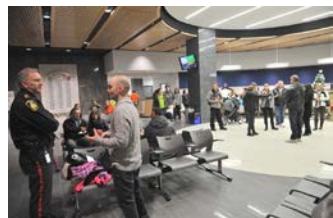


### On October 1st

Vice President John Burchill and Director Bruce Ormiston attended the Association of Manitoba Museums Conference & Opening Reception at Dalnavert Museum.



### December 1st and 8th Family Night



## OCTOBER

## NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

### November 17th

A regular meeting of the Museum Board of Directors was held at the West District Station.



### November 20th

Curator Templeman and Directors John Burchill and Bruce Ormiston gave a tour of the museum to representatives from several Manitoba Museums.

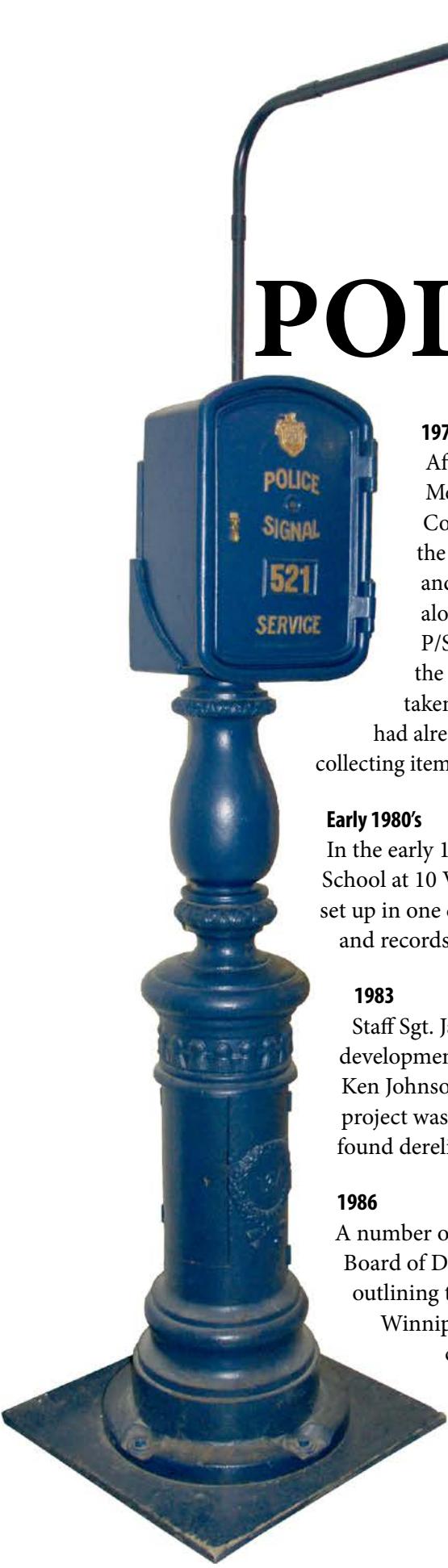


### November 28th Santa Claus Parade



### December 9th

A meeting of the Museum Board of Directors was held at the new Police Headquarters Building.



# HISTORY OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE MUSEUM

## 1974

After the amalgamation of all the smaller Municipal Police Departments in the Metropolitan area of Winnipeg, 2 Officers were officially appointed as a "Historical Committee" whose purpose was to gather and save artifacts and records from all the previous Forces. The intent was someday a Police Museum would be established, and many things were at risk of being lost as the amalgamation process moved along. Cst. Burt Hutchison was appointed representing the Winnipeg Police, and P/Sgt. Jack Templeman (formerly St. Boniface Police) was appointed representing the numerous suburban Departments. As the actual amalgamations had already taken place when the process started in 1972, much of the old records and equipment had already been disposed of or destroyed. Undaunted, the two members began collecting items and storing them at various stations as acquired space would allow.

## Early 1980's

In the early 1980's the Winnipeg Police Training Academy was located in the Van Belleghen School at 10 Vermillion Road. The beginnings of a Museum started here when displays were set up in one classroom while a second room was allocated for storage of collected items and records.

## 1983

Staff Sgt. Jack Templeman approached Deputy Chief Stan Scarr about the proper development of a Winnipeg Police Museum. The proposal was brought forward to Chief Ken Johnson who granted approval for the endeavor. The Museum's first restoration project was a 1925 REO Speed Wagon (former Winnipeg Police patrol wagon) that was found derelict in a farmer's field.

## 1986

A number of interested Police Officers gathered to form a properly constituted Museum Board of Directors. The organization was formed and a set of Bylaws were drafted outlining the mandate and how business would be conducted. On May 2, 1986, the Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society Inc. was officially registered and certified by the Province of Manitoba under the Corporations Act. The creation of Logos followed shortly afterwards with an officer wearing a buffalo coat by a call box being the design of choice.

## 1988

The Museum followed the Winnipeg Police Training Academy when it moved into the former Allard Elementary School at 130 Allard Avenue. Here the Museum received 2 adjoined classrooms for displays and removed the common wall to make one large area. A window was also removed, and the opening enlarged for the installations of 2 exterior doors to accommodate the Paddy Wagon. When another classroom was demolished to make a parking lot entrance, the remaining space not needed for the passageway was allocated to the Museum for use as a storeroom. While setting up the expanded Museum, 7 glass display cases were acquired from a local jewelry store that was closing.

## 1994

With the approval and support of Chief Dale Henry, the Museum was authorized to appoint a Curator to improve Museum Services and provide monthly reports on Museum affairs and activities. Staff Sergeant Jack Templeman assumed this role after he retired from the Winnipeg Police Department.

## 2006

Due to an ever increasing workload, the Winnipeg Police Executive agreed to the creation of an Assistant Curator position. Retired Sergeant Bruce Honey was appointed to assume this role. By this time, the Museum had expanded past the classrooms and had displays set up in most of the hallways throughout the academy.

## 2009

After the Canada Post Building at 245 Smith Street was acquired as a future Headquarters for the Winnipeg Police Service, planning commenced for a new Museum to be set up within the premises. The Museum submitted floor space requirements based on current displays set up at the Allard Academy, and a ground floor location was requested to accommodate the movement of restored vehicles. The Police Executive chose the front lobby area in the HQ Building tower as it was readily accessible to the public, yet separate and apart from the secure working areas. A professional Museum architect came in to review the Allard galleries, and designed plans for the new location based on layouts created by the Police Museum Board of Directors and Curators. These included custom display cases and commercial lighting. The Museum was allocated additional space in the front lobby for a glassed-in viewing area, and an expansion was built on the west side of the main area to provide more floor space for vehicles. A front office was also added later on during construction.

## 2015

After experiencing a number of construction delays, the Winnipeg Police Service took possession of the Headquarters Building. The Museum received authorization to start moving artifacts which started in August. The new Museum is expected to be set up and open sometime in early 2016.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY –  
Corporation No. – 72990

THE CORPORATIONS ACT  
CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THESE ARTICLES  
ARE EFFECTIVE ON  
MAY 2 1988

*Malcolm Khan*  
Director, Corporations Branch

THE CORPORATIONS ACT  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
(without share capital)

1 – Name of Corporation  
THE WINNIPEG POLICE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

2 – The address in full of the registered office (include postal code)  
10 Vermillion Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2J 2T1

3 – Number or minimum and maximum number of directors  
Minimum of Three and Maximum of Ten

4 – First director  
Name in full  
John THOMAS  
Albert Clarence ANGELTE  
Calvin Murray BUCHER  
Arthur William LORSON  
Lawrence MCKEEAN  
Stanley Roland SCARB  
Richard Beverly SCOTT  
George Robert TAYLOR  
Larry James WOOD

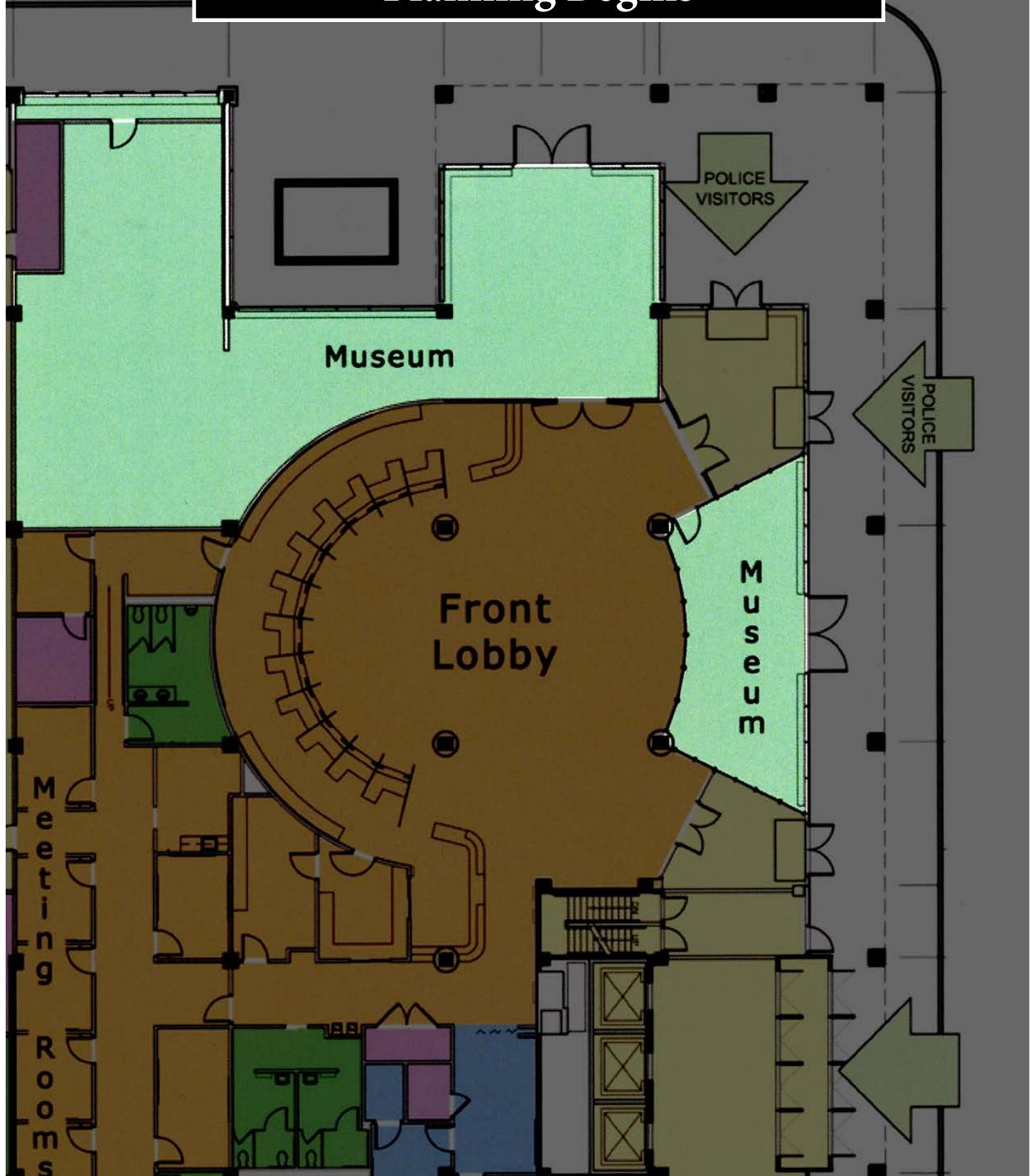
Address in full (include postal code)

5 – The undertaking of the corporation is restricted to the following  
To discover and collect any material related  
to the local police service, to provide for the preservation of such material and for its  
accessibility to the public; to study it; to publish the results of the research; to encourage  
the study of the early history of the local police services; to promote the rebuilding and the  
refurbishing of police equipment and apparatus and to promote and encourage public interest  
in police history.

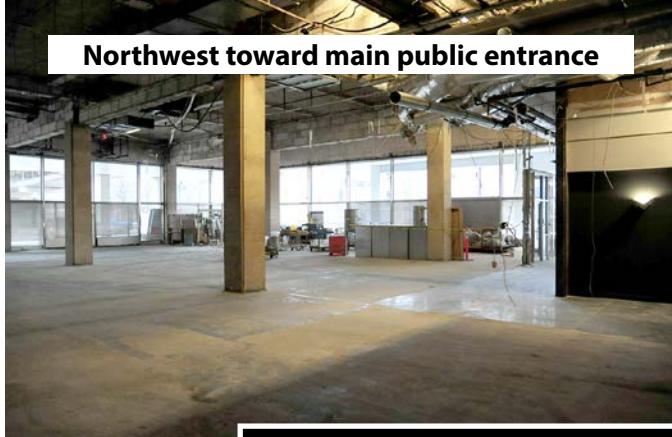
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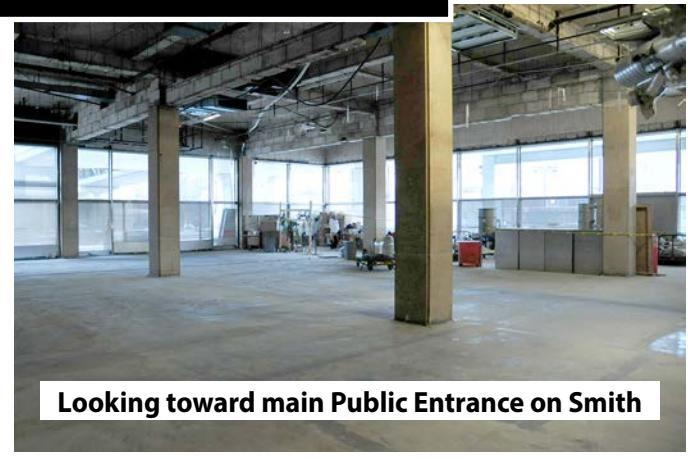
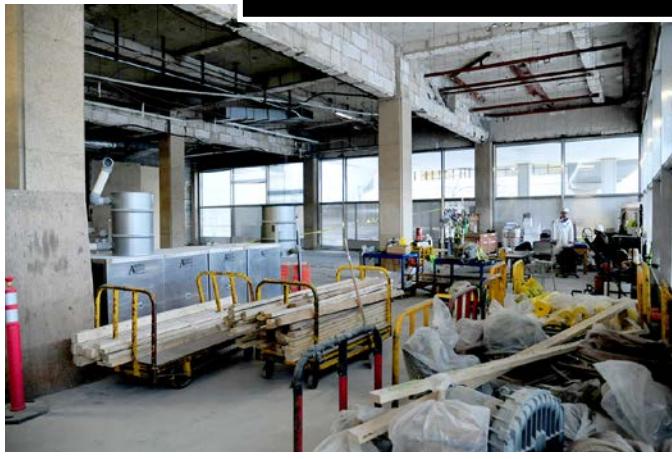
## Planning Begins

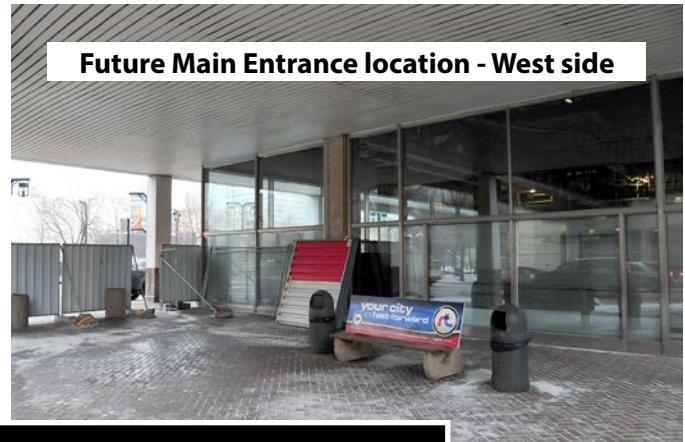


# Building a Musem

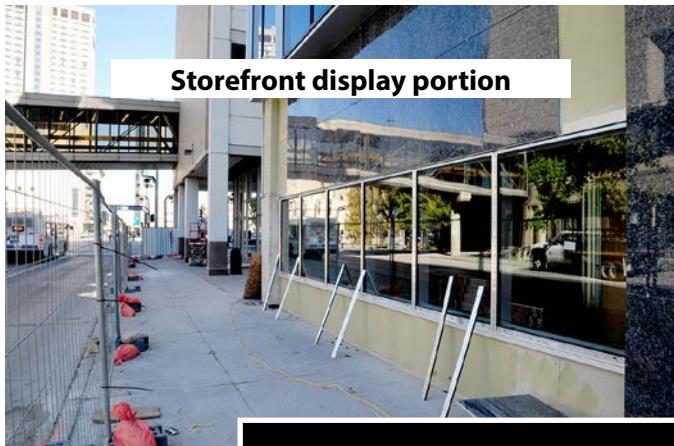


## After the Demolition





## Building the Expansion

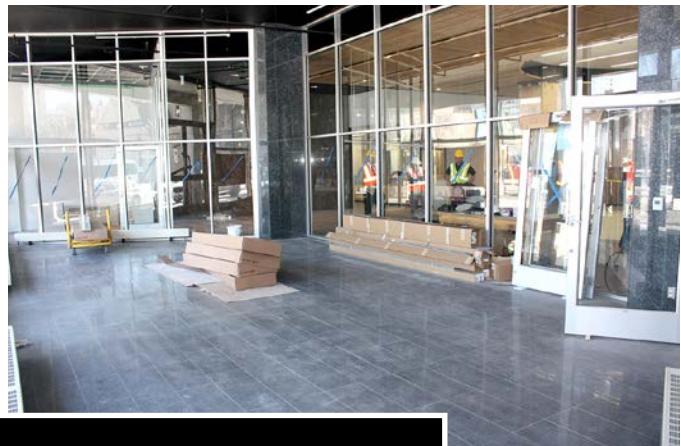
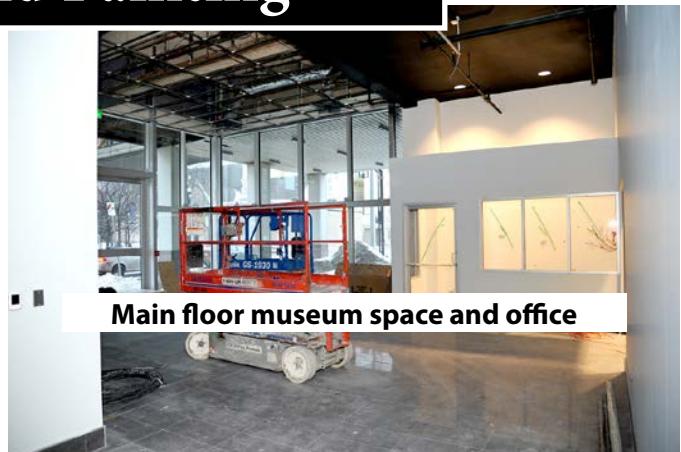


## Framing

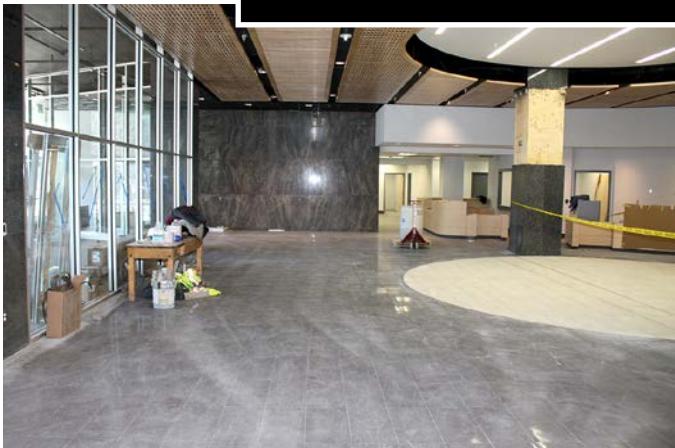




## Drywalling and Painting



## Flooring





## New Museum Cases



## The Move Begins

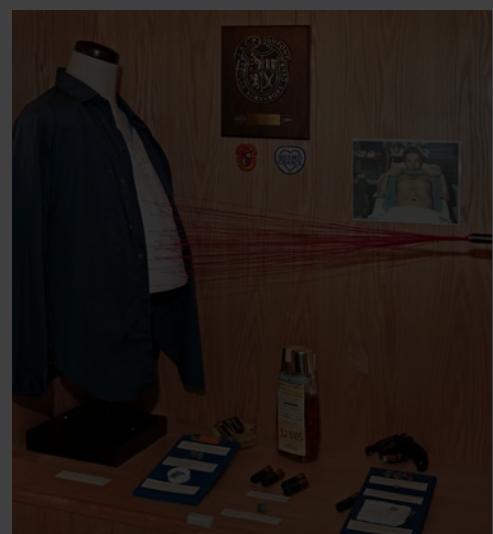


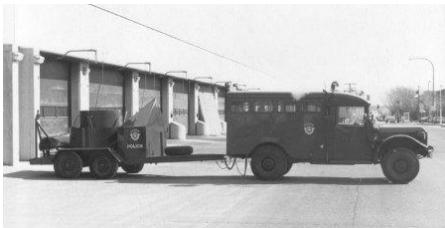
Last load from the warehouse





# The New Musem





# The M-152 ARMY

On January 28, 1955, a Dodge 4x4 Utility Vehicle bearing serial #91403591 was delivered to the Canadian Department of National Defence and became an Ordnance Disposal Vehicle for Military District 10 based in Winnipeg.

At the time, army personnel assisted Police Forces with the handling and disposal of explosives or explosive materials which was usually wartime souvenirs like hand grenades, or old and unstable chemicals such as nitro left by safecrackers.

Actual pipe and letter bombs used by criminals started to appear in the 1970's and in Winnipeg the first instance was a letter bomb that destroyed the hand of a court clerk when he opened a letter addressed to a judge.

With the amalgamation of all the Metropolitan areas to one big city in 1974, several specialty units were formed including a Police Bomb Disposal Unit. The group consisted of 6 officers who were trained by the Military at CFB Borden in 1975.

Around this same time, the Military were replacing their 1955 Dodge Trucks and serial #91403591 was purchased by the Winnipeg Police for a token \$1.00. The truck came fully equipped, and the Police also purchased a Military Bomb Disposal Robot for another token \$1.00 which outfitted the unit to basically handle emergency calls themselves.

To identify the Bomb Truck as a Police vehicle instead of an army one, the city painted the exterior blue and attached a Winnipeg crest. It should be noted the city only painted the vehicle areas that could be seen from the outside. Everything else on the insides remained khaki including the driver's compartment, inside the hood and under the fenders.



# TO POLICE STORY

*By Jack TEMPLEMAN, Curator – Winnipeg Police Museum*

The Dodge truck was only used by Winnipeg Police for a couple of years as the Department had also purchased a very heavy custom build trailer with an explosive tub which was difficult for the vehicle to pull. Ordinance officers also had constant problems starting the trucks 24 volt system so it was decided to purchase a new vehicle.

The truck was sold and over the years saw further use by a key cutting business. It later functioned as a camper, and then as a tow vehicle for a Marina. It finally ended up stripped of parts and sold as scrap.

The Police Museum attempted to track the vehicle and found it through the assistance of Military Collectors who knew the scrap yard it was sitting in. The Museum also received help from a friend in the collectors club who was an expert at restoring Military Vehicles. The Dodge truck was purchased from the scrap yard, and there was the beginning of what would be a 3 year restoration project.

The Bomb Truck is now completely restored from the frame up, and painted/equipped the same as it was when used by the Winnipeg Police in 1975. It is fully operational, and capable of being driven for showings and demonstrations at special functions. The magnitude of this project can be seen in the pictures.



*The Winnipeg Police Museum wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Derk Derin and Rick Enns for their hard work and dedication this project. On March 11, 2015, both were recognized at the Winnipeg Police Service Volunteer Appreciation Night for their efforts on the Bomb Truck restoration.*

# West District Station Mural

Wanting to honour the area's history, Police Museum Director P/Sgt. Kevyn Bourgeois took on a personal project to create a large wall mural in the West District Station which represented the Winnipeg Police Service, and the former local departments who used to oversee the area.

Crests based on cap badges are used to depict the former Police Departments which amalgamated in 1974 and include: The Assiniboine Police Department, the St. James Police Department, The Fort Garry Police Department, and the Tuxedo Police Department.

Starting in January of 2015, the Mural took 240 hours to complete and includes a mix of both oil and water based paints. Varying techniques such as hand painting and air brushing were used to create the images and effects.

The mural is approximately 30 feet long and 8 feet high, and sits in the main hallway of the West District Police Station at 2321 Grant Avenue.





# STRICT STATION



# Challenge Coins



# Supporting your Museum

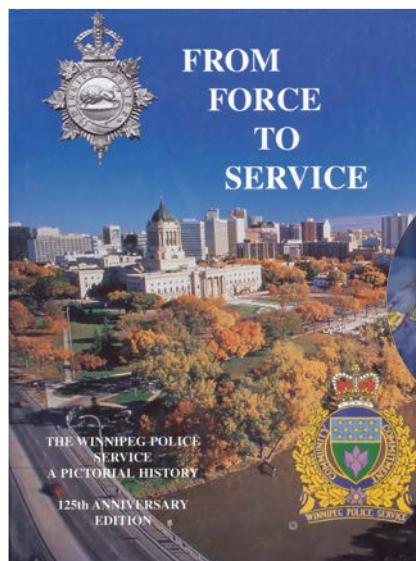
**Artifacts** - The Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society is successful in part thanks to the generosity of former members and their families who donate artifacts and photos. We gratefully accept these items and incorporate them into our archives and exhibits. Please keep the Museum in mind if you have old photographs, digital images, or other articles of Police memorabilia.

**Time** - The Museum is regularly looking for volunteers to assist with projects and tours. Please contact the Curator if you would like to become involved.

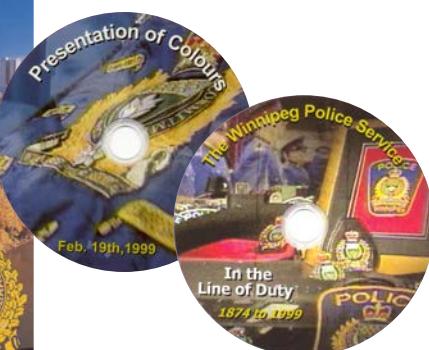
**Charitable Donations** - The Museum is a registered Charity and can receive donations. Tax receipts are made available upon request.

***Payroll Deduction*** - The Museum can be supported through Payroll Deduction overseen by the City of Winnipeg for employees, or the Pension Board for Retirees. The pledge form on the next page can be used for donating to the Museum and even \$1.00 can make a huge difference!

**Promotional Items** - A number of promotional items are offered for sale including the items on these pages.



## Winnipeg Police History Book offered for sale by the Museum.



 New Donor Change Request

# PLEDGE FORM

## The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund

Name: (Please print)		Employee ID#: (6 digit)	
Department:			
Work Address:		Telephone No.	(204)

\* The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund currently allocates funds to the following 26 local charities:

Alzheimer Society of Manitoba	Heart & Stroke Foundation	Rehab Centre for Children
Canadian Liver Foundation	Jocelyn House	Royal Canadian Legion
CancerCare Manitoba	Kidney Foundation	The Salvation Army
Cerebral Palsy (Manitoba)	L.I.T.E.	The United Way
Christmas Cheer Board	Literacy Works	Variety, Children's Charity
Compassionate Friends	Manitoba Lung Association	Westland Foundation
Diabetes Foundation of Manitoba	Masonic Foundation of Manitoba Inc.	Winnipeg Harvest
Firefighters Burn Fund Inc.	Movement Centre of Manitoba (2008)	W.I.S.H.
Habitat for Humanity	Osteoporosis Society of Canada	

## DONATION REQUEST

I authorize the City of Winnipeg Payroll Branch to deduct the below listed bi-weekly charitable donation(s) on behalf of the The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund.

MY TOTAL PLEDGE/DONATION is to be distributed to the charity(ies) listed below. If changing the donation amount or if this is a new donation, please enter the TOTAL bi-weekly amount you wish to be deducted from your pay cheque:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The City of Winnipeg Charitable Fund (C.W.C.F.) *	\$	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society Inc.,	\$	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$	Bi-Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/>		\$	Bi-Weekly
Total Bi-Weekly Payment		\$	

I give the C.W.C.F. permission to release my name to my charity(ies) of choice (check box and Initial here \_\_\_\_\_)

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CANCELLATION REQUEST

I respectfully request that my charitable donation(s) that are currently being deducted from my pay cheque on a bi-weekly basis be cancelled immediately.

Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \* **Return your SIGNED & DATED form to your WPS Representatives \* \* \* \* \***

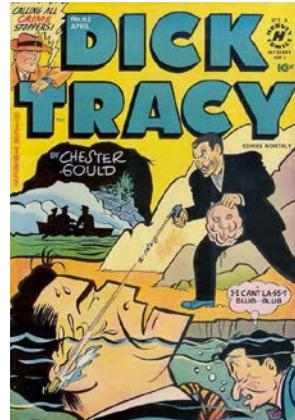
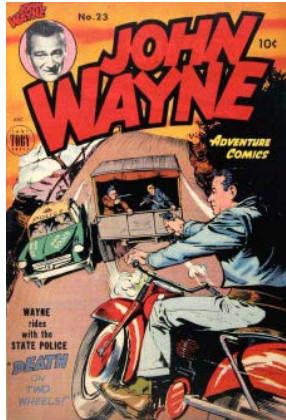
P/Sgt. Nicole Sabourin-Friesen #1797 [nsabourin-friesen@winnipeg.ca](mailto:nsabourin-friesen@winnipeg.ca)

Marla Lewis Volunteer Coordinator Div. 51 Tel: 986-3977 [mlewis@winnipeg.ca](mailto:mlewis@winnipeg.ca)

Accepted and Processed by CWCF Secretary	Date
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By: John Burchill\*

# LOOKING BACK *Comic Crimes in Winnipeg*



Winnipeg was the number one comic book distributor in Canada for many years. However 60 years ago the comic book industry was under siege in this province, with Manitoba's highest court ruling that the children of this country needed to be protected from the evil effects of such publications. Crime fighter Dick Tracy was to be the Courts' first target.

In 1949 section 207 of the Criminal Code was amended to make it an offence to distribute, sell or have in one's possession for the purpose of distribution or circulation a crime comic. It was believed that comics which depicted the commission of crimes, real or fictitious, had the effect of inciting young people to commit crimes. The suppression of this "wicked" form of expression was, in part, a solution to controlling juvenile delinquency.

The Winnipeg Police Morality Squad was assigned the dubious task of bringing the City's more notorious caricatures down, including that wily veteran of the criminal underworld – Dick Tracy. Tracy lived life large and his exploits were carried daily by newspapers throughout North America. It is estimated that by the early 1950's he and his counterparts were grossing an estimated \$90 million a year in the comic book market.

By March 27, 1953, the government of Manitoba had had enough of these comic criminals and ordered something to be done. Detective George Young was tasked with bringing down Dick Tracy's criminal enterprise when he deftly walked into Roher's Lunch at 360 Graham Avenue, and bought the April 1953 edition of Dick Tracy, No. 62. The proprietor, Abe Roher, was subsequently arrested and summoned to court for having in his possession for sale a "crime comic".

On April 29, 1953, within weeks of his arrest, Mr. Roher appeared before Magistrate Maris Garton in Winnipeg Police Court. To deal with such moral turpitude the Crown was represented by none other than Charles Tupper, QC. Not only was Tupper a well-seasoned lawyer with 30-years at

the Bar, he was also the grandson of former Prime Minister Charles Tupper and the son of William Tupper, the former Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. Magistrate Garton found Mr. Roher guilty and fined him five dollars and costs.

Mr. Roher appealed his conviction, but on November 9, 1953 a unanimous Manitoba Court of Appeal upheld his conviction. Chief Justice McPherson stated that, in his opinion, comics are "a strange basis upon which to start child education and, logically considered, could be quite easily adapted to other phases of training; for instance, by starting children on "home-brew" they might become connoisseurs of fine liquors and whisky and eventually experiment with a drink of milk!"

Within weeks of the Court's decision police agencies in Montreal and Toronto swooped down on local news dealers and laid charges related to the possession and sale of such other "sordid" comic figures as John Wayne and Kaanga the Jungle King. However such raids didn't last long. In fact as early as December 1954 Manitoba's Attorney General is reported to have stated that his efforts to control the sale of crime comics as against retailers had not been worthwhile.

From 1950, the year the comic crimes section was fully in force, until the end of 1969 the number of juvenile delinquency cases in Canada more than quadrupled from 6,418 to 27,197 cases. As crime comics were no longer part of the mainstream market, something else must "have made them do it".

Nevertheless, section 207 still lives on today as section 163 of the Criminal Code, prohibiting the sale and distribution of comics where the dominant characteristics involve the undue exploitation of sex or sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence.

\*Vice President, Winnipeg Police Museum and Historical Society. A longer version of this story appeared in the Manitoba History Journal, No. 77 (2015, winter edition), p. 28-35.

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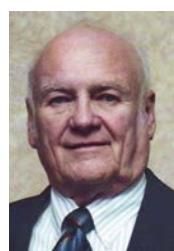
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*Stan is one of the principal founders of the Winnipeg Police Museum, and has been president since the Museum's inception in 1986.*



## Jack Templeman

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## 2015 Annual Report

**Editor: Rod Hutter**

**Assistant Editor: John Burchill**

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Through the Manitoba Heritage Grant Program, the Museum was able to purchase interactive digital display equipment that will help to identify, protect and interpret pictures and material related to our past and present local police departments.



## Thank You

The Board again wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the strong and continual support of the Winnipeg Police Service Executive for their co-operation and assistance during the year, as well as our other two major funding organizations – The Winnipeg Police Association and the Winnipeg Police Credit Union.





# Winnipeg Police Museum & Historical Society Inc.

