

Woodstock Police Force
822 Main Street, Woodstock New Brunswick
E7M 2E8

WOODSTOCK POLICE FORCE: THE EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WITH LOCAL HISTORY WOODSTOCK 1700'S – 2000'S

There is no formal, written history of Woodstock Police Force. This brief history was gathered and provided by local and amateur historians, based on the reading of periodicals of the time, along with memories of growing up and working in the township of Woodstock. We truly hope you enjoy it and wish to thank WPF Staff Sergeant Paula Hanson for taking the time to organize, author, and present the information.

The Late 1700s

The Woodstock area was first settled by a group of veterans following the American Revolutionary War in approximately 1783. Many loyalists fled the revolution and New Brunswick was established as a colony in 1784. It was not uncommon for landowners, to provide free labour to the province. These de facto "civil service" positions included constables, overseers of the poor, pound keepers, hog reeves, lumber inspectors, surveyors of roads and dams, sealer of leather, clerk of the market, butter inspections, boom masters, etc. These roles eventually fell to the counties, which were established in the province in the early 1800s.

By 1804, only a very small amount of the local veterans, who had possession of granted land, remained in the area. Forestry was the lifeblood of the province

and community at the time. Therefore, lumber mills began to start in the area and the export of lumber on the Saint John River began in 1805. The Woodstock area was essentially made up of three communities- Lower Woodstock, Woodstock itself (also known as the Creek Village), and Upper Woodstock.

The 1800s

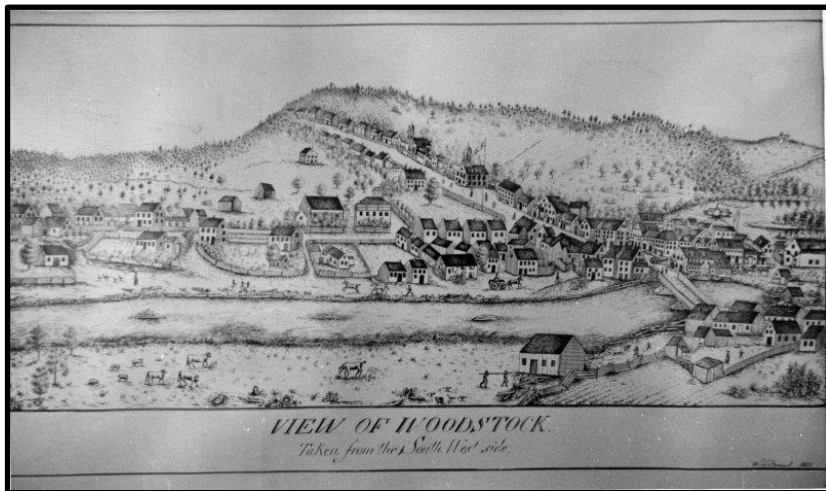
As the area began to grow, a county sheriff was appointed. When Carleton County was created in 1832, Woodstock was issued a county seat and the Carleton County Council was established. The county council encompassed the local area parishes with representatives on the council from such communities as Northampton, Brighton, Simonds, Debec, Wicklow, etc. A jail, courthouse, and registry office were installed in Upper Woodstock.



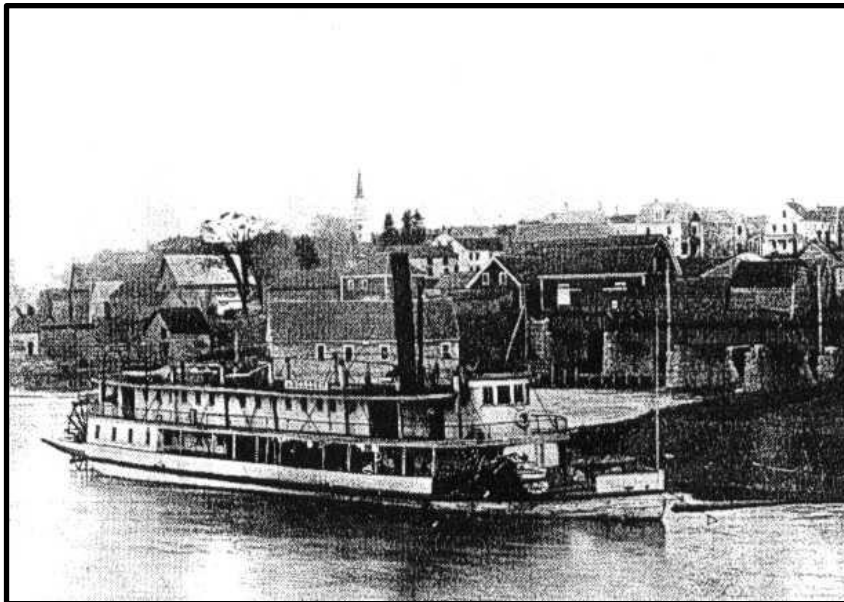
Old Carleton County Court House, Upper Woodstock

The first steamboat from Fredericton reached Woodstock in 1837 and expanded to a regular steamboat service by 1845. This service, along with the advent of stage-coach transportation, brought an abundance of visitors and travelers to the area. By 1847 the population was approximately 2,000 and the village of Woodstock had four churches, a bank, a grammar school, and a downtown pharmacy operated by William T. Baird. Mail was delivered to the area a few times a week.

1850 Sketch of Woodstock



The Aberdeen Steamer, at wharf



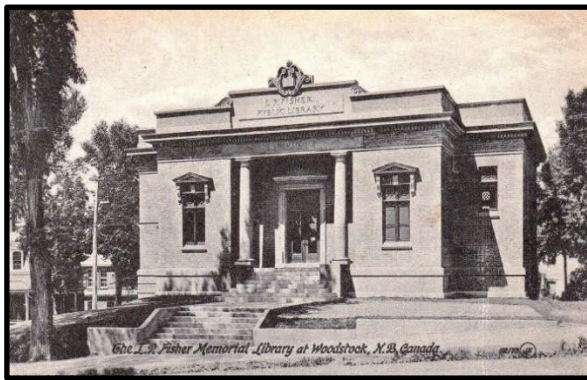
On July 12, 1847, (Orangemen's Day), a riot took place at the corner of Victoria, Boyne, and Main Streets near the site of the Orange Hall. After years of tensions, conflict erupted between Protestant Irish immigrants of the Orange Order and Catholic Irish immigrants. Lieutenant William Teel Baird commanded a local militia

to guard and defend the town. This incident, along with prosperous growth, and influx of immigrants from Ireland, resulted in the community questioning the need for more security and some aspect of "policing."

Orange Hall at Victoria and Boyne Street, Woodstock



Woodstock was incorporated as a town in 1856 that was quickly followed by the appointment of Lewis P. Fisher as Woodstock's first mayor. Lewis P. Fisher made provisions in his will for the building of several educational institutions, among them



the first Agricultural and Vocational School in Canada and the L.P. Fisher Public Library. The railway arrived in Woodstock in the late 1860s and the area continued to grow more with business and industry. There were two fire stations in Woodstock; one in the downtown area near the armoury, and the other on lower Main Street. The local train station and railyard was also on Lr. Main Street.



*Agricultural and Vocational School
and LP Fisher Memorial Library*

Train Station, Lower Main, Woodstock, NB



In the late 1800s, a circus riot happened around Charles Street/Phillips drive. Additionally, there were incidents of breaking and entering, and thefts such as "safe cracking." The Temperance Movement and Women's Suffragette Movement during this time in history went hand in hand with illegal liquor sales and alcohol consumption that was regulated in New Brunswick with the *Canada Temperance Act* in 1879 (also known as *The Scott Act*). A town constable, along with nightwatchmen, monitored and provided security for local properties such

as lumber mills, a tannery, as well as dispersed incidents of disturbances, drunkenness, and brawling. In 1884, a new registry office was built on Main Street.

The 1900s

The jail in Upper Woodstock burnt in 1901, resulting in the new jail being built on Maple Street in 1901. At this time three hangings took place for the crime of murder that occurred separately in nearby rural areas. George Gee was hung in 1904, Thomas Cammack in 1905, and Benny Swim, in 1922.



1. George Gee (centre) flanked by his father and mother, Rear Left- Sheriff A. Foster and Rear Right- Chief of Police of Woodstock- Owen Kelly;
2. Woodstock Provincial Jail- erected 1901;
3. Benny Swim- the man who was hung twice.

Since 1847, the village of Woodstock was agitating to be named the shire town of the county and have the court moved there. In 1909, the new registry office in town expanded to include a new courthouse edition and several government offices (present site of Woodstock Provincial Court). A “poor” farm was established in 1914, located on Connell Street, for poor and needy citizens. The war memorial in front of Woodstock Provincial Court was erected by the county in 1921.



Registry Office built in 1886.

The new addition added as the courthouse built in 1909 (present day Woodstock Court House)



As early as 1904, Owen Kelly served as Chief of Police in Woodstock, with the assistance of a night constable within the Town of Woodstock. Barry Schriver was the next Chief of Police, starting in the 1920s and remained on the police force until 1959 (approximately 37 years).

The RCMP came to New Brunswick in 1932 and policed rural areas of the province. A provincial police force existed before this, and when the RCMP came to the province, their services amalgamated to the RCMP.

Logbooks existed of the Woodstock Police Force for the 1940s, showing entries made by a Chief of Police, with a night constable on duty. Troops with the North Shore Regiment trained on Woodstock's Island Park before going overseas.

Following the decline of WWII, WPF police staffing levels increased to 3 or 4 members, then eventually to 6 or 7 police officers. Post WWII; Constable Bert Gardiner, Constable Armand Alvernini, and Constable Roy McNally became well known to the community as local police officers. When Old Home Week was celebrated on Island Park, several auxiliaries were hired for the week to assist with traffic for those going to the Island Park via the Bridge.

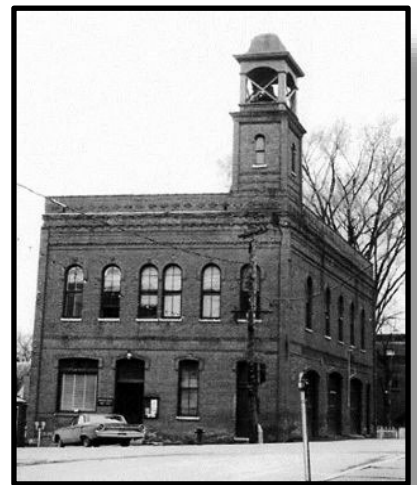


Cst. Bert Gardiner standing left, OHW Parade, Main Street, Woodstock

Typically, local WWII veterans would assist in this capacity, as well as helping to work part-time on weekends and when called upon to conduct various policing duties. Public drunkenness was a significant issue at the time. Local police had station wagon or “paddy” wagon, that picked up those under the influence and placed them in the “drunk tank” at the municipal hall.

Old Town Hall, Fire and Police Station- Corner of Main Street & Chapel Street

The municipal hall, at Main Street/Chapel Street, contained Woodstock's municipal office, the firehall, and police station (with 1 cell). Those involved in more serious crimes were housed at the jail on Maple Street. The 1950s-mid 1970s saw many years of a revolving door of various police officers of Woodstock Police Force coming and going, and day to day business was somewhat ad hoc.



Chief Bob Draper came on the police force in 1946 and left approximately in 1971, followed by Chief Lionel Poirier, and then Chief Rollie Ritchie. At this time in provincial government, Premier Louis Robichaud abolished the county councils with only local mayor and municipal councils being present. There was a move to have provincial services centralized in larger, urban areas and New Brunswick officially became bilingual in 1969.



Chief Bob Draper



Cst. Rollie Ritchie



Cst. Bob Chase and Cst. Murray Paget



Cst. Charlie Wallace (l) and Cst. Jim Carmichael (r)

In 1971, the Atlantic Police Academy opened in PEI, to provide police cadet and in-service training to police officers in Atlantic Canada. In the late 1970s, the Woodstock Police Force began stabilizing due to the *New Brunswick Police Act* being placed in effect in 1977, requiring any newly hired police officers to be graduates from a recognized training academy that coupled with disciplinary regulations for police. Some police officers, who worked in the 1970s in Atlantic Canada, attended either the APA for in-service training or attended the Maritime Police School in Halifax, NS. The last class for the Maritime Police School was in 1978. The NB Highway Patrol began in 1978, policing NB Highways with detachments throughout the province. They were eventually disbanded in 1989, with RCMP taking over those services.

It was also during this time that Town of Woodstock employees became unionized, with members of the police force eventually moving into their own union, separate from other town employees. Collective Agreements saw reform that addressed pay, benefits, and the creation of a pension for town employees. The staffing levels of Woodstock Police force in the late 1970s/1980s was approximately 10 members, including a Chief and Deputy Chief, two Corporals, and six Constables.

The Woodstock Police Force moved into the current town hall located at 824 Main Street on a temporary basis and the Woodstock Armoury allowed space for officers during the construction of the present police station at 822 Main Street, next to Town hall, in 1980.

Woodstock file

The Daily Gleaner, Tuesday, January 22, 1980 3

Woodstock Has New Police Station

—\$180,000 Building Officially Opens Thursday

By BETTY PRATT

WOODSTOCK—The Woodstock police force is now moving out of their recently closed building on Upper Street.

brick and cement construction, the \$180,000 building is centrally heated and has a sprinkler system for fire protection. It has two stories

and "is quite an improvement from the three rooms we occupied in the old fire station," said Police Chief Joseph Murphy in an interview.

The top floor is administrative. There is an entrance room connected to the main general office by a

glass partition. Off the entrance room is an interview room. Beyond the main office there is a conference room for the men on duty. There are also three private offices, one for the chief, the deputy chief and the identification man. Also on this floor is storage room and a darkroom.

Chief Murphy said four of his men are beginning a photography course this week at the Woodstock branch of New Brunswick Community College.

On the bottom floor is the exhibit room for storing items apprehended in arrests, a locker room for policemen, a

breathalyzer room, two separate garage bays and three detention cells, two for men and one for women.

There is also a guard room where one man will be on duty when any of the cells are occupied.

All operational equipment was brought from the old

headquarters with additional general furnishings being purchased at a cost of about \$2,000.

There are 11 policemen, including Chief Murphy, on the staff, as well as one secretary. Construction of the new building was started in September and the staff moved in last Tuesday. The official opening is scheduled for Thursday at 2 p.m.



WOODSTOCK POLICE STATION—The Woodstock police are now operating out of this \$180,000 building. The official opening for the building will be held Thursday at 2 p.m.

(Kings Studio Photos)

Chief Joseph Murphy

The late 1980s/1990s saw the police force grow in several areas. Police officers were provided with formal in-service training at the APA or Canadian Police College for such topics as Major Crime, Crime Scene Investigations, and Accident Reconstruction. Police officers on duty responded to calls, conducted traffic enforcement and investigations. Larger and more complex investigations were tasked to a full-time investigator. Part-time police officers were hired in the late 1990s to fill in on weekends, vacations, etc., which gradually increased staffing levels.

The first female police officer in Woodstock, Cst. Tammy Ward, was hired by WPF in 1996, although she remained there only for a short time after joining Moncton Police, then transferring to the RCMP. The late 1990s in New Brunswick saw a shift with municipal policing in the province. Nearby small communities such as Hartland and Nackawic, as well as other communities in the province like

Moncton, saw their municipal police forces disbanded and replaced by the RCMP due to increasing police standards and as cost-saving measures. In the late 1990s-early 2000s, WPF had their own K-9 unit (sponsored by a local service club) and Cst. Carter Stone acted as a dog handler. The police force transitioned from revolvers to semi-automatic pistols in 1995/1996 as an officer safety requirement.

The 2000s

Despite previous requests and need, Woodstock Police Force received formal police dispatching services, which were provided by the Fredericton Police Force in year 2000. Services for Emergency Response, Bomb Disposal, Underwater recovery, etc., were secured by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Fredericton Police Force to provide shared services with WPF, for an annual fee.

Employment and Workplace Health & Safety standards, complimented by health and safety concerns brought forward by unionized employees, saw WPF officers receiving bullet-proof vests for the first time in early 2000s. There were continual improvements to WPF's collective agreements creating better pay, benefits, etc. for police officers. As years progressed, police officers continued to receive more training and equipment improvements such collapsible batons, conductive energy devices (tasers), carbine rifles, spike belts for patrol cars, hard body armour, and secure radios from the mid to late 2010s.

Computers in police vehicles arrived in year 2021, along with e-ticketing in 2022. The new century also saw the police force become more community focused. Police officers were placed in schools in early 2000s teaching drug prevention to youths in such programs as P.A.C.E. and DARE. Woodstock Police officers raised approximately \$60,000 in events for the Canadian Cancer Society with such

events as Cops-For-Cancer and “Jail n’ Bail.” A movement in policing provincially in 2000s, saw the creation of joint forces units, with members of Woodstock Police Force, working with RCMP and FPF members in units responsible for intelligence gathering, crime reduction investigations, etc. In 2006, the Woodstock Police Force investigated a homicide whereby four persons were successfully arrested and prosecuted for this offence, resulting in prison terms for all four accused.

In 2021, the organizational chart depicted a Chief, Deputy Chief (vacant), 2 Sgts., 4 Cpls, and 8 Constables, complimented by a police officer tasked as a Community Resource Officer, a police officer tasked as a Crime Reduction Officer, and a police officer attached to the Provincial Crime Reduction Unit.

A New Era for Policing in New Brunswick

In 1992, the Grant Report, Policing Arrangements in New Brunswick: 2000 and Beyond, provides a series of recommendations for broad ranging changes to the organization of policing in the province. The Grant Report and its ensuing recommendations was consistent with an emerging trend across the country, where governments and public police agencies were looking at service delivery in a new way that was intended to be fiscally responsible, professional, and more in keeping with public expectations of the day and best practices.

Of the fifty-one (51) recommendations in the Grant Report, one of the most significant led to the development of the New Brunswick Policing Standards. The Standards, which eventually became ministerial directives in 1997, grew from the input of a large policing stakeholder group including: the New Brunswick Association of Chiefs of Police, the RCMP, the New Brunswick Police Association, the New Brunswick Police Commission, Municipal Associations and the Department of Public Safety. The Standards were designed to “ensure uniform and high-quality policing practices based on professional standards throughout

the province" with its objective to upgrading policing standards and raising the bar in relation to crime prevention and public safety. Of the changes embarked upon from the Grant Report and the resulting Standards was the provincial implementation of a community-policing model.

After The Grant Report was released, it began a slow shift in the delivery of policing services in New Brunswick. As referred to above, several municipal police forces in the 1990s were disbanded and replaced by the RCMP and municipal policing faced higher standards of policing. For years, there was speculative discussion locally and in policing circles around Woodstock Police Force either being disbanded or increasing in size and jurisdiction, to form a regional police force. Despite the speculation, it never came to fruition for many years.

It should be noted that other factors were also at play in NB's public safety environment during this time. From the 1990s to 2000s, communities throughout New Brunswick were suffering from increase effects of property and violent crime, caused largely by drug use and trafficking of both illegal and prescription drugs, with a direct nexus to organized crime in intra-provincial, national, and international scope. Also, a number of provincial jails were closed and there was a shift from serving long and stringent jail sentences to alternative justice options such as serving sentences in the community via probation, community sentence orders, ankle monitoring, etc.

As time passed and governments came and went, changes in various laws, meeting policing standards, budget restrictions and cut-backs, lack of resources and equipment, etc. saw a shift in many areas of justice and public safety towards streamlining services centrally. Often, the public and victims of crime were frustrated by a perceived lack of services from police and the justice system. The dawn of the internet, social media, etc., coupled with all of these changes,

created increased scrutiny on police agencies, justice and public safety officials on services they were providing to the public to deal with crime. For example, it began a trend of multi-agency teams doing information-sharing, cost and resource-sharing to tackle crime collectively, often involving municipal, provincial, and federal officials.

On October 19, 2022, members of Local Government and Chief Administrative Officers received an “update on policing services” from the D/Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform, Ryan Donaghy. In his memo, D/Minister Donaghy advised that although there would be “no change to the current provincial policing services model for the current 2023 calendar year,” he did communicate that changes to the model may be introduced as early as 1 January 2024.

Additionally, the D/Minister announced that local governments and municipal police forces affected by associated changes would fall to the Minister of Public Safety who “need[ed] to be satisfied that the proposed service delivery model follows the NB policing standards, policies, and any other related legislation.” Reasonably, the Minister would require a report from the municipality illustrating the police service delivery model in accordance with the aforementioned standards. The memo concluded by stating that “restructured entities with former local governments and local service districts (LSD's) will assume the cost of policing for the entire entity.”

On 10 Feb 2023, the Town of Woodstock (Mayor, CAO, & Chief of Police) received a memo from the Director of Policing Services & Contract Management, Mr. Dan Goodwin (former Deputy Chief to WPF), requesting that a Policing Services Assessment (PSA) be completed by the Woodstock Chief of Police on or before

15 Mar 2023. Mr. Goodwin explained that the PSA was intended “to give the Chief, [Civic Authority], and the Minister of Public Safety the information needed to make informed, evidence-based decisions in determining the appropriate level of policing services” following Woodstock’s 2022 amalgamation with Local Service Districts (LSD’s).

Accordingly, and in addition to authoring/presenting the Policing Services Assessment to the Civic Authority & Minister of Public Safety, the WPF 2023 Strategic Plan alluded to early consideration of associated logistical requirements in support of an “effective” policing services model in Woodstock. This information was shared with citizens in Woodstock, as well as the neighbouring wards of 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Community meetings were held in each ward, including a community survey being conducted. Transitional funding was offered by the provincial government to the municipality, to facilitate the step towards regionalization; however, the municipality would have to cover further capital costs. The step towards regionalization would gradually occur, over two years.

The plan presented to citizens outlined the requirements for allowing the force to expand its 24/7 police coverage from its current 15 sq. km. and 5,500 population to 500 sq. km. and 12,300 population. The proposed model provides 24/7 coverage for 365 days a year, with each ward patrolled 24 hours per day, doubling in budget from \$3.2 million to \$7.7 million. It would require the force to double staff levels (increasing approximately from 19 to 42) and purchasing more police cars, equipment, with the creation of a Major Crime Unit, more court liaison officers, more administration positions, an Inspector position, and more auxiliary police officers. These costs do not include infrastructure to expand the existing police station, which is already too small and inadequate for the current size police force.

Woodstock Police Force is on the cusp of change and it remains to be seen where these recent developments will take the force.

The Woodstock Police Force would like to thank the following for their contributions to the information provided to record our history thus far. We hope others may contribute that we might build an increasingly detailed picture of our past, present, and future.

- ***Staff Sergeant Paula Hanson – Woodstock Police Force; Author of the above submission and current WPF member (August 1998 – present)***
- ***R. Gerald (Gerry) Crawford – WPF Constable from February 1977 to May 2010 (retired)***
- ***Paul R. Hanson (July 17, 1944-November 3, 2023) – Woodstock Prov. Jail Guard & Supervisor and NB Sheriff/Coroner- Aug 1976 to December 2005 (retired)***

List below of Members of Woodstock Police Force from 1940s to present day:

Chiefs of Police

Chief Owen Kelly (pre 1920s), Chief Barry Schriver (1920s-1959), Chief Bob Draper, Chief Lionel Poirier, Chief Rollie Ritchie, Chief Joe Murphy, Chief Al Sawyer, Chief Colin Pawsey, Chief Keith Bull, Chief Dana Collicott, Chief John Foster, Chief Brent Blackmore (2015/18), Chief Mitch MacMillan (2018/19), Chief Gary Forward (2019-2024), Chief Mark Bennett (2024-present).

Police Force Members (Regular Members such as Csts, Cpls, Sgts. and Auxiliary Constables) –

1940s-1960s

Bert Gardiner, Armand Alvernini, Earl Briggs, Frank Britton, Vaughn Carlin, Jim Carmichael, Bob Chase, Hartley Craig, Earl Cronkhite, Ned Depow, Willard Lawson, Roy McNally, Ralph Miller, Murray Paget, Allan Peabody, Bill Porter, Bob Potter, Raymond Seely, Ralph Shaw, Charlie Wallace, Trix Clark, ____ McCarron, Harold Duffield, Jack Flewelling, Mac Foster, George Gray, Clinton Guptill.

1960s-1980s

Rollie Ritchie, Eugene Wasson, Reg Wasson, Larry McGuire, Mac Milbury, Derek Miller, Dana Collicott, Gerry Crawford, Steve Wilson, Gary Winsor, Mac Collicott, Wayne Pawsey, Len Davies, Orland Delong, Larry Depow, Frank Beers, Laurie Jordan, Peter Van Meekeran, Mark Milbury, Barry Dove, Dale Lawson, Randy Cunningham, Walter Belyea, Colin Pawsey, Mitch MacMillan, Greg Swim, David Kennedy, Cal Brennan, Kenny Richardson, Irvine Wheelan, Lloyd McGuire, Scott Ralston, Keith Bull, John Foster.

1990s-2000s

Carter Stone, Jerry Godin, Tammy Ward, Fred Kinney, Don Metcalf, John Sawyer, Scott Moulton, Paula Hanson, Greg Swim, Dale McCluskey, Whalen Brown, Graham Gill, John Morrison, Seth Cahill, Jeff Matthews, Lindon Bartley, Dale Pollock, Barry Scott, Aaron Fox, Mark Richardson, Roy Sharpe, Kyle Sharpe, Zach Swim, Dean Hanson, Dennis Gullison, Randy Dore, Troy Sarchfield, Jennifer Swim, Aaron Swim, Elizabeth Walton, Janna Darrow, Amy Cooper, Samantha MacFarlane, Kevin Cormier, Chris Craig, John Wetmore, Pat Carr, JR Kipping, Dylan Howell, Ryan Harris, Jake Smith, Wendell Price, Bethany Mack, Tanner Guthrie, Shaun Kimball, Martin Gallant, Matt MacLeod, Matt Bradstreet, Amy Thompson, Kayden Munn, Lucas Doyle, Mark Lord, Corey Porter, Ryan Paul, Josef Clements, Abby Derrah, Shawn Morgan, Robert McCready, Randy Gagnon, Walter Williams (Chaplain), Brent Blackmore, Dan Goodwin, Mitch MacMillan, Blair Lutz, Gary Forward, Samantha Hennessay-Lawrence, Breanne Kyte, Anthony McIntyre, Bradley Johnston, Carl Jarvis, Mark Bennett, Zach Cullins, Lorna DeWare, Emily McCready, Karsen Howell, Eric Duguay, Simon Watts, Justin Simpson.

WPF Administration Staff

Arlene Thornton, Cherie Doucette-Linder, Melanie Campbell, Evelyn Purington, Jennifer Rogers, Heather Grant, Sherrie Hunter, Jerilynn Way, Lise-Anne Grant, Nick Wilson (By-law officer), Julie Dickison, Shelley Carpenter, Alisha Cummings.

Indigenous Members of the Police Force

Aaron Fox, Kevin Cormier, Corey Porter.

Female Members of the Police Force

Tammy Ward, Paula Hanson, Jennifer Swim, Elizabeth Walton, Janna Darrow, Amy Cooper, Samantha MacFarlane, Bethany Mack, Kayden Munn, Amy Thompson, Abby Derrah, Samantha Hennessay-Lawrence, Breanne Kyte, Lorna DeWare, Emily McCready.