

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

St. Catharines provides protection for all its citizens with one of the finest police forces in Canada.

In 1803 Thomas Merritt, one of the early settlers in the St. Catharines area made his residence on the banks of the 12 Mile Creek. He was the first sherriff of the Niagara District.

In 1850, the City of St. Catharines appointed its first Chief Constable, Chief Adam Montgomery. He was later succeeded by Chief Parnell and Chief Cummings.

In the year 1912, under Chief Constable Harry Greene, the force consisted of 10 men. Their equipment included two bicycles. In those days the constable had to apprehend the offender, park his bicycle, and walk him back to the station. When the law-breaker was dealt with at the police station, the Police Constable then had to walk back to the scene to pick up his bicycle.

The first police car was purchased in 1924. By 1928 two police cars, equipped with sirens fastened onto the running boards, were in operation. Later, in 1930, under Chief Constable William Shennan, the first patrol wagon was purchased; and by 1944, two cars were equipped with two-way radios. In 1947 another radio-equipped car was purchased. The general trend of growth of our Police Department kept pace with the growth of the City.

On the retirement of Chief William Shennan on April 1st, 1949, Deputy-Chief Duncan Brown was appointed Chief Constable and held this position until he retired on February 1st, 1959. On this date Deputy-Chief James S. Anderson was appointed Chief Constable.

At the beginning of 1961 the four municipalities of Grantham Township, Town of Merritton, Town of Pt. Dalhousie and the City of St. Catharines were amalgamated to make up what is now the City of St. Catharines. These former municipalities had their own Police Forces and they were integrated into the new Police Force of the St. Catharines Police Department. At the time of amalgamation the Board of Police Commissioners consisted of Judge T.J. Darby, Magistrate Harley D. Hallett and Mayor Ivan D. Buchanan. They appointed Chief Constable James S. Anderson to head the integrated St. Catharines Police Department. The present St. Catharines Board of Police Commissioners consist of three members, Judge T.J. Darby, Magistrate Harley D. Hallett and Mayor Robert M. Johnston. The Chairman of this Board is Magistrate Harley D. Hallett.

At the time of amalgamation, the Police Headquarters was located on the ground floor of the present City Hall. Due to the

growth of the City and to the increased activities and functions of the Police Department, it became necessary to provide larger facilities and accommodation. At a cost of \$600,000, a new building was constructed at 68 Church Street to house the Police Department and Magistrates' Courts. On February 14th, 1964, this building was officially opened by the Honorable Fred M. Cass, Q.C., Attorney-General of the Province of Ontario.

On April 1st, 1966, Chief Constable James S. Anderson retired from the Police Force. Deputy-Chief Albert E. Shennan was appointed to the new title and position of Chief of Police. Under his supervision and direction, this department now consists of 122 men and 7 women in the following divisions:-

Chief of Police	-1	
Chief's Secretary	-1	Female
I/C Uniform Branch	-1	Inspector
Sergeants	-9	Desk & Patrol Sergeants
Communication Officers	-6	4 Constables & 2 Cadets
Detective Division	-10	2 Detective Sergeants & 8 Detectives
Identification	-2	Detective & Constable
Special Branch	-4	Detectives
Youth Bureau	-1	Detective
I/C Traffic-Safety Division	-1	Inspector
Traffic- Safety	-5	1 Staff Sergeant, 1 Patrol Sergeant, 1 Safety Officer, 1 Enforcement Officer, 1 Court Report Officer. Inspector & Constable.
Purchasing & Equipment	-2	
Records Division & Payment Office	-8	6 Female Clerks, 1 Constable, 1 Cadet.
General Duty	-79	Constables

This history of the St. Catharines Police Department would not be complete without acknowledging their coping with some major crimes. By scientific criminal investigation, our City Police have apprehended and brought to justice, dangerous criminals such as murderers, hold-up artists and counterfeiters. During the Second World War they assisted the R.C.M.P. in counter espionage and the arrest of foreign sympathizers plotting against our country.

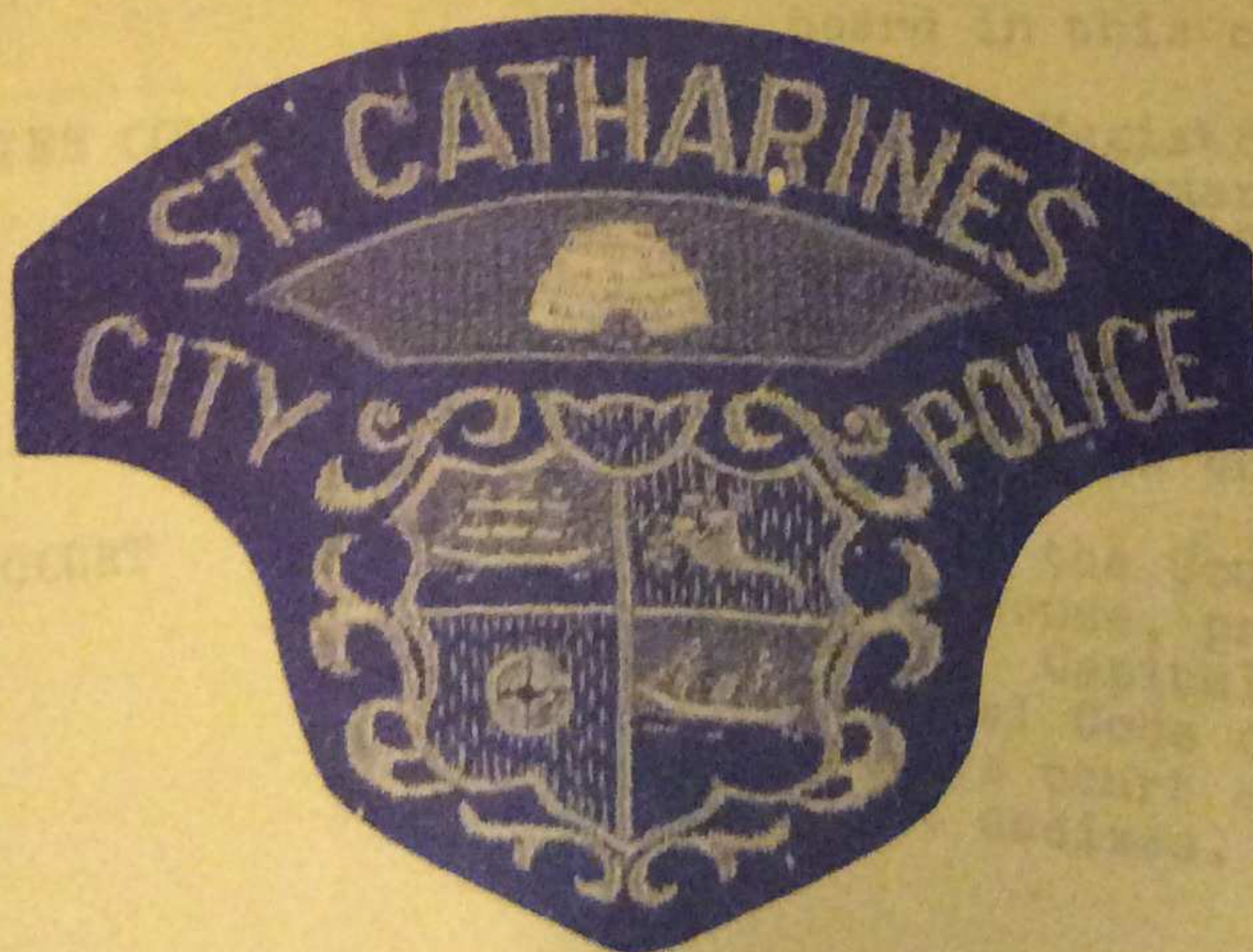
Our Police Constables patrol and investigate all types of complaints and motor vehicle accidents. They are trained for full and proper investigation of these cases for presentation to the Courts, if necessary.

Our Safety Division, with the assistance of the Boards of Education, has one of the most effective and successful safety programmes in Public and Separate Schools, in preventing and reducing child accidents through the Elmer Safety Programme. Our Police Safety Division has a continuous programme of safety education, and a close liaison with provincial safety organizations and the Canadian Highway Safety Council.

The Identification Division of the Police Department has a technical Staff highly trained in the science of fingerprinting and crime detection techniques. It has complete facilities for the processing of photographic material.

Vehicle and equipment maintenance and the clothing of Police personnel with proper uniforms, is the responsibility of the staff in the purchasing and equipment department.

The City of St. Catharines has earned a fine reputation by providing for its citizens a good and safe place in which to live. The friendliness and courtesy are extended to neighbours and visitors. In no small measure, this reputation can be attributed to the specialized training, the interest and esprit de corps of the personnel of the Police Department. They are dedicated to the safety and protection of its citizens and their property.



The City of St. Catharines is well noted for the efficient and fair operation of its respective courts under due process of law.

There are two Judges and two Magistrates appointed for the County of Lincoln. They are Judge T.J. Darby, Judge B. Thompson, Magistrate Harley D. Hallett and Magistrate T.R. BeGora.

The Criminal Cases presented to the presiding Judge of Magistrate is the responsibility of the Crown Attorney. The Crown Attorney for the County of Lincoln is Mr. Lloyd H. Goodwin, Q.C. Formerly a practicing barrister in St. Catharines, he was appointed to his present post April 1st, 1953.

The Crown Attorney's office is located at the County of Lincoln Court House at the intersection of King and James Streets. This building was constructed in the year 1856 and is the seat for the Supreme and County Courts for the County of Lincoln.

The following are the Courts of Justice in the City of St. Catharines for the County of Lincoln.

DIVISION COURT

Held in the County of Lincoln Court House, presided by a Judge. Cases pertaining to civil matters are heard in this court.

JUVENILE & FAMILY COURTS

Held in the County of Lincoln Court House, presided by a Judge. Cases pertaining to juvenile offenders and family matters are heard in this court.

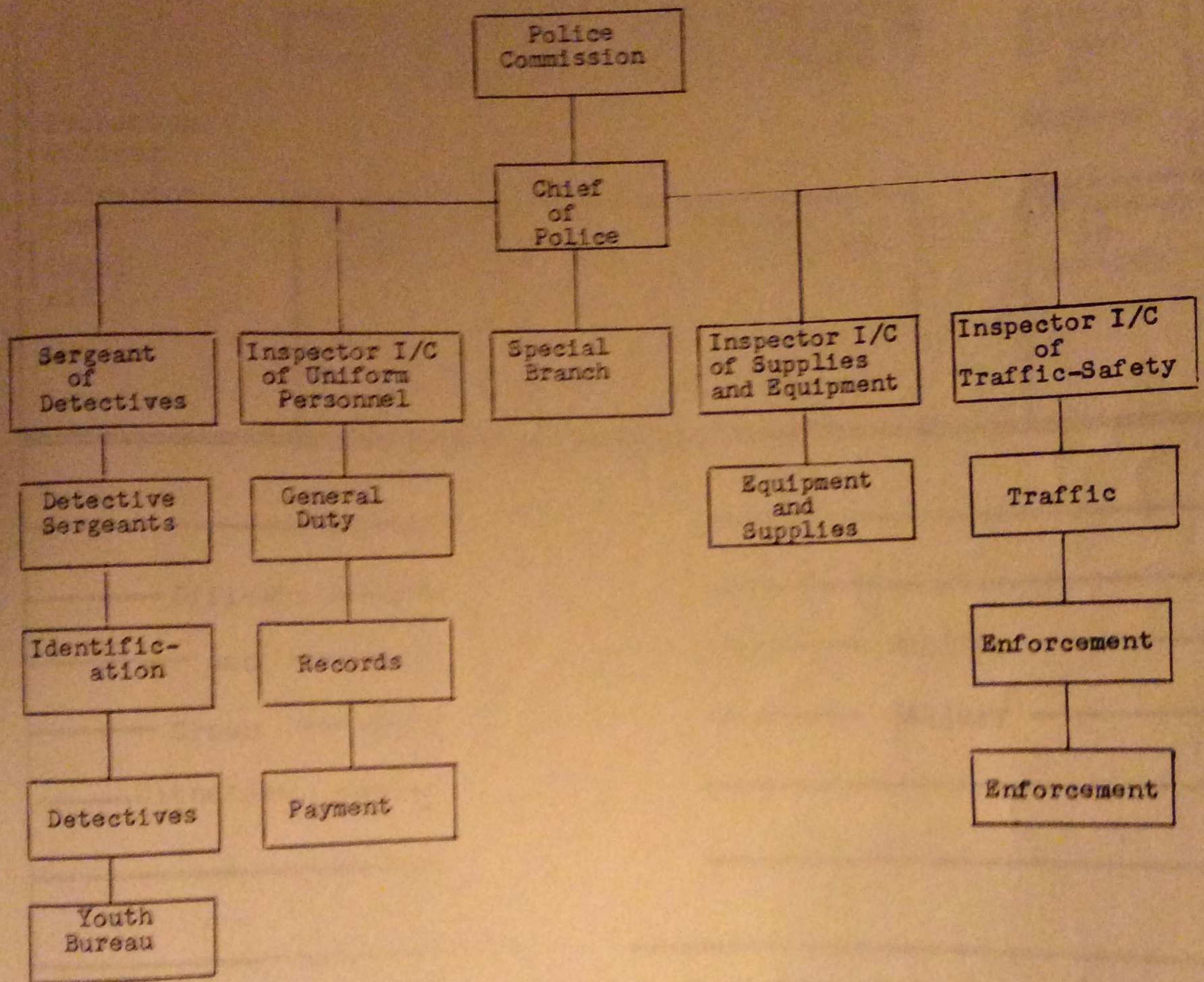
MAGISTRATES COURT

Held in Magistrates' Courts at Police Headquarters presided by a Magistrate. Cases pertaining to the Highway Traffic Act, Criminal Code of Canada, Liquor Control Act, Statutes of Ontario are heard in this court.

SUPREME COURT

Held in the County of Lincoln Court House, presided by a Circuit Judge. Capital Cases under the Criminal Code of Canada are heard in this court during the supreme court assizes.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



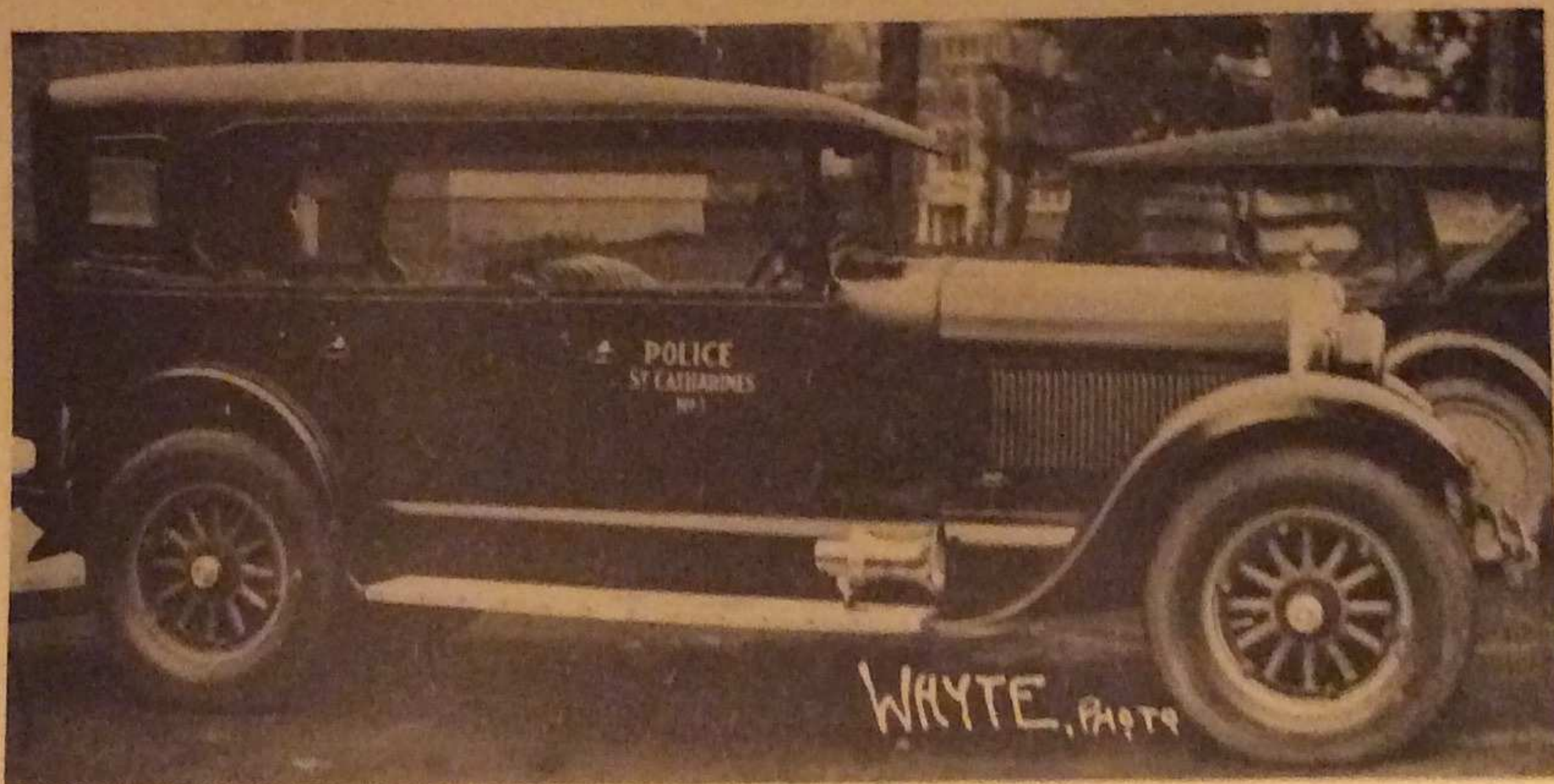


Deputy Chief
W. SHENNAN

Chief
HARRY GREENE

Inspector
DUNCAN BROWN

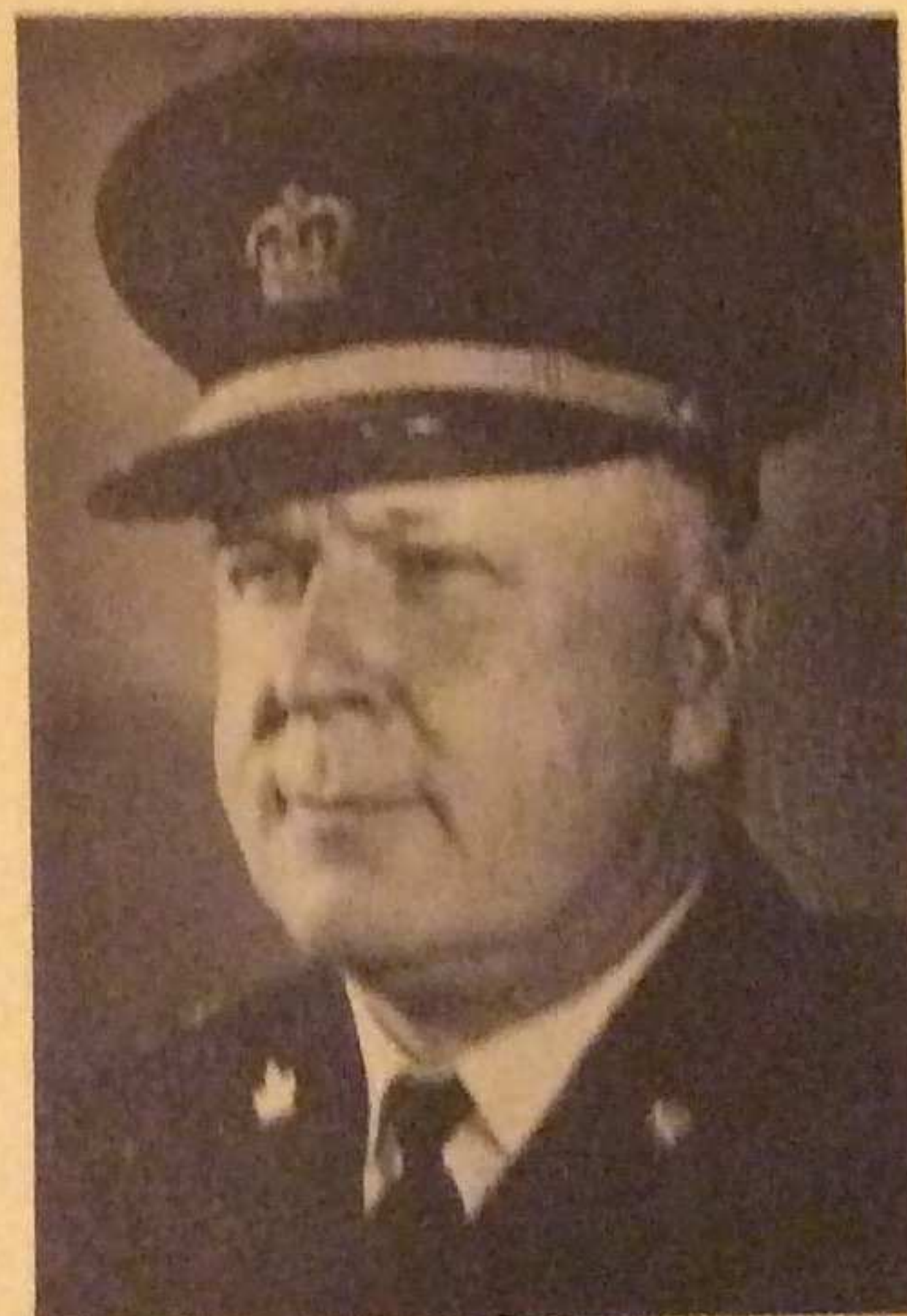
(From an early photo taken in 1928)



POLICE CRUISER USED IN 1928. Note Siren on Running Board.



Chief Constable
JAMES B. ANDERSON (Retired)



Chief of Police
ALBERT E. SHENNAN