



The History of Morden Police Service

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The Morden Police Service was founded in 1891 when James Atkin was appointed constable for the Municipality of Stanley. Not only was he hired on as constable, but also as Sanitary Officer, whose duties were to replace and nail down loose boards that formed the sidewalks. His wage was just \$20 per month, until 1906 when the wage increased to \$50 per month.

On January 4th, 1927, Samuel Cooper was appointed as the constable at a salary of \$85 per month. Cooper was well known for remaining with the department for seventeen years.

In January 1951, William (Bill) Larke joined the force. Larke remained with the force until August 1978, thus becoming the longest-serving member of the Morden town Police. During this period the department saw many changes, it grew to a two-officer force, and in July 1955 it increased to three.

It's interesting to note that during these early days of the force, the constables had no uniforms and more often than not, used their own vehicles for transportation.

As the years went by and policing methods changed, technology took over and the police department had to move with the times. Properly equipped vehicles were added as well as uniforms and personal equipment for the officers. For the first time, patrol cars were equipped with a radio system that operated somewhat like a telephone, where the public could contact the police, right in the car.

In July 1978, Maurice Butler joined the department, which was operating out of a one-room office located on the corner of Stephen Street and Nelson Street, one month later he took over as Chief Constable. By the summer of 1983, the department had grown to six officers. There were two patrol cars in use and the department moved into the brand new Civic Centre at Stephen and 5th Street. This provided 3,000 square feet for office space, Chief's office, interview rooms, locker room, cell block breathalyzer room and storage rooms.





By this time all officers were fully trained in First Aid – CPR, Radar Speed Equipment, Roadside Alcohol Testing equipment, Breathalyzer, and National database CPIC. Officers attended regular monthly seminars and workshops helped by Provincial Law Enforcement Services to keep them updated on current legislation and changes in the system.

Chief Butler left the department in 1985, at which time it was taken over by Ken Jensen, a retired RCMP officer who remained until 1997 when he retired. Some of the constables that served under Butler and Jensen went on to other police agencies, such as Winnipeg Police Service, Brandon Police Service and the RCMP. Butler continued his career as Chief of Ste. Anne Police in Manitoba, until he retired.

In 1997, the department was taken over by Chief Gerry Poole, a retired RCMP officer. At this point, the police department consisted of seven employees, including a Chief, one sergeant, four constables and a special constable who was responsible for administrative duties. The department also used three vehicles that were fully computer compatible with modern-day police services. During this time an auxiliary constable program was formed and ran until 1999. The Pembina Valley Victim Services also began and is still operating today. In 1999, Morden Police Service hired Pam Goertzen as their first female constable, she had previously started in the department as a special constable.

In 2000, Brad Neduzak, who had started on as a constable in 1985, became Chief of Police. When Neduzak first started, the department consisted of 5 members. Since then, it has grown to 19 staff, including one administrative assistant, two special constables, two sergeants and 14 officers. In 2010, a K9 Unit was added to the Service, dually trained to track and detect narcotics. In the summer of 2014, a Regional Support Tactical Team was created. This joint specialized team consisted of nine members drawn from the three local police services (Morden, Winkler & Altona) to aid in high-risk situations. In 2016, a Regional Crisis Negotiators Team was formed, again with members from the three local Services. Currently, Chief Neduzak has served the police service for 35 years and is the longest-serving Chief for the Morden Police Service.



As of 2016, the City of Morden had a population of approximately 8,668 people. It is located in the Pembina Valley of Southern Manitoba, about 122 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg and about 30 minutes north of the United States border of North Dakota. Morden was founded in 1882 when the Canadian Pacific Railway built a railway line crossing the Dead Horse Creek. This spot became a popular resting place as it was ideal to provide water for drinking and locomotives. The settlement was named “Morden” after Alvey Morden on whose family’s land the community was established. The Manitoba government granted Morden town status in 1903 and city status in 2012.

Morden has a large agricultural base, and is well known for its production of corn and apples, and boasts one of the finest Federal Agricultural Research Stations in Canada.