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JACK & RUTH FOSTER  
31 DABBS WAY  
WHITBY, ONTARIO  
CANADA L1R 2V2  
(905) 665-5791



### ***Changing hats -- again!***

Stirling Police Chief Jack Foster will take early retirement March - for the second time in his career. Foster first retired from the Metro

Toronto force in 1976 before becoming Stirling's chief. Foster and his wife Ruth, holding the hats he started and ended his career with, will travel

across the country on behalf of the Canadian Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. See story, Page 13.  
(Photo - Bill Whitelaw)



## NEWS LOCAL

# Former chief recalls solo days



By Luke Hendry, The Intelligencer  
Monday, May 19, 2014 5:46:16 EDT PM



STIRLING - Jack Foster came here to be police chief, but for a time, he was something of a lone ranger.

Belleville resident and retired lawman was at Farmtown Park, the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage, here Saturday.

He came to record video messages for his former deputy, retired chief Frank Wallwork, who is now in Kingston.

But Foster, 87, was also keen to catch up with some of the people he knew during his time as chief between 1976 and 1986.

"I loved it," he said, saying Stirling-Rawdon's "village with the big heart" slogan is accurate. He was wearing the hat from his Stirling days and the uniform of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers-Canada ministry, complete with medals.

# uty as city's top cop

With talk of an impending marriage to his girlfriend Ann, Mackey was lucky to find work at a garage in Scarborough.

It was while working at the garage that Mackey stumbled into his next line of work.

The owner of a local dairy farm had gotten wind of Mackey's past accomplishments in baseball and hockey.

"He came into the garage and asked if I would play baseball for his team," he said. "I said, 'yes, but I want a full-time job.' I started working as a milkman that Monday."

Another chance encounter turned Mackey toward the career that would shape the rest of his life.

"I delivered milk to an Irishman, and he said to me one day, 'why don't you become a policeman. It's a good job and it pays a pension,'" said Mackey.

Mackey began to study through correspondence, and in 1936 he became one of only a handful of 200 applicants to successfully land a job on the force.

"That first night I saw a couple of guys, and it looked like they might be trying to break into a building," he said. "I picked them up and brought them to the detectives ... and they were charged with several break-and-enters."

Mackey was on his way up the law enforcement ladder,

climb on hold.

"I joined up for the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force), the first day of the war," he said. "My father had been in the Great War (First World War), and my brother joined up for the RCAF as well. I guess I felt duty-bound at the time."

On his way to becoming an RCAF officer, Mackey did stints in Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

Mackey trained flyers until the end of the war in 1945, when he was discharged. He turned his attention back to policing.

"Someone asked me what I was going to do at the end of the war. As a joke, I told them I was going to be the chief of police," he said.

Mackey steadily progressed from walking the beat on Toronto Island, to detective, to sergeant of detectives.

"As detectives, we looked at everything from the theft of milk bottles to murders," he said.

Mackey's police instincts resurface as he recalls the details of cases more than half a century old.

"I was working at York and King and someone came running out into the street, saying there's been a murder. I went in and found a woman in a red dress who had been stabbed over 60 times by her husband," he said. "She lived ... apparently the couple were separated. They met to discuss getting back together

Mackey also recalled the time when a father couldn't bear to tell his wife that their son had been kidnapped from the Toronto Exhibition and murdered.

"He said, 'you're going to tell his mother,'" said Mackey. "She knew. She didn't ask me any questions, she just held onto me for a long time. I tried to talk to her, but she was out of her mind with grief."

When 13 police forces merged to become the Metro Police in 1957, Mackey said he had no inkling he was in line for the job of chief.

"I was very surprised," he said. "One of my first jobs as chief was to talk to the four deputies who had a lot of experience and were senior to me. I respected them, and I told them that I hadn't asked for the position, but I was glad to have it. They took it well and we stayed friends."

After his retirement, Mackey and his wife moved to Muskoka, where he wrote *I Policed Toronto: an autobiography by James P. Mackey, Chief of Police, Metropolitan Toronto, 1958-1970*.

Sadly, Ann passed away last year just three days before what would have been the Mackeys' 74th anniversary.

Mackey said he now spends most of his time reading books and newspapers.

"I like reading the crime cases. They're the most in-

## INTRODUCTION

It was on October 8th, 1943 when I walked into Police Headquarters at 149 College Street, and was interviewed by Mr. Reeves the Chief Secretary. I wanted to become a Policeman although I was only 16 years of age and had just left school that summer. At that time the Police Department were employing young men as Constable Cadets. I underwent a medical examination, was accepted and placed on the paysheet as of that date. Although my Father was a well known Police Sergeant at the time, he was unaware of the step I was taking until I returned home, also the Department was unaware of my relation to Sgt. Cecil Foster until my application was reviewed before the selection committee. I was informed at that time by the Deputy Chief Constable that, if I made half as good a Policeman as my Father I would be doing well. I left that office with that very aim in view.

The following day I was instructed to report to Inspector Austin Mitchell at #9 Police Station, Keele & Dundas Sts. There were two other Cadets under his direction at the time, Harry Hall and Bill Rogers. I was issued with a leather billy, commonly known as a blackjack, a pair of handcuffs and a flashlight. I then spent my first night as a Police Cadet patrolling the back lanes in search of anything I could get my hands on. This was a very interesting experience for a young lad only 16 years of age, and I later worked on the scout cars, with the plainclothesmen, the Detectives and in the Station at clerical work. And so began my experiences on the Toronto Police Department.

POSTER, Robert John Det. Sgt. #4525  
48 Flora Drive Scar. PL-5-2657

MTP/186

DATE OF BIRTH Nov. 7, 1926  
NEXT OF KIN ~~Andrew G. Foster~~ - ~~Wife~~ W.  
DATE Nov. 7/47 AGE WEIGHT HEIGHT 6'1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

- SERVICE RECORD -

DATE OF APPOINTMENT TO: Social Insurance # 409 137 148

~~CLERK~~ or CADET - Oct. 8, 1943  
3rd CLASS - Nov. 7, 1947  
2nd CLASS - Nov. 7, 1947 (see IM 6 mos)  
1st CLASS - May 7, 1949  
~~PROBATION DET.~~ - Jan. 10, 1957  
~~SGT.~~ or D/S - July 26, 1960

- COMMENDATIONS & DISCIPLINE -

Aug. 7/47 - I.I. 6 mos. Sept. 29/49 S.A. Commendation  
Jan. 28/4 - I.I. 5 mos. H v. 14/50 S.A. Commendation

- TRANSFERS -

Oct. 8/43 - 9 Div. Mar. 29/65 - 52 Div.  
Nov. 7/47 - 6 Div. ~~ORON~~ Sept. 28/65 - 54 Div. (JUNE 16/65)  
Apr. 12/50 - 3 Div. Pl.Cl. Jul. 28/68 - 51 Div.  
Mar. 1/49 - 6 Div. Pl.Cl. (57 Div.) Nov. 10/69 - Courts Bureau  
Nov. 3/51 - 5 Div. CIB

- TRAINING RECORD -

July 14/47 - Aug. 23/47 - Prob. Training  
Feb. 25/52 - Mar. 17/52 - St. John's Ambulance (2 mos).  
Sep. 14/59 - Sep. 23/59 - In-Service Training  
Apr. 2nd/62 - Apr. 11/62 - Det. Sgt. In-Service Training.

MAY 7/76 - RETIRED

- QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS -

Oct. 9/58 - Det's. Qualifying Exam  
May 29/61 - Det. Sgts. Qualifying Exam

(P) or (F)

P
P

DATES

- October 8, 1943..... DATE JOINED as Constable Cadet. Assigned to #9 Division, Keele & Dundas Sts. Insp. A. Mitchell in charge.
- September 27, 1946... TRANSFERED to Headquarters, 149 College St. License Bureau. Insp. A. Marshall in charge.
- Jul.14 - Aug.23,1947. TRAINING SCHOOL Course given in Police Procedure in preparation for Constable Appointment. Insp. Dunn in charge. Sgt. Polton assisting. (Son Bobby born first day of class)
- August 15, 1947.... MERIT MARK Granted Merit Mark by Police Board to carry with it 6 months toward promotion for duty in arresting following:  
1- Charles A. St. James, Charge- Shopbreaking. Jewellery Store, 101 $\frac{1}{2}$  Roncesvalles Ave. Sentenced to 3 years in Kingston Pen.  
2- Michael Bosiak, Charge- Housebreaking and Burglary. Sentenced to 3 years in Kingston.  
3- Lewis Ireland. Charge- Att. Auto Theft Given 2 years on probation.  
4- Irwin Hale & John Hale. Charge- Att. Auto Theft. Irwin- 30 Days. John. Susp. Sentence.
- August 15, 1947..... SUMMER HOLIDAY 2 weeks holiday and in the summer too. I really enjoyed this holiday with my family because I knew it would be a long time before I got another in the warm weather. Spent at Pypers' Cottage, Lake Simcoe. Orillia.
- September 7, 1947.. TRANSFERRED to #6 Police Station. Inspector Herbert Harrison in Charge.
- November 7, 1947.... APPOINTED POLICE CONSTABLE (21st. Birthday) Automatically made 2nd. class constable with 3 months promotion toward 1st. class owing to Merit Mark taking effect. This was a big day in my experiences, at last I was a full-fledged Cop.
- January 28, 1949.... MERIT MARK Granted Merit Mark to carry with it 3 months toward promotion for duty in arresting the following 4 men on charges of Shopbreaking at the Wonderbar Restaurant on Lakeshore Rd. while in company with P.C. Bob Edginton 727:  
1- Andrew Tomas, alias Tamas, Thomas, B. Moore  
2- William Chioney, alias W. Arnold  
3- Nicholas Crankovitch, alias Jim Reardon  
4- Varton Vartanian, alias B. Thompson.  
Sentences as follows-  
1- Tomas- 6 mths. Def. & 6 mths. indefinite  
2- Chioney- " " " " "  
3- Crankovitch- 2 years less a day.  
4- Vartanian- 18 months.

DATES (CONT)

- March 1st. 1949..... ASSIGNED TO PLAINCLOTHES On this date, I was assigned to Regular Plainclothes Duty in company with P.C. James Mudge 850. in #6 Police Divison.
- May 7th, 1949..... PROMOTED TO 1st. CLASS CONSTABLE Having served the required time on this date was made a 1st. Class Constable which meant a little more in the pay cheque.
- September 28, 1949... SERVICE AWARD COMMENDATION. On this date my plainclothes partner and I were commended by the Board of Commissioners of Police for our work in arresting one- Joseph Rail on a charge of Assault and Robbery. Rail was sentenced to 3 years in Kingston Pen with 10 Lashes.
- April 12th, 1950..... TRANSFERRED TO #3 POLICE STATION Continued duties in Plainclothes in company with P.C. Victor Hargan 69.
- November 14, 1950..... SERVICE AWARD COMMENDATION. On this date my plainclothes partner P.C. Victor Hargan 69 and I were commended by the Board of Commissioners of Police for our work in the following cases: Per. Order No. 525/50.
- 1- William W. Dunn & Herbert Gaines on charges of Attempt Shapbreaking and Having Burglar Tools by night.
  - 2- Roy D'Agostino & Denis Rondeau on several charges of auto Theft.
  - 3- Alfred Savoie & Clarence Albert on charges of Theft & Receiving Stolen Property.
- December 25, 1950.... ( EARLY CHRISTMAS MORNING) PLAINCLOTHES PARTNER VIC HARGAN WOUNDED BY DEMENTED YOUTH WITH ARMY RIFLE. This could of very well been the end for both of us. When checking a youth carrying a long parcel on Spadina Ave. he suddenly tore off the wrappings around the trigger of a loaded 303 army rifle firing several rapid shots into our cruiser without any warning, wounding Vic in the right elbow and creasing his stomach. Vic hospitalized for several months so P.C. Ken Schultz 581 assigned to continued plainclothes duty with me.
- December 3, 1951..... ASSIGNED TO DETECTIVE DUTIES IN NO. 5 DIVISION. Something I had been waiting for. I was working in plainclothes during the evening of Dec. 1st. when I was instructed to go to the office of Inspector of Detectives, Alex McCathie at Headquarters where he informed me that I was to be



**JACK FOSTER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**D.V.D. # 1**

**RECORDED ON NOV. 7/200- 74TH. B.D.**

- ..... Introduction, explain title-42 1/2 yrs.
- ..... Family Background- Childhood Days. Dad.
- ..... Photos- pony, school- 19 Wanda Rd.
- ..... School- Athletics & Music. Farm & Test.
- ..... Family History- Dad- Mom & Cleo
- ..... End See D.V.D. # 2. Continued.

**D.V.D. # 2** Continue- Nov. 16/200

- ..... Family History
- ..... Music- McNeil Gospel Group etc.
- ..... POLICE STORIES & SERVICE DATA
- ..... New Sitting- May, 2001. (Repeat Joke?)
- ..... Plainclothes- 3 Div.
- ..... CHRISTMAS EVE SHOOTING 1950
- ..... End- Continued on D.V.D. # 3 -Victor Hargen.

**D.V.D. # 3**

- ..... CHRISTMAS EVE 1950 (Continued)
- ..... Frightening Sequel
- ..... News Clipping of Shooting.
- ..... Counterfeit Sweep-Stake Case
- ..... Newspaper Clipping of Lottery above.
- ..... # 3 Division- Partner Ken Schultz
- ..... B&E- lead ignots- chase & arrest.
- ..... Partner- Ken Schults- promoted to Glory & good buddy- Jack Turner ( The Hornet)
- ..... PROMOTED TO ACT. DETECTIVE AND TRANS. TO # 5 DIV. DETECTIVE OFFICE. NOV.3/51  
Det/Sgt. Alivn Morrison- Act. Dets. John Bassett- Jim Noble- and yours truly. See Photo.
- ..... Insurance Fraud- Owner-Politician & boyfriend Arrested. See news. Dec. 15/55.
- ..... End.

**D.V.D. # 4**

- ..... Set powder-trap. ( Gentian Violet Powder) Arrest
- ..... Homicide- Quick Arrest.
- ..... Safe Job at Hoover Vacuum Ltd. Mar.3/53 Arrest (3)
- ..... Arrest suspect - giving the Silent Treatment.
- ..... Worst Sex Offender Case. Nov. 4/50 Arrest.
- ..... Rape 5 yr. old Girl. Arrest.
- ..... Domestic- Man threatens to behead baby. Arrest.
- ..... Sex Fiend terrorized the mothers. Arrest-Mentally-ill.
- ..... B& E artist. Nitro Glycerene. Arrest- 3 yrs. News Clip.
- ..... June 16/65 Transferred to # 54 Div. Dets.- Still C.N.E.
- ..... July 28/68 Trans. to #51 Div. ( Cabbage Town)  
Talked to plainclothes officer about Stirling, Ont.
- ..... Nov. 10/69- transferred to Courts Bureau at City Hall.  
as a Court/Liason officer assisting the Crown Attorney's  
in Court. Every Day for 6 1/2 yrs. Talk about Criminal Lawyers,  
Bail Reform Act- Young Offenders, Free Legal Aid, Probation etc.

DATES (CONTINUED)

February 10, 1955.

PROMOTED TO RANK OF ACTING DETECTIVE

After completing 3 years, 2 months and 1 week of service in the Detective Branch, I was finally promoted from a Constable to a confirmed Acting Detective. This time spent primarily in investigating criminal offences, preparation and presentation of court cases etc. A very interesting but busy branch of the service.

Next move, a full fledged Detective.

**T**WENTY - ONE promotions in the detective division were announced yesterday by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Promoted from detective to detective sergeant were John Mullen, Cyril Cole, Frank

Cater and George Sellar. Det. Sgt. Sellar recently completed a training course with the FBI.

Promoted from acting detective to detective were Gordon Gahagan, Lloyd Anderson, Alexander Williamson, Kenneth Craven, Alex Small and

Norman Smith.

Promoted from constable to acting detective were John Ross, Kenneth Harris, George McGowan, James Raffan, Stanley Wood, George Galbraith, Robert Foster, Irvine Alexander, John Irwin, Tom MaLeod and Harold Jukes.

January 1st. 1957.

FORMATION OF METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

On January 1st. 1957 the Toronto City Police Dept. with a strength of approximately 1,400 joined forces in a merger with all the surrounding suburban Police Depts, Scarborough, North York, Forest Hill, York Township, Swansea, East York, Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch & Etobicoke making a combined Police Department with a strength of about 2,400. the largest Police Department in North America.

January 10, 1957.

PROMOTED TO RANK OF FULL DETECTIVE.

At last we made it. After 5 years, 1 month and 9 days service in the Detective Branch, I was promoted to a Full Detective. Next step? Detective Sergeant.

October 9, 1958.

EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO DET. SERGEANT

After many years away from school, back to examinations. On this date, at No. 9 Police Station my partner Det. Jim Noble and I (among about 30 other Detectives) wrote qualifying examinations for promotion to the rank of Detective Sergeant. Examinations lasted for about 8 hours. Both Jim & I qualified but our marks are not divulged to us.

September 14-23/59.

ATTENDED IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR DETS.

This was an interesting course at our recently acquired Police College in Willowdale (#17 Div.). Lectures were given by members of the various

D A T E S ( C O N T I N U E D )

May 3rd. 1960.

SELECTION BOARD FOR PROSPECTIVE DET. SERGEANTS

Attended in the Chief Constable's Office before Chief Constable Mackie, Deputy Chief Thurston, Deputy Chief Elliott, Staff Inspector Simmonds & answered varied questions on police procedure, personal & family life etc.

The purpose of this board is to examine officers qualified for promotion. (Keeping my fingers crossed.)

June 27-July 17/60

ANNUAL LEAVE. TOOK FAMILY FOR A TRIP.

This was a real high light in our lives. We drove a sleek cadillac convertible out to Vancouver B.C and enroute visited my sister in Luseland, Sask. friends in Edmonton, Alberta and had a wonderful drive through the beautiful, majestic Rockies (with the top of the car down too)

Spent a week in Vancouver with my old buddy Bill Clark and stayed in his new home up on the mountain. This was a beautiful spot overlooking the entire city of Vancouver. Got together everyday with our dear friend Mary Fox.

Flew down the west coast and spent a week in Los Angeles area. Rented a car and visited Disneyland on Bobbie's 13th. birthday, also visited Marineland (both fabulous places) Knott's Berry Farm etc. Flew home via Golden Jet. A holiday we will never forget.

August 26/60.

PROMOTED TO RANK OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT.

Could'nt have come at a better time. Just back from our extended trip and believe me, a little out of ready funds. This of course meant a nice raise in pay and naturally, added responsibility. Where to now ?????

September 7/60.

AWARDED SECOND GOOD CONDUCT BADGE.

This is an award granted to encourage the men to keep their noses clean as the saying goes. The 1st. comes with 8 years service from the time you are sworn in as a Police Constable, the 2nd. at 13 yrs. and thence every 5 years. It is accompanied by a little change in the pay cheque.

September 20/60.

PLACED IN CHARGE OF NO. 5 DIVISION DET. OFFICE

This was quite an honour and of course added to