

down-side of all this public attention was the fact that I had over two hundred days of sick credits that I was losing. Our contract called for payment for 180 days only and having had good health had accumulated a lot more than that. Usually a prospective retiree managed to get most of the credits by a day or two here and there. In any event it was a rewarding experience, I would not want to have missed.

OFF TO STIRLING AND THE TRANQUILITY
OF GOD'S COUNTRY.

STAR MAR 17 1976

Frustrated policeman calls court a joke quits his Metro job

By GWYN (Jocko) THOMAS
Star staff writer

Staff Sgt. Jack Foster wanted to complete 30 years' service for a full pension from Metro police. But he quit yesterday — two years short — and said he's too frustrated by what he sees every day in the courts to stay another week.

"As far as I am concerned what is happening in the courts is a joke, just like attending a circus sideshow," Foster, 49, said in an inter-

view after handing in his resignation.

He has spent four years as the court officer in Scarborough provincial court. Before that, he spent two years in the old city hall provincial court processing cases for the crown counsel.

"The young people coming before the courts are treating the whole thing like a joke," he said. "They leave there laughing."

He said he was referring to the permissiveness of the courts towards crime, the working of the Bail Reform Act and the "revolving door" system of handing out justice.

"Lawbreakers are walking in laughing and walking out of courts laughing even more. I can't stand it any longer," Foster said.

He started on the Toronto police force in 1943 as a 17-year-old police cadet. He was only one year in uniform before going into plainclothes work.

Cadet time (under 21 years of age) doesn't count in Metro police pensions. Foster will retire on 82 per cent of the \$11,000-a-year pension he would be entitled to if he remained another two years.

Toronto Star, Mar. 18/76

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SUN MAR 18/76

Disillusionment rife, cop turns to farming

Jack Foster can remember it all, even now, even after 33 years.

He can remember himself as a squeaky-clean 16-year-old Toronto police cadet who had just made his first arrest.

He can remember Sergeant Sid Hill, his tutor then, bringing him into the office night after night before that first court case and preparing Foster so that he would be cool and professional and poised on the witness stand.

And he can remember, too, and he does so with the pride still in his voice, how the judge praised the young cadet for his self-assurance and his expertise.

But soon, in two more months, Jack Foster, who is 49 and a staff sergeant instead of a raw cadet, won't want to remember much of that first case, or any of the thousands of others he's been involved in since then.

Jack Foster these days is a very angry, frustrated cop, and he's decided none of it is worth it any more. There are, and he knows it well, many other cops who feel as he does, but he has chosen to talk about it — and that makes him a public bellwether who deserves to be heard out.

He's quitting a job he used to love deeply, that was indeed his entire life, because he cannot tolerate to be present in the Scarboro courthouse where he works and watch the judicial system turn into a sham of the way it used to be.

"When I signed my name to the resignation form, a big load came off my back," he said yesterday. "And I can speak on behalf of the majority of policemen. I was at a party last week for a detective, with 16 years' service, and he's quitting too — and for the same reasons."

The reasons are not that new. Simply, Foster and others in his job feel that courts are too permissive; that the bail legislation is simply not working properly; and that criminals are, in effect, laughing at the whole process.

Simple reasons; reasons that are not that novel. But they are being expressed lately with a force and energy that could bring on a complete crisis of confidence among our law enforcement officers.

"I remember, as an example," Foster said, "that

housebreaking was considered a very serious matter. Back in those days, the guy would in fact plead for a sentence of two years less a day, because he knew well if he went to trial, he was good for four or five years — even if it was for a first offence.

"Now, we can see these guys out on bail, or getting probation, and then committing more offences while they're on it and it's ridiculous.

"[Foster] one recent case there was an individual before the court and we wanted to set a date for his trial. Well, turned out he couldn't come back that day — he had to be at another trial.

"It turned out also he was scheduled to appear in four different courts, and he'd received bail four times, as well as probation four times," Foster continued bitterly.

"But this was the crunch: The guy was also collecting welfare, and he was in his mid-20s, about six feet 210 pounds, and he looked like he could lift the back end of a truck.

"This system is stimulating crime."

As for his resignation and his willingness to talk about it, Foster is quite clear:

"I think it only right that some effort be made to let the public know what's going on. It's their courts — they're paying for it all."

So now Foster looks forward to May 7, the day he gives back his badge. He won't be receiving the full pension he would have if he had chosen to stick it out another two years, but he believes his health is more important anyway. His wife, Ruth, who also works for the police department as a clerk, is "tickled pink." He intends to do

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Metropolitan Toronto Police



Harold Adamson, Chief of Police



590 Jarvis Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada. M4Y 2J5
(416) 967-2222.

PLEASE REPLY ATTENTION OF

July 2nd, 1976

FILE NO.

Mr. Robert J. Foster,
(former Staff Sergeant (4525)),
R.R. #1,
Stirling, Ontario.
KOK 3E0

Dear Sir:

At the time of your retirement from this Force on July 1st, 1976, you had served the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto for some 28 years in a most commendable manner.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police Force is said to be the finest police force on the continent, and we have only achieved this reputation through the outstanding contributions of its members. The attributes of a successful police officer are self sacrifice and dedication to duty and, I am pleased to say, you always possessed these qualities.

Many of our former officers go on to much greater heights in the business world, and this fact is indicative of the high calibre of the men who have served the cause of law enforcement.

With best wishes for good health and continuing success in the future, and with sincere appreciation for a job well done, I am

Yours sincerely,

Chief of Police.

Court Bureau.

Annual Retirement Banquet

Honouring :

S. Sgt. Bill Cameron.	4177
S. Sgt. Bill Dugan.	4611
Sgt. George Eastaugh.	4437
S. Sgt. Jack Foster.	4525
S. Sgt. Ted Lawrie.	4368
P.C. Ron Marsh.	1506
S. Sgt. Walter Porter.	4685
S. Sgt. Jock Preston.	4542
S. Sgt. Bill Tulloch.	4556
S. Sgt. Norm Wright.	4090

to be held at
Luna Ballroom
30 Gordon Mackay Rd.
Friday 15 October
1976

Refreshments 6.30 pm.

Dinner 7.30 pm.

Court Prizes



2002

Carol

Tickets \$10.00 at any Court Office

Door Prizes

Don

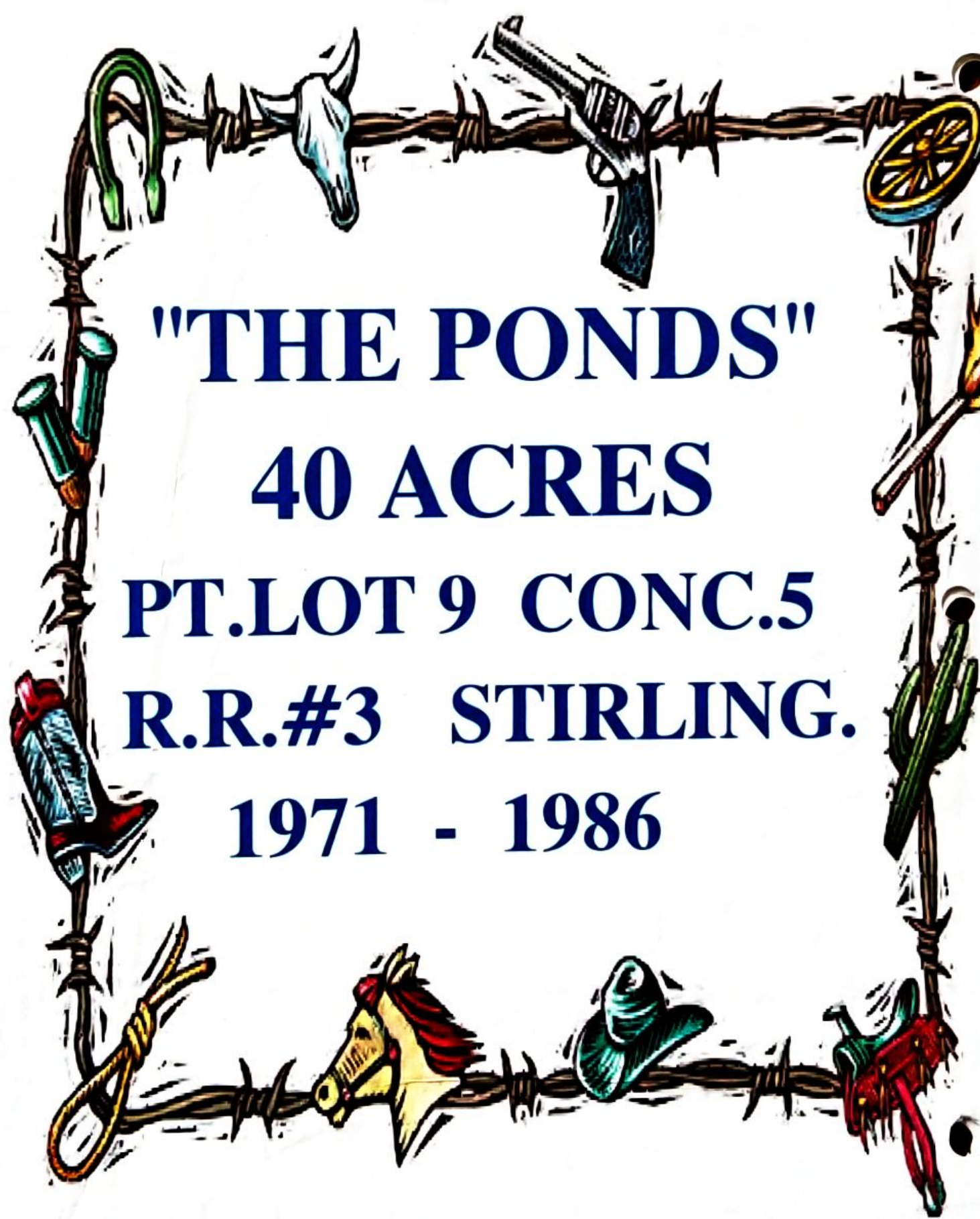
Entertainment

SUMMER OF 1976

We worked hard all summer building new fences along the frontage of our property, app. 800 ft as well as designing and building an unique master bathroom with a 6' Jacuzzi tub, bronze mirror wall etc. but it was quite evident that the meagher Police Pension was not going to sustain us coming fall and winter. I was quite content to take a job in Belleville as a salesman in a clothing store or whatever, when we had a visit from Ray Short, Reeve of the Village of Stirling. Council were not happy with the coverage the O.P.P. was giving them and they wanted me to utilize my Police experience and start up a police service in town. Initially, I thought I had enough of policing but we realized this would present a real challenge, and like a challenge. I replied to the proposal in the affirmative but only after I had an opportunity to do some research with the O.P.P. It was apparent that the geographical location of the village was indeed a factor in the lack of patrols and service. Officers informed me that their intentions were good but often when heading up to Stirling, they would be called back to the Belleville area. The O.P.P. brass were very co-operative. I was permitted to patch into their radio system, to use their cells for prisoners, to access the C.P.I.C. system (Can. Police Information Centre) via Telex. Full co-operation from the Identification Bureau to process Prisoners and fingerprint scenes of crimes etc. I could'nt ask for more. This worked out well for all of us. If one of their units were in trouble and needed assistance, I was happy to respond.

Truly this was a real challenge. Of the 33 yrs. I spent on Metro, I was only in uniform for about 1 year and that was back in 1947. Now I was expected to perform uniformed duties like accidents, enforcing the Highway Traffic Act etc. etc Back to the books.

Oct. 8, 1976, commenced duties in the Village. See news article of New Cruiser, all decked out, ready for action. 24 X 7.
Don't miss my story of our first Halloween (Oct.31)



"THE PONDS"
40 ACRES
PT.LOT 9 CONC.5
R.R.#3 STIRLING.
1971 - 1986

May 7, 1976, officially re-tired, we moved into our new home on Conc. 5, North of Stirling, Ont. which we designed ourselves. We contracted the outer shell and did a lot of the inner construction ourselves. Fortunately Ruthie had qualified for a loan under the V.L.A. having joined the Canadian Forces while in England. This assisted us greatly in our new adventure. The boys at # 54 Police Div. where she worked, persuaded her to put her name down for the Veteran's Benefits even though she didn't think at the time, she would ever use them.

OUR HOME- 40 ACRES



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