

## A Village Police Department

**I**N 1912, THE MUNICIPAL HALL moved from its original location at Elliott Street and Chisholm Street and relocated to what is now the Delta Museum on Delta Street. The police office and jail were in the basement. The following eleven years saw eight men fill the position of chief constable, and little is known about them or their tenures except that one was dismissed for relieving the municipality of \$106. During this time, the municipality suffered economic setbacks, as the salmon fishery on the river was beginning to wane. This development caused particular hardship among the cannery workers. Despite the local economy, the population of Delta continued to grow.



Municipal Hall, circa 1912. DELTA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES. 1984-101-1

### Chief Constable Fenton

1923–1951

In January 1923, Scott Fenton, a special constable, was appointed on the instructions of the reeve to investigate the theft of logs. The following month, the magistrate John McKee appointed him to be Delta's police chief.

The years when Fenton policed were quiet ones. (See the following section for some of the more notable incidents he took care of.) Delta was very much a rural community with a population of only a few thousand. The police work did not change much from what it had been under Joseph Jordan and the other previous chiefs. Fenton was the only full-time constable until 1931, at which point

Chief Constable Scott Fenton.  
DELTA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



## New Facilities

Another major change in the early 1960s was the construction of a new police station. Prior to 1962, the police were housed in the basement of the municipal hall. (This historic building is now the Delta Museum.)



Delta Police station, 1960s. DELTA MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES. 1984-101-2

The new police station had previously been a Canadian Legion building, which the municipal winter works crew renovated for the Delta Police at a cost of \$18,000. The new station consisted of a large central office, a boardroom, a courtroom, special offices for interviews, three double cells, one double juvenile cell, and one woman's cell. Each cell had its own toilet.

It was not an ideal facility. For example, prisoners being escorted to court from cells had to pass through the coffee room!

## Delta Police Department Salaries in 1960

As of January 1, 1960, members of the Delta Police Department received a pay raise. The new salaries are illustrated in the table below:

Position	Monthly Salary
Probationary constable	\$300
Third-class constable	\$340
Second-class constable	\$385
First-class constable	\$420
Corporal	\$440

## Changes in Crime Rate

Along with population growth came a large increase in the Delta crime rate. This included drug-related crime, which increased dramatically in the late 1960s, especially when compared with only ten years earlier. Some examples of drug crimes in 1960s Delta:

- In 1968, three young people were each sentenced to a \$500 fine for cultivating marijuana at the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
- In the summer of 1969, a newly hired police constable went undercover to investigate drug trafficking. As a result, five young people were arrested and charged with trafficking in marijuana, hashish, and LSD.
- In 1971, a man was charged with the possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking after a cache of heroin worth \$250,000 was found in Ladner.



with outside agencies. There are partnerships with ICBC, the Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU), Work Safe BC, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The traffic section within the Delta Police has three sub-units: enforcement, collision investigation, and commercial inspection.

### The Enforcement Unit

Officers in the Enforcement Unit deal with offences contributing to motor vehicle collisions. They're the ones who use covert vehicles known as "ghost cars" and laser equipment to measure speed. The DPD was the second police department in BC to use laser technology.

### The Collision Investigation Unit



Investigations of all motor vehicle collisions in Delta involving a fatality and/or serious injury follow the same principles as a major crime investigation. (In fact, the major crime section enlists the help of the Collision Investigation Unit when it comes to mapping major crime scenes such as homicides.) Collision analysts are officers who have received extensive specialized training and who can examine vehicles for damage and interpret evidence found at the scene of collisions. Their expertise and training in subjects such as heavy commercial vehicles,



DPD traffic section working to keep Delta's roads safe

pedestrian and motorcycle collisions, photography, and forensic mapping software allow them to accurately re-create collision scenes and to explain why a collision would have occurred in the first place.

### The Commercial Inspection Unit



DPD Commercial Vehicle Inspection Unit coordinates joint forces operation, bringing over eighty officers to the streets of Delta

## Behind the Yellow Tape

### MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS

**T**HE DELTA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S major crime section investigates crimes such as homicides, attempted murders, serious assaults, suspicious deaths, police shootings, missing persons, and other crimes of a complex nature, and it also manages witness protection. Delta police follow best practices when it comes to organizing investigations and managing evidence and information (including electronic files). This is intended to hold investigators accountable for their decision making and to allow a systematic method of disclosing information to both Crown and Defence, and ultimately the public, through the court process. Going about investigations in a methodical, comprehensive, efficient, and organized manner that ensures nothing is overlooked follows the principles of major case management (MCM), an approach to solving crimes and



DPD Forensics attend a crime scene to collect evidence

complex incidents. Continually exploring new technology and new investigative techniques is also in line with MCM.

When is a file treated as a *major case*?

- *There are high-level crimes against persons, that is, involving death or grievous bodily harm.* This can extend to suspicious deaths or missing persons where there is evidence to suggest foul play may be involved.
- *It is a motor vehicle incident that causes death or grievous bodily harm and involves a clear criminal act or omission.* This includes impaired or dangerous driving.
- *There is a high level of complexity and/or scope of victimization—that is, many victims and/or suspects and/or a large monetary loss.* Files need to be managed meticulously



and hours of indoor practice. Eventually the excellent instruction and hard work paid off. The Delta Police Pipe Band began to perform credibly as a unit, starting with classic marches and familiar slow airs.

Sadly, one of the first major performances of the Delta Police Pipe Band came on the heels of a great tragedy. In 1974, Staff Sergeant Ron McKay was killed in the line of duty. The Pipe Band was to



Chief Jim Cessford and the Delta Police Pipe Band at Ladner May Days, 2003

lead the procession at the funeral, and they had to scramble to be ready in time. Police officers from departments all over Canada and the US would be attending the service. The performance was difficult for all of the band members, but they performed admirably. It was an important, although tragic, moment in the band's growth.

As of 2011, the Delta Pipe Band's thirty-three pipers and eighteen drummers are under the direction of Pipe Major Colin Abel and Drum Major Moe Coll. Abel continues the work of past pipe majors

Bruce Topp (1971–2001) and Dave Rutherford (2000–2001). Moe Coll was preceded by drum majors Bob Burns (1985–2000), Rob Smith (2000–2004), and Al Brown (2004–2009).

By 2011, the Delta Police Pipe Band's history spanned thirty-eight years and had travelled all over the world, performing in exhibitions, contests, and military tattoos. Among the band's most memorable events are the 1983 performance for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Vancouver and for the 1986 opening of the Vancouver World Exposition by Prince Charles and Princess Diana. In August 2001, the band once again performed for royalty as part of the Canadian

Massed Pipes and Drums tour of Scotland. The highlight of the tour was performing for Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Highland Games at Braemar Castle.

The band's most recent international travels include a trip to Basel, Switzerland, to play at the 2009 Basel Tattoo. The band played eleven shows, as well as three sold-out dress rehearsals. They also played in the Basel Tattoo Parade through the streets of Basel, and in Illzach, France, in a show for Bastille Day. The year before, in July 2008, members of the band performed with the legendary Irish band the Chieftains. Who would have thought that a pipe band from a mid-size suburban police department would travel the world and continue to be ambassadors of not only the DPD but also the community of Delta.

The band also plays closer to home, participating in many community parades, festivities, and ceremonies. These include the Ladner May Days Parade, the North Delta Family Days Parade, the Tsawwassen Sun Festival Parade, the Steveston Salmon Festival, the Port Coquitlam May Day Parade, the St. Patrick's Day Parade

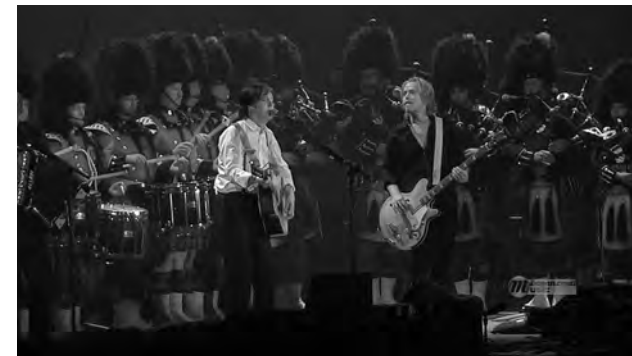


PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM LEE OF MAGMAZING MUSIC

The Delta Police Pipe Band boasts an extensive and well-organized website ([www.deltapolicepipeband.com](http://www.deltapolicepipeband.com)), which features event photos, historic documents, MP3s of the band, a written account of the band's history, and a blog that keeps fans apprised of the band's busy events schedule, both local and international.

The Pipe Band played at the Sir Paul McCartney concert in Vancouver in November 2012. The band provided bagpipes and percussion for the song "Mull of Kintyre," which the rock legend performed during a second encore.