

# Northern Pride

## North Bay Police Association

By **MIKE TARINI AND AARON NORTHRUP**  
NORTH BAY POLICE ASSOCIATION

The North Bay Police Department was first established in 1882, in what was then essentially a Northern Ontario railroad town. We can only surmise that over the next 53 years the day-to-day operations of the NBPD were without labour strife as the North Bay Police Association was not formed until 1945.

And if those first 53 years were without controversy the next 66 would not be. In the wake of one of the darkest days in Force history, December 1, 1973, when North Bay police officer Len Slater was murdered in cold blood in a downtown parking lot, spouses of North Bay Police Association members picketed City Hall to bring attention to the woeful staffing crisis that had been allowed to beset the North Bay Police Force.

What the Association had been unable to accomplish through dialogue and reason was finally brought about by the tragic death of Len Slater, the public outcry that followed, and the relentless political pressures applied by the North Bay Police Association. A few months after the death of Constable Slater the City hired 16 new constables.

Constable Slater was the second North Bay police officer killed in the line of duty. The first was Constable Fred Lefebvre who was slain in 1923 while attempting to arrest a bank robber. Constable Lefebvre's death was for the longest time forgotten and it wasn't until 1977, following a memorial service in North Bay, that his name was added to the Memorial Wall at the Ontario Police College and the Honour Rolls at Queen's Park and the National Police Memorial in Ottawa.

With 66 years of experience behind us, the North Bay Police Association is proud to represent the 152 members -

92 Sworn and 63 Civilian - who currently make up our membership. We are equally proud of our affiliation with the Police Association of Ontario and the Canadian Police Association who provide the assistance, training and education needed for effective association representation at every level.

The NBPA is proud of its commitment to the community outside the bands of traditional law enforcement. Our members are coaches for youth sports, board members for athletics/theatre/schools and municipal commissions.

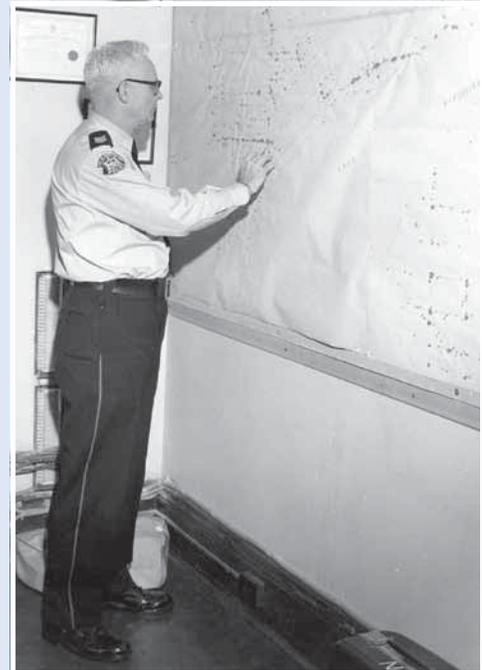
Our Association also sponsors and supports organizations including the Warriors of Hope Dragon Boat Festival, Ride for Dad, Kids/Cops and Fishing, Charity Hockey, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Mental Health fundraising. Over the past 10 years our Charity Golf Tournament has raised over \$50,000 for various local charities including Pack Sack for Smiles and One Kids Place.

Perhaps not as well known or recognized was our role as an early participant in the police/political arena; especially during a time when proactive political activity by police associations was practically unheard of. On the eve of the *Common Sense Revolution* in Ontario, our local Association helped arrange the first meeting ever between Conservative Leader Mike Harris, whose home riding was in North Bay, and the leaders of the Police Association of Ontario.

The North Bay Police Association is proud of its storied past and its present commitment to its membership. As policing continues to change and evolve, so will the service we provide to our members and to the citizens we serve. ♥



Identification Officer Ivan Ryman with Constable Erin Racicot.



Traffic Sergeant Ralph Tate examining the traffic infraction map in 1970