

ST. CLEMENTS POLICE FORCE



POLICING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

submitted by slh

During the early years, the Hudson's Bay Company established laws and imposed penalties for infractions of those laws. In 1835 the District of Assiniboia was divided into four judicial districts and appointed were Justices of the Peace for each district. A peace-keeping force of 56 Military pensioners (Chelsea pensioners) were recruited by the Hudson Bay Company in 1848 to form a part-time volunteer group to be ready at all times and to act when called upon. On Oct. 10, 1870 after the arrival of Colonel Garnet Wolseley and the quashing of the rebel skirmish, a 20-man mounted police force was formed under the command of Captain Frank Villiers of the Quebec Rifles. This force patrolled the various scattered communities and their journeys to settle claims and provide welfare took them over a vast area. Then early in 1874 the newly formed City of Winnipeg created a small policing force and by 1875 there were five members providing law enforcement to the south of us.

Meanwhile, since 1870, we had the benefit of constables appointed by the Province of Manitoba. These Provincial Constables were appointed by Order-in-Council by the Attorney-General. We list here a few of these men who travelled widely and administered many claims both sides of the Red River and up into the Lake Winnipeg area: In 1871 we had, Charles Brainard, Agustin Carriere, Cornelius Fidler, John B. Matheson, Joseph McMillan, Daniel McDougall, Alex McBeth,

Charles Porter, Thomas Peebles and Phillip Thomas. Most of these men were still filling their positions and policing up to 1895. Thomas Slater and James Green were appointed in 1872. Mr. H. Jackson was signed up in 1875 followed by James Matheson and Richard Power in 1876.

The year 1877 saw Joseph Clouston, James McIlroy and Max Goulet added to the list while in 1878 Aviedie Bissouieete and Guillamme Desautels were also policing along with Jean Baptiste Joyal. Just before 1880, W.R. Robinson, Richard H. Shore and William Vincent were appointed as Constables for the Province followed by Michael Jeffery and John McLeod in 1880. After 1880, John Flynn was assigned, Richard Gardner in 1894, John Macdonald in 1895, David Bethel of Beausejour in 1901 as well as Alexander Anderson, of Balsam Bay, in 1901.

Some of the Justices of the Peace that were in place at the time that the Municipality of St. Clements was first incorporated were: John J. Winram and James Fullerton of Crooks Creek, John Gunn of Gonor, David Miller and Angus Fraser of East Selkirk. From Selkirk we had several: Amos H. Vaughan, James Drake, James Colcleugh, Sig. Jonasson and F.W. Colcleugh. By the year 1888 we had several more, namely: Alexander Butler Rowley of Peguis; John Stace Smith of Beausejour, William Henry of East Selkirk, Jonas Bergman, James G. Dagg and Lynas S. Vaughan all of Selkirk, and finally, John Buchanan of East Selkirk. Alexander Butler Rowley had switched his address to Poplar Park by 1890, Charles H. Michell worked out of East Selkirk and did

JP duties by 1892, as did Robert Fisher, of Cooks Creek.

During the year 1884, the Town of East Selkirk had hired Charles Madden as their Chief of the Police Force. Within a decade we had quite a policing force. We had appointed Henry Smith and William T. Fidler as Constables for the municipality. They were paid at the rate of 10 cents per mile for each mile travelled and \$2.00 per day while on duty. In Jan. 1895 we had further recruits in the name of J.H. Thomas, C. MacDonald and W.R. Swain. These latter men were called "Special Constables" while James Pruden, William Fidler and Henry Smith were called the "regulars".

It was in the year 1895, that our municipality experienced a great deal of trouble with the stealing of timber. That spring we authorized the purchase of several pairs of handcuffs to be distributed amongst the Constables and Justices of the Peace of the municipality. The handcuffs cost .70 cents a pair and we received 2 dozen for \$16.50. That summer we appointed Andrew Fidler as Constable to keep an eye on things and by 1896 we had hired two more special police to handle the wood stealing that was still going on, namely Constables Thomas Calder and Jas. Morrey Jr.

The Provincial Constable, Richard Gardner, was also working on the theft of wood. Proof of this was an account listed on the books for Nov. 1896, which read: "pay James Braden livery stable \$9.00 for hire of rig used by Constable Gardner while serving summons on parties prosecuted for stealing timber in our municipality."

Then in May of 1900, we hired John T. Anderson as Constable, and in 1901, at the request of the Health Officer, we hired Julius Mowat to enforce quarantine regulations. Mr. Mowat was paid \$28.00 for this task and it took several weeks to complete the assignment. It appears he had to enforce the quarantine by not allowing anyone in or out of the buildings declared a quarantine area. In addition to his guarding post, he had to haul wood for heat, feed for stock and food and water for those families confined. Mr. Mowat was often used during times of trouble and especially during quarantine illnesses.

It is to be noted that we regularly hired policing for local elections and the Courts of Revision "to enforce orderly procedures."

It was the coming of the railroad in the late 1870's that caused us to hire more policing than was fashionable or needed elsewhere. With the large immigrant population being housed at the Roundhouse in the late 1890's, we were also forced to maintain a constabulary of some type. However, it was the building of the St. Andrews Dam and Locks that next caused us some concern and a certain amount of problems. With this large Public Works project came a transient population, work camps and crews. After the Locks were opened in 1910 it became fashionable for city dwellers to travel north to sightsee, picnic, fish or generally an "outing" for the day. When the eastern approach was built and the bridge structure was opened to vehicle and foot travellers, the crowds swelled in the Lockport area.

St. Clements requested the Hon. Geo. Bradbury, (MP for the area) in the late fall of 1913, to obtain from the Dominion Public Works Minister, the use of the vacant

building on the riverbank at Lockport, for the purpose of a Police Court. The building, if available, would be jointly used by the Municipalities of St. Andrews and St. Clements. The building in question had at one time been occupied by the Engineer of the Dept. during the construction of the Locks and Dam.

Resolutions were passed in Nov. 1913 by both municipalities to give a grant of \$50.00 each toward "putting the room in shape" for use during 1914. The matter of paying the Magistrate was left over to the new year. Finally, after several meetings back and forth and a joint meeting with the Provincial Attorney-General, it was decided that St. Andrews do the hiring and St. Clements contribute their share by the payment of \$35.00 per month, basically for the summer months, only. Nothing much is recorded until about Aug. 4, when a by-law to appoint a Constable was read three times and passed by Council.

In 1915 the issue of the Manitoba Gazette contained the appointment of E.C. Goulding of East Selkirk as Police Magistrate and Geo. Lane of East Selkirk as Provincial Constable. Magistrate Goulding requested St. Clements to provide a Court Room and Lockup at East Selkirk and by resolution of Council, early in Feb. 1916, the Reeve along with Councillors Martin and Gunn were authorized to wait upon the government about "establishing a court house" in East Selkirk. Nothing appears to have come of the interview except a brief note in the minutes of the Council meeting later in the spring of 1916 which read: "the situation be left in the hands of Reeve and Councillor Karanko to arrange with Mr. Goulding for rooms at his place during 1916."

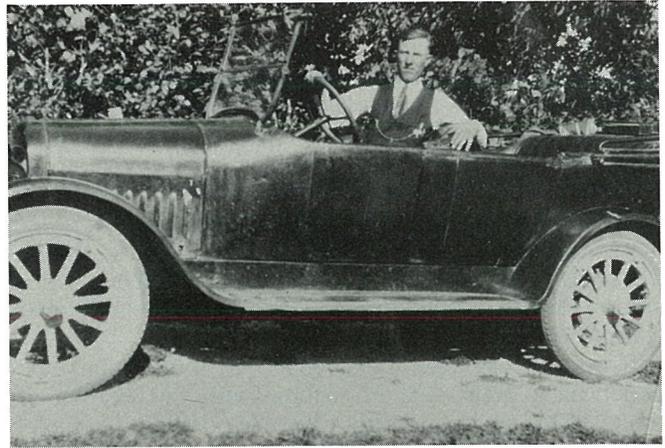
By this time, motor vehicles had made their move into our area, and the Town of Selkirk had had to hire a "traffic cop" in connection with speeding automobiles. This motorcycle cop was our own John Albert Walkley and the Town paid him at the rate of \$100 per month which included the use, maintenance and operation of his motorcycle. The newspapers were able to report by Aug. 15, 1919 that: "Since Council have put man and motorcycle on the job to pull up speeders, auto owners have a little more regard for speed limit provisions set by Council."

In 1921, we hired Mr. Hallobowiz to do the painting of "speed signs", engaged Jno. Sturlaugson on a 50% commission basis to collect licenses and also hired Andrew Peterson as a "Speed Constable". Mr. Peterson started what was to be a long association as municipal policeman for the municipality. His position commenced on Sept. 15, 1921 and his salary was struck at \$1.50 per hour, including the use of his car, with the understanding that he not work more than 15 hours per week. Mr. Peterson served in one capacity or another most all of his life, and could always be depended upon, in his dealings with the public, to be fair and just.

Mr. Sturlaugson, who was on 50% commission during 1921, made a fair collection total and Council was forced to pay him half of what was gathered in owing to the Municipality by way of licenses, etc. In 1922 a resolution was passed hiring him again as "Collector of Licenses" but this time it read he only be paid 25% of amount actually collected. His whole commission for 1922 was



*Andrew Peterson
"Speed Cop" with the
Peterson children.
This was the police
car.*



*Mr. W. Kaminski in his Maxwell Car used when he was a Constable for
the R.M. of St. Clements.*

only \$35.00 while in 1921 he had made double that in just 3 months. The 50% had been quite an incentive.

By the early 1920's we had a large Ukrainian population within our municipality from the south end right up to Ward 6. They had started settling on our river lot system and buying up vacated and unpatented lands as they became available for homesteading. After the 1919 General Strike, people were a little nervous, and within our area, on occasion, misunderstandings arose usually through the language barrier. We had in the early part of the 1920's, three different Ukrainian Reading Society buildings and membership. One was located within the Village of East Selkirk, the other further north in the Poplar Park area and the third was down in the south end on the Nebozenko property. All three Society buildings burned down and only two rebuilt later in the 1920's.

It was on Feb. 6, 1923 that Council received a letter from the Ukrainian Reading Society of East Selkirk requesting Council to appoint Fred Kordalchuk as "Special Constable", which they did. It appears that a group of communist agitators were trying to take over the Hall and the members were objecting to the interference. The Hall had been used for the reading necessary for "learning the English language" for "obtaining citizenship" and also for socials, frequent St. Johns Ambulance courses and First Aid were taught. Council passed a by-law making Fred Kordalchuk a "Special Constable" but no salary was mentioned. When Fred was asked (on Dec. 15, 1923) what the pay was, he answered, "I was paid in abuse" over the whole situation.

During the depression years it is to be noted that John Sturlaugson was appointed "Municipal Constable" without salary, with the understanding that he will be allowed remuneration from time to time, for services rendered.

In 1927, William Kaminski was appointed Speed Constable on the basis of retaining 75% of fines collected for his own use and 25% to the Municipality. Later, he



*Fred Kordalchuk as
"Special Constable".*

was assigned as Municipal Constable and then later it was requested that the Province appoint him a Provincial Constable. He was paid \$75.00 per month for as long as his services were deemed necessary.

We had policing up at Grand Beach almost continuously from 1923 up to the present time.

They voted themselves uniforms in 1927 and usually, had a wide variety of duties. Charles Ferris filled the Constable position in 1923 and Joseph Cameron was Police Magistrate by 1925. In 1927 Council recommended ~~George Herbert Wonnacott be Police Magistrate.~~ Charles Ferris resigned as Policeman for Grand Beach in 1929 and James McIlroy was appointed to replace him.

Meanwhile, further south, Mr. Kaminski wanted to continue on in the position of Constable for the municipality by appointment, however, Council expanded the position and advertised for applications. Kaminski bid on the position but so did 10 other gentlemen, with at least 7 of them bidding lower salaries. As a result, Mr. Kaminski was not the successful applicant, Mr. James H. Frost was the one Council hired. The expanded position he filled had the title of "Municipal Constable and Collector of Licenses and Business Taxes." His duties started in June, 1929 and he was paid at the rate of \$125.00 per month.

Financially, the municipality was in some difficulty paying for public works and welfare during the depression and Mr. Frost never let them down even though Council was often unable to pay him over the

winter months. In 1931, Mr. Frost was called upon to handle a touchy situation whereby he had to open up a dam or embarkment which was stopping the water flow through 14-13-5E. Before he had completed the assignment, he had to have further police back-up.

Having the Police fill a dual position did not work out too well and in 1933 the position was split and each advertised separately. It was also in 1933 that application was made to have a "Mounted Police" stationed at East Selkirk. The CO of the RCMP replied "it is impossible to give any better police protection to the Selkirk district at the present time."

In 1934, James Frost was appointed Collector of



Edgar and Donovan Frost with James Frost - Police Constable for St. Clements.



James Frost on the right - Police Constable.

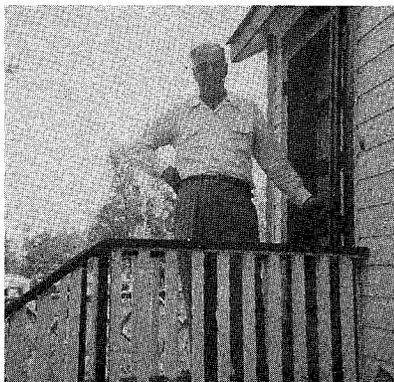
Business Tax and Licenses at a 25% commission while Thos. Swain became Municipal Constable, without pay, except when called to duty. Andrew Peterson and Fred Karanduik were also sworn in again and continued as Police Constables for the municipality.

Meanwhile, up at Grand Beach, B. Tessmer was appointed Special Beach Constable by 1930 while Fred Trapp filled the post in 1932, P. Lecuyer in 1934 and his Assistant was G. Gibson. In 1935, Fred Trapp was back as Policeman with Lecuyer as his Assistant and in 1936 Fred Trapp had Wm. McIntosh as his helper. Increased population and motor vehicles in 1937 saw John McIntosh as Asst. Policeman and Wm. Mercer as Asst. to the Asst. Police Officer.

The year 1938 also saw changes in the south end of the municipality, as Jno. Pronyshyn was engaged to patrol over Henderson Hwy. area and keep all overloaded trucks from travelling it, with authority to prosecute if necessary. He was paid \$90.00 per month on a cost-share basis with the Municipalities of East St. Paul. Mr. Joe Medal was allowed \$5.00 for acting as a "Policeman" and for doing odd jobs around the Council Chamber.

During the depression years our police constables doubled many times as Relief Officers who had to determine whether residents were "in real need or dire straits", etc. This was not an easy or popular duty to perform, especially when cases were appealed. We also had many assault cases of a spectacular nature, some murders that reached a national interest, mysterious accidents as well as deaths by misadventure. Then there were some "missing persons" that have not been solved to this day which occurred in Ward 4 and Ward 1. Both were young men.

Grand Beach continued to appoint Constables during the Second World War years, Jno. McIntosh, John F. Gudmundson, William C.S. Dickson, Thos. R. Young, Chas. Jessamine. During 1942 in particular, by resolution, five special constables were hired, namely: Miss M. Delaney, D.A. Mulligan, A.E.R. Mason, A. Gibson, and J. Neil. In Jan. 1943, Council passed resolution No. 21, authorizing that negotiations be entered into with the RCMP with view of that force policing Grand Beach during the period from June 15 to Sept. 15, 1943. The quotations were based on the understanding that the Municipality would provide no personal accommodations for the Police but only the office and all facilities.



David A. Mulligan - Special Constable and J.P. at Grand Beach.



*Art Gebaur -
Grand Beach Police*



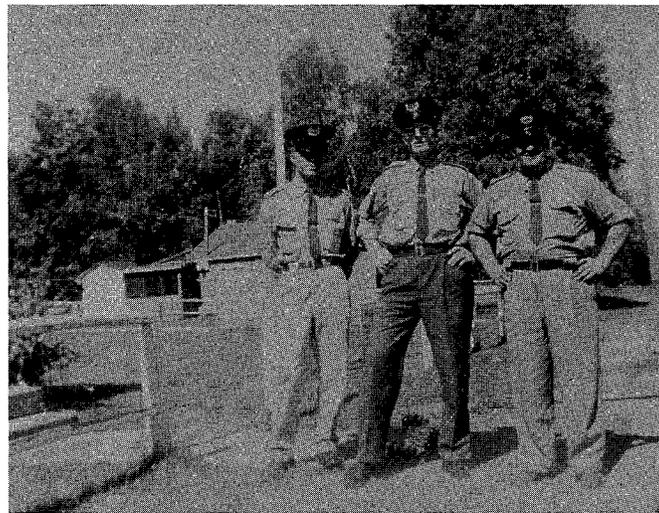
*Frank Rogoski in uniform
of Chief Constable in 1958
Grand Marais Police
Station on the right with
living quarters attached.*

At Grand Beach in 1950 we had D.C. Vidito, Robert Card, Albert Mlynarowich and John Hodgins providing policing. The RCMP by order-in-council 712/48 provided policing at Grand Beach from June 15 to Sept. 15, the heavy tourist and resort season.

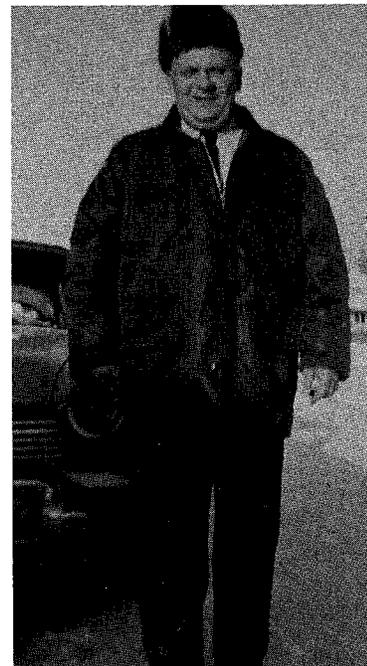
The year 1951 saw Donald Matheson, Les Linklater, William Cameron and John E. Hodgins as Special Constables at the Beach and area. They were paid about \$43.00 per week for this function. The following years saw Les Linklater fulfilling constable duties and some new men on the job, namely: D. McCollum, John Gault, J.G. Oman and Art P. Gebauer. The RCMP were requested to cover during that summer as well.

Frank Rogoski who eventually became Chief of Police of the Grand Beach area included a brief write-up and a few photographs that should bring back memories, especially during the Reuben Thomas days, when the "Beach was really swinging and the Boardwalk was in Bloom".

*Frank Rogoski in front of Police
Stn. in 1963.*



Grand Marais Police Station 1957 with Chief Frank Rogoski. Constables Sid Chapman and Howard Zirk.



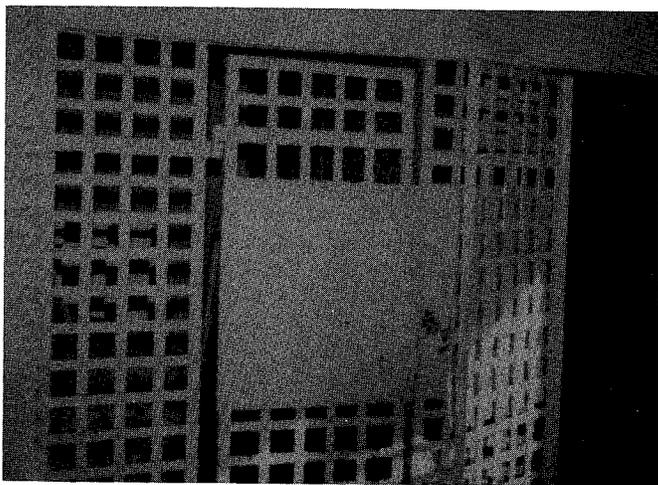
*Frank Rogoski in winter
uniform. Note the 1957
Plymouth used for police
work. This was the last car
sold by Mike Peake at
Lockport and he gave
Frank many bargains.*



Frank Rogoski and his trained police dog "Carmel".



Grand Marais Police Station with Beverly and Charlene Rogoski and Skipper.



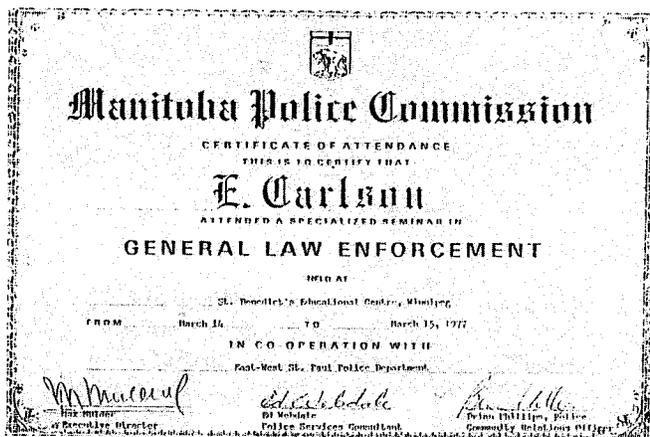
Grand Marais Police station "Lock up".

Mr. Peterson retired from policing in the south-end of the municipality.

Everind Weston Carlson, a giant of a man, had obtained Special Provincial Constable status by order in Council No. 1430 in 1968 and by early 1969 he was hired by the Municipality of St. Clements to control policing within our boundaries. In 1971, his assistant was Jack



Mr. E. Carlson - Chief of Police for St. Clements.



Macdonald, who was hired at about \$2.30 per hour to provide help on long-weekends and heavy traffic periods during the summer months. Carlson was paid 14 cents per mile, plus insurance and licensing for his vehicle, to use his own car for police work.

By 1973, the municipality was enjoying the benefit of our own local municipal police department and policing from at least three RCMP detachments on a regular basis. The Rural RCMP Detachment of Selkirk, Beausejour and Grand Beach were policing portions of our municipality.

Then in 1973 it was proven to Council that Chief Carlson required an assistant. We advertised in late May, 1973 for a Police Constable for \$450 per month. There were 9 men bid on the position including a young chap just 21 years old, Glen Douglas Parker who was working

for Brink's. He was the successful applicant and by Dec. 12, 1973 we had applied to the Attorney General's Dept. for his status as Special Constable, which was approved.

Both men covered our municipality well, 24 hours per day, using their own vehicles and working out of the municipal building located in East Selkirk. Finally, in 1975, Council approved the purchase of a new Police Car. It was a 1975 Gran Fury Plymouth, 4 door sedan, V 8-400 and cost \$4,725. and by tender, was purchased from the Gordon Motors in Selkirk. The Motorola Radio Telephone, served by the MTS was installed within the unit.



Constable Glen Parker of St. Clements.

A request in Jan. 1976, to the RCMP which would allow St. Clements to purchase and operate an RCMP mobile radio for general policing, was denied.

The RCMP regretted that approval could not be given as they had a policy established not to add any outside units to their already overcrowded frequency. They concluded by saying, "the use of a Mobile Radio Telephone System is far superior, as it enables the policeman in the vehicle to contact anybody for assistance and backup via mobile telephone."

Other equipment to make the policing efficient was purchased periodically, e.g. a Radar Speed Gun was purchased in Aug. 1977 at a cost of \$2,871.45 also, in 1977 was the year young Bruce Stemken did some policing as Constable.

In Nov. 1977, Mr. Carlson resigned as Police Chief of the St. Clements Police Department. Glen Parker carried on filling the position until Aug. 1978 when he also resigned and accepted a post with the Regina City Police.

In Sept. 1978, we advertised for a Municipal Police Constable and about 18 replies were received. Although many of the applicants were top-notch men, well qualified for the position, Council made the decision to



Mr. E. Carlson - Chief of Police with the Police vehicle.

wait a spell before deciding. Finally, after much discussion, they resolved to wait 6 months or so and see what transpired if no municipal police were in place. It appears that no great need presented itself, because Council has not, to this day, resumed a permanent police force.

In Oct. 1980, Council advertised and offered for sale the 1975 Police Car. The price advertised was \$700. and Clive Rennie bid on it and paid the asking price.

The basement office used by the St. Clements Municipal Police Dept. was left, as is, for a time with the confidential police files locked in the large basement vault. Then in 1982, the office was brought alive again when Mrs. Shirley Herda moved into that space in order to coordinate the writing of the Centennial History publication for the municipality. The old police number "482-5892" was ringing again, but not to summon the Police.

In conclusion, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to those earlier primitive police officers whose duty was to ensure the peace, so many years ago. From them slowly evolved the modern system of well-organized and well-disciplined police forces that now safeguard the internal peace of our country. We, in St. Clements, have been very fortunate in our choice of municipal constables, and we salute them, each and every one, for their public service.

The Rural Municipality of St. Clements is now serviced by four rural detachments of the RCMP who all patrol various parts of our boundary. We also qualify for provincial granting to offset the law enforcement costs.

WEED CONTROL EAST OF THE RED RIVER

submitted by slh

Weeds were receiving much attention in Manitoba right from the passing of the 1871 Act to "destroy the Canada Thistle" up to the present time in history. The Dept. of Agriculture was organized in 1880 and they addressed the problem of weeds very early on. In 1882 the annual report of this Dept. pointed out the "overwhelming evidence of the masterly inactivity of municipal councils" to handle the problem of weeds in their areas. The report went on to say that "present legislation was inoperative" and that "machinery must be put in place" to enforce the regulations of the Act. The Dept. had mentioned that much of the spread of noxious weeds was due to carelessness of the farmers with their seed grain and also apathy on the part of the public. More stringent legislation was needed and the Dept. petitioned the province to assist in finding the best way to approach the problem.

The Municipality of St. Clements was incorporated in 1884 and right from the start took an active interest in the quality of land within their boundaries.

They appointed many Pathmasters who kept them informed of the problem areas. These men were appointed about April 1st of each year, were paid very little and had a large area to cover. Their contribution should not be underestimated. In addition to the Pathmasters we had Noxious Weed Overseers. In some instances we had the same man filling a dual position. The following men were Noxious Weed Overseers for our municipality up to 1892, and the district they supervised is listed in brackets after the name: L. Vandal (1), A. Duscharme (2), Arch Flett (3), Gilbert Smith (4), R.J. Cox (4), Peter Spence (5), Geo. Pruden (7 and W 1/2 of 8), Michael Hoban * (9 and E 1/2 of 8), James Walkley * (10), D. Imlah * (11 and S 1/2 of 12), W.R. Shaw* (11 and N 1/2 of 12), A.B. Rowley * (S 1/2 of 13), A.C. Clair (N 1/2 of 13), C.A. Madden * (14 and 15), Wlm. Pruden (16), Richard Thomas (19), Gilbert Dennett * (21) and Henry Thomas (21).

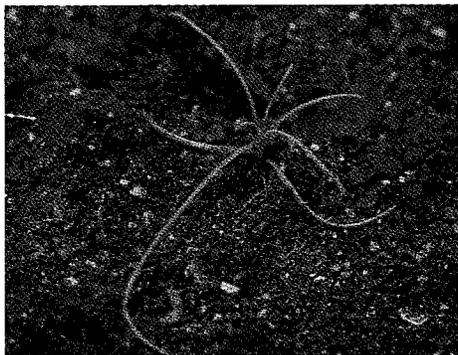
The south end was District No. 1 and the north end was District No. 21. A star * by the name indicates they filled a dual role as Pathmaster and Weed Overseer.

Payments for weed duties were usually made toward the end of July or Aug. of each year and instructions as to what work was to be carried out was from the Councillor in which ward their district was located.

Copies of the Noxious Weeds Act was printed in the English, German and Icelandic language in 1894 and mailed to all the municipalities in the province. These were to be supplied to the Pathmasters. In St. Clements, the Reeve with Councillors Monkman and Shaw, interviewed the provincial government that year to discuss "the difficulty attending the complying with the Act regarding the cutting of Noxious Weeds."

The revised Noxious Weed Act of 1891 had placed the responsibility for Weed Control on the farmer (Section 4) with the enforcement of the Act being the task of the municipality. Section 5 reads: "it shall be the duty of each municipal council, not later than April 1st, of each

year, to designate by resolution what overseers and Pathmasters shall see to the carrying out of the provisions of this Act."



Russian Thistle - long, fleshy, needle-like leaves and cotyledons and leaves have sharp tips.

In 1894 the Russian Thistle was termed "one of the worst pests that any farming community can have to contend against." The Dept. of Agriculture took prompt measures to find out where this weed had gained foothold within our province.

St. Clements took this weed threat serious and in Sept. 1896 the Sec.-Treas. was instructed to procure for each Councillor a supply of grass or clover seed in amounts necessary to seed down the embankment throughout the whole municipality so as to prevent thistles and other noxious weeds from obtaining root in same.

A report was received in 1896 by the land committee about a bad stretch of land all covered with weeds up in the SE 1/4 and S 1/2 and NE 1/4 of Sec. 17-13-8E. It seems that this land in the fall of 1893 had been burned to the bare clay and while in that condition, the thistles had taken over.

The year 1898, it has been stated, was a period when weeds abounded to an unprecedented extent within our province. Our municipality did not escape the scourge.

By 1905, however, there were other demands seeking priority. Councillor Erickson in 1905, asked Council about noxious weeds and what priority was to be placed on the problem. The Reeve said, "a lot of money has thus been thrown away on this and money would be of more benefit if spent on roads. If weeds were bad and causing injury to anyone, the onus was on each Councillor to look after the problem." It seems the ratepayers were demanding services other than the eradication of weeds within our boundaries, they wanted a road to market.

It is to be noted that in 1907, the appointments were for "Thistle Overseers" while in 1909 the title "Thistle Inspectors" seems to be used in the Minute Books. It was in 1910 we see the use of "Noxious Weed Inspectors" for the first time. The pay for these positions was usually about \$3.00 per day maximum. In 1915 we split our municipality into two Noxious Weed Districts. District No. 1 included wards 1 to 4 inclusive while District No. 2 was wards 5 and 6. John Bolin was put in charge of District No. 2, while Wm. Leonard looked after District No. 1. Their duties started June 15, that year and they were paid \$3.00 per day to oversee the enforcement of the

Noxious Weed Act. This salary was finally struck at \$75.00 per month.

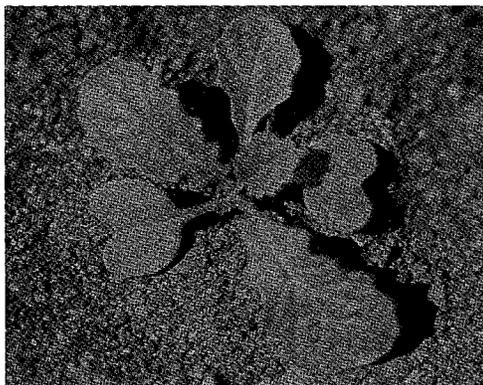
The first "Weed Commission" was formed in 1916 and it took a more aggressive policy toward the effective publicizing of the weed problem and reasons for the problem: lack of effective tillage and herbicides.

Council had interviewed Mr. Bedford re: the Noxious Weed Act in 1916 and asked for an amendment so that term of office of the Weed Inspectors be from May 1st to Oct. 1st and also to ask that it *not* be compulsory for a farmer to burn weeds after being cut.

During the War years, 1914-1918, when grain farming had increased to aid the War movement, there was also a shortage of farm help, and subsequently the weed situation worsened.

In June of 1920, we purchased clover seed to be sown in the "Finished ditches" along graded roads to keep the weeds down.

Over the next two decades weeds worsened especially mustard and leafy spurge. The Weeds Commission issued repeated warnings and prepared many publications about the special menace that perennial weeds presented.



Wild Mustard.

In 1934 the province offered to subsidize municipalities in the purchase of drums of Alacide for demonstration on the leafy spurge. By 1939 the organization of weed control units were formed all over the province in order to wipe out leafy spurge and the control of persistent perennial weeds.

Eventually, as the change over from horse to tractor was widespread, tillage improved with the use of better equipment. Also, the introduction of herbicides (2, 4-D and MCP) was widely accepted. However, it was the change in attitude on the part of the farmers toward weed control, that caused a more organized program to evolve throughout the province.

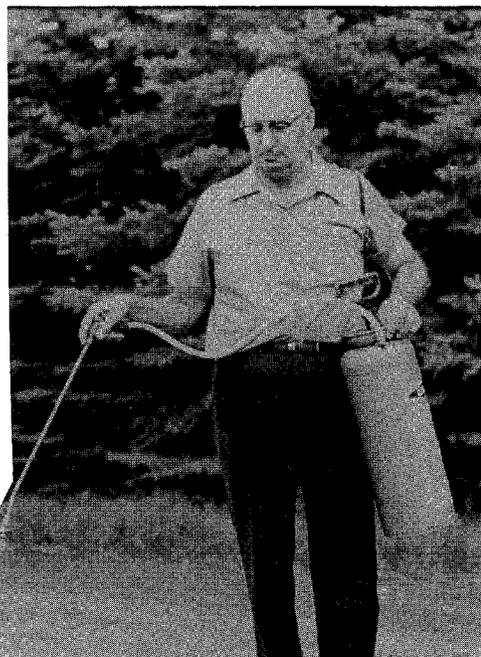
Within the Municipality of St. Clements during the depression years 1929 to 1939, we cut back drastically. It is interesting to note that Chas. Ferris, who was appointed Noxious Weed Inspector during 1935, 1936, and 1937 was also filling the position of Relief Officer, Collector of Business Tax and Hospital Bills etc. His only remuneration for all these duties was \$75.00 per month, 6 cents per mile and 10% commission on collections.

The Selkirk Weed Control District was formed in 1963 and the first meeting of the Board was called for May 16,

1963. Two members from St. Andrews Munc. and two from St. Clements and the Town of Selkirk sat on the Board for 2 year terms. Cost to run the district was split 40% each by the two rural municipalities and 20% to be paid by the Town of Selkirk.

Those appointed to sit on the first Weed Board were: Mr. M. Jenkins and F.D. McAulay, Mr. Steve Myslawchuk and Wm. Kotowich, Mr. Ben Massey and W.I. Carr, representing, St. Andrews, St. Clements and Selkirk respectively. The first Chairman elected was Mr. M. Jenkins and Mrs. Grace Hetherington was engaged as the first Sec.-Treas. at the rate of \$10.00 per meeting.

The first Weed Supervisor was Mr. Stanley Schofield. He started to work on Monday, June 24, 1963.



Stan Schofield - spot spraying weed patches.

One of the first orders of business was to request \$400 from each of the rural municipalities and \$200 from the Town to represent the operating expenses for the year 1963.

During the first year Stan. Schofield travelled a total of 6185 miles of which 1901 miles were made doing a Red Bartsia survey. During 1963 Stan inspected 61 places in St. Clements, 93 in St. Andrews and 69 in Selkirk. Of this amount he had 90 parcels of land cut and charged to taxes.

Mr. Schöfield, in his first annual report (1963) did make mention that there were "no class one" weeds to contend with in the Selkirk Weed Control District. During regular inspection within the district, Stan discovered that at least 10 property owners were growing Kochia as an ornamental. He advised against the growing of this plant and any found in 1964 or subsequent years would be destroyed.

In 1964 they purchased a Half-ton Truck and sprayer