

several miles inland on the banks of some river.”

“Excepting when crossing the mouth of a river, the chief supply of fresh water for drinking or other purposes is obtained from pools of rain water standing in the rocks, and most of our supply of that commodity was obtained on the patrol from that source.”

“Mosquitoes proved an extraordinary pest on this patrol.”

It was transportation change, coupled with decentralization of activities, and increased costs which gradually led to the decision to close Moose Factory Detachment.

For instance, in a 1950 patrol report, Cst. J. L. Van Blarcom, on patrol from Moose Factory to Richmond Gulf, P.Q., reported: “Saturday, January 27, 8:40 AM, Ernest Herodier and Bobby Vincent departed from detachment with dogteam, arriving Ruperts House on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:15 PM — Weather clear and cold — mileage — 110. The writer patrolled via snowmobile — gratis ride — arriving on Saturday, same day as departure.” The following two days they had to rest the dogs. Then, in a 1956 report to the Commissioner from the C.O. “A” Division, Supt. Poudrette outlined the changes that had taken place due to the increased activities brought on by the construction of radar warning units in the area. He pointed out that with the rapid increase in white population and increasing job opportunities, there was also an increase in problems which were spread over a wider area. The Peterhead boat was too slow and drew too much water for safe use around all the shoals. In

winter the Bombardier was also too unreliable for their needs. He recommended that an aircraft be stationed at North Bay. They would then have faster, more reliable and probably safer transportation to their entire area.

With the building of the James Bay hydro project, the Quebec Provincial Police assumed provincial policing responsibilities in Quebec territory. The Ontario Provincial Police had established a detachment in Moosonee quite some time before and they also opened an office at Moose Factory about a decade ago.



Cpl. Bob Beckwith slowly lowers the detachment flag for the last time.



**J. J. (Woody) Woods reminisces about his experiences as Bay manager in Moose Factory. He joined the Bay in 1934 and served in various locations throughout the North before coming to Moose Factory in 1956. He recalled many hilarious incidents, some involving members of the Force and some not, some printable and some not. He retired on August 31, 1976 after 42 years of Northern service.**