

In the Marshal's report for 1862, he mentioned bringing the constables and night watch under one director; this was brought about on Oct. 28, 1864, when the latter force was amalgamated under Garrett Cotter as City Marshal, and Donald Fraser as Deputy Marshal. Thus the basis of the modern day police department was formed.

On Aug. 1, 1876 Halifax experienced its first bank robbery. It occurred while the staff of the Bank of Nova Scotia was outside watching the Barnum circus parade. A man of "decent appearance" approached the bank and asked the janitor's wife if he could go to the cellar and retrieve an article lost through the grating. Once inside, he proceeded upstairs into the bank proper and helped himself to \$29,571.51. Later, about ten miles from the city, two men were arrested and charged with the robbery, but were acquitted.

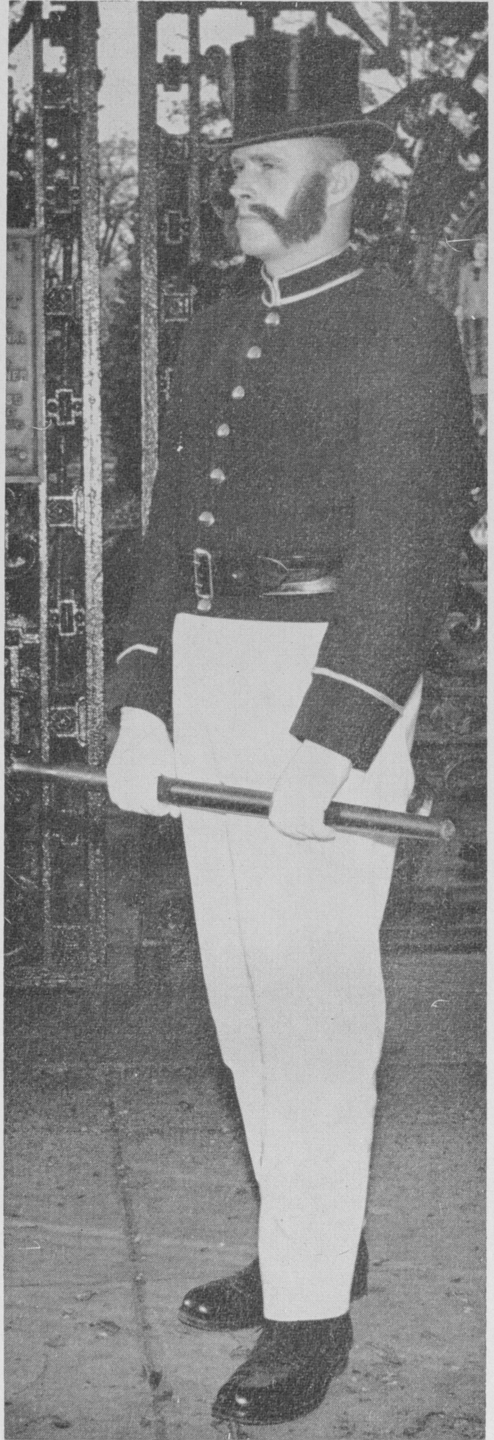
In 1893 the title City Marshal was abolished and a new one, "chief of police" was established.

Since the turn of the century the Halifax Police Department has witnessed many changes. In 1912 a motorcycle was purchased for the force, marking the first appearance of motorized equipment. The patrol system was then changed from a two to a three-shift schedule.

During both wars, Halifax had been vastly overcrowded, and the police like other departments, operated under trying conditions, with a shortage of qualified members. In each war the city was punctuated with a riot and an explosion. For example, the munition boat explosion of 1917 completely devastated the north end of the city, killing over two thousand persons and injuring as many more.

Today the Halifax Police numbers 189 members. Its official motto, "Custos Civitatis"—Guardians of the City, was taken from Plato's Republic, and has been incorporated in a new officer's hat badge.

In the early summer of 1964 a sub-committee of the Safety Committee, which governs the police department,



Elegant in style is this uniform of the Halifax police worn in the 1840s.