

## Niagara Parks Police: 100 Years Old

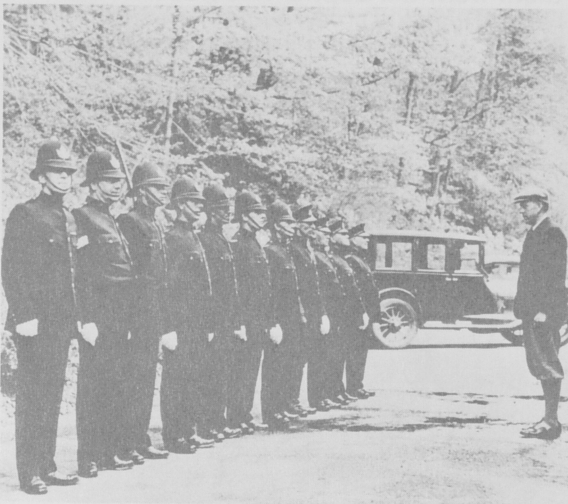
On March 30, 1885, the *Niagara Falls Park Act*, creating Ontario's first provincial parklands, was passed by the Ontario Legislature. The Niagara Parks Commission was established by the *Queen Victoria — Niagara Falls Act* of April 23, 1887. Soon after, the Niagara Parks Police came into being.

In 1987, Niagara Parks Police celebrated its 100th anniversary. An original force of two men, a head policeman and park policeman, increased to seven in 1888, and has grown to a full-time force of 15 and a chief. Between 25 and 30 part-time officers are hired during the peak tourist months. The force also employs civilian dispatchers.

Niagara Parks Police officers are appointed special constables by the Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner. Officers police the Niagara Parks system, the area around the Niagara Falls known as Queen Victoria Park, and the Niagara River Parkway from Fort Erie to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The force's fleet consists of five vehicles and a 16-foot boat. Niagara Parks Police are on-duty 24 hours a day, year-round.

Today, as in the early days, the force maintains order in the Niagara Parks to ensure visitors an enjoyable stay.

The RCMP and *the Quarterly* salute Niagara Parks Police force on the occasion of its first centenary. ■



Inspection of Niagara Parks Police, 1929, at headquarters, Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Ont.



(L-R) Representing present Niagara Parks Force: Chief W.J. Derbyshire, Cpls S. Sherar, J. Clark, F. Hollidge.