

This nightly patrol seemed to be effective as the following spring the magistrates made application to the Governor in Council for the establishment of a Night Watch for a three-month period. After this trial test, the patrol was allowed to lapse, but was soon set up on a permanent basis.

In 1829 a magistrate drew up a text entitled "Rules and Regulations for the Establishment and Governing of a Watch and Patrol in the Town of Halifax." In this were provisions for a nightly watch of 23 persons who were subject to pay a fine for non-attendance after being notified by the committees. The number one man, in charge of a patrol, was given a constable's staff (about 37 inches long) as a symbol of authority, and the number two man was given an iron rattle.

In the late summer of 1838 a riot broke out on what is now Brunswick Street. It appeared that a sailor had his money stolen in a house there, and when he complained of the theft, was badly beaten with a poker. A group of sailors and soldiers stormed the house and com-

pletely demolished the inside; they then moved on and wrecked six other houses. Again the next night, they took possession of the area, but this time a detachment of soldiers was called out and the riot was quelled. A reporter, in writing the story, said that "the hubbub was sufficient to dismay a demon."

In 1841 Halifax was incorporated as a city. The act of incorporation called for a City Marshal, listing his duties, as well as those of the constables. The latter were issued with a uniform which consisted of "one pea jacket of dark cloth with a high collar stripped with gold cord and similar ornamentation, white cloth pants and a beaver hat." Each man carried a huge staff of office painted black, bearing a coat of arms with the inevitable VR. Indeed, these constables made a striking picture in their blue, white and gold uniforms, topped with tall beaver hats.

By 1854 there were ten constables and 12 night watchmen on duty, and the City Marshal's salary was 200 pounds per annum.



A look at yesterday. The old grey mare hitched to this 1890 patrol wagon was a stand-in for the more frisky police horses that wouldn't accept such a docile role.