

troduced his remaining guests — Gerry Asselin, Director of the Moose Factory Hospital; Bob Chilton, Fire Chief; Andy Faries, head of the Métis association; Sinclair Cheechoo, Chief of the local Indian band; Redfern Luttitt, Canon of the Anglican Church; Les Watt, president of the Lions Club; Dave Butler, manager of the Moose Factory Bay store; Jack Irwin, Sergeant Major of the OPP District 15 at Timmins, Ont.; Cpl. Butch Langner, NCO i/c OPP Detachment, Moosonee; ex-S/Cst. Sinclair Etherington; ex-S/Cst. Bill Turner and John Wylie, reporter for the *Ottawa Journal*.

A/Commr. Sauvé welcomed all his guests and thanked them for leaving their busy schedules to attend this function. He hoped in some small way this luncheon would express the Force's appreciation for all the cooperation their various fields of endeavour have shown to the Force and to members stationed in Moose Factory over the years. He went on to say it was his unhappy duty to close Moose Factory Detachment that day, and that a brief flag-lowering ceremony would be held at

the Detachment later in the afternoon. He invited one and all to attend if they could find the time, but in the meantime "... please, enjoy the fine food prepared by the excellent staff of the Lodge."

"Moose Factory", to adapt from a fairly famous quotation, is probably not a household word. No, it is not a moose breeding station — believe it or not, I was asked that when I returned from my first trip there. "Factory" in the sense it was used in those days means, in a word — trading post — the "Factor" being the chief trader. Moose Factory started as a settlement around 1671, and the second Hudson's Bay Company's post was established about 7 miles up from the mouth of the Moose River on the southern tip of James Bay, in 1673.

It is the oldest Cree-English speaking post in Ontario. The original protective fort, first built on Hayes Island, was surrounded by a square of palisades with four bastions. There the first governor of the Company in North America, Charles Bayly, had his residence.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church, Moose Factory.** This is the second church and was built on site in the 1860's. Shortly after the frame was built, rising floodwaters floated it several hundred yards downstream. The people were called out and the whole frame was floated back to its foundation and securely fastened while the water was still high so that when the water subsided, it would settle directly on its foundation. The church was completed by Hudson's Bay Company employees at a cost of £1000, and opened on Whitsunday, 1865. In 1894, mud and floodwater filled the church to the altar, and in 1917, ice piled up against the church so high that everyone felt it would be crushed. But at the last minute, as if by a miracle, another channel opened in the ice and the church was saved. However, the ice was piled so high against the door that services had to be held elsewhere for three weeks. In order that rising water would not float the church away, someone bored holes in the floor and inserted plugs which could be removed to allow the water to rise inside as well as outside the church. The plugs are in the floor to this day.

