

They had assumed provincial policing responsibility for Ontario. Even the Indian Act fell under provincial jurisdiction according to an agreement between Ontario, Quebec and the Federal Government 7 years ago. In July, 1976, "G" Division once more assumed policing the islands from their own Detachments — and with that move, Moose Factory was left with very little work.

Diminishing duties did not mean diminishing costs. They rose by 26% between fiscal years ending in March, 1975, and March, 1976. Moose Factory had to be phased out, but just when was the question. Then it happened.

A/Commr. Sauvé was inspecting Moose Factory Detachment in July this year when he heard that the man who had opened the Detachment in 1926 had been in Moose about a month previously. Not one to miss an opportunity and recognizing the potential uniqueness to the Force, A/Commr. Sauvé checked the facts once back in Ottawa and found that not only was the detachment indeed opened by ex-Sgt. Trolove on September 2, 1926, but that he resided at Burk's Falls just south of North Bay. Why not invite him as a guest when the Detachment closed, providing the Commissioner agreed to the date, September 2, 1976.

Everything began to fall into place. The Commissioner approved the date, ex-Sgt. Trolove agreed to attend as A/Commr. Sauvé's guest, and plans were formulated to hold a luncheon and later a brief flag-lowering ceremony. He contacted the Quarterly, saying he would reserve a seat on "King Air" should we wish to write a story. We certainly did.

On the flight up, I asked Sgt. Alex MacDonald what he thought of his stay as NCO i/c Moose Factory Detachment. He replied, "You know, I've said this before and it is still the best way I can put it. I was posted up there for three years and I stayed for four. That just about says it all." He enjoyed the outdoors and the patrols to keep an eye on the migrating



Cpl. Bob Beckwith (left) the Detachment's last NCO, shakes hands with ex-Sgt. Ron Trolove, the Detachment's first constable.

waterfowl in the fall. He said at times the flocks would literally darken the sky. James Bay is in the middle of a major migratory flyway.

S/Sgt. Paul Wendt had once been NCO i/c the detachment as well. He looked back on his stay at Moose Factory as "... one of the nicest places I have ever been stationed." He said he realized that time marches on and very few things are forever, but he still left with a feeling of regret. He had been in Moose Factory in the early 1960's and was really looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and seeing if and how the settlement had changed.

Around midafternoon, a crowd had gathered outside the detachment. Both officers and NCOs had changed into their review order of dress, adding colour to the occasion. A/Commr. Sauvé addressed the crowd and commented on why he was there. He said the people might wonder about the ceremony and the earlier luncheon. Certainly it wasn't customary. Normally when a detachment closes the participants more or less fade off. In this case it was love, for although he had only been there but once before, he had fallen in love with the settlement and considered it a jewel in his Division. No, not a jewel