

Top cop Teggart 34 years on the force

Peel Biog. Scrapbook Mar. 30-90 MN

Teggart

Peel chief helped change the face of policing

By MARK HOLMES
Staff Reporter

From the days of riding shotgun in black-and-whites patrolling the tough Lakeshore Rd. neighborhoods to the arrest of a computer whiz kid for raiding school files, retiring Peel Police Chief William Teggart can honestly say he's seen it all.

More than 34 years ago, Teggart traded a job with his brother Tom's trucking firm for a police uniform. It was a time when few women were counted among the ranks of the boys in blue, two-way radios were considered innovative police technology and dirigibles were being pondered for use in traffic control.

But as much change as has occurred in those years, Teggart insists some things have, unfortunately, remained the same.

Traffic woes experienced then are still common today and concerns over drinking drivers and alcohol-related incidents remain.

When Robert F. Lunney takes over the chief's post June 30, those and a host of other problems will have to be addressed. However, the new chief will also inherit what Teggart boldly described as one of the best police forces ever.

Referring to recent statistics, Teggart says, "I'm proud of the fact that a murderer committing a crime in Peel has a 99 per cent chance of being caught."

Born to Irish immigrant parents, Teggart was one of five brothers whose lives were charged with ambition. He swears he has never taken a drink, or smoked, and blames excess al-

cohol use for many of society's ills. He says temperance has helped him and his brothers become successful.

As a traffic cop Teggart began a career that could only be described as illustrious. He admits he liked the traffic beat and he was little bit resentful when his superiors pulled him out and put him in with the detective unit.

"They must have known something I didn't," Teggart quips.

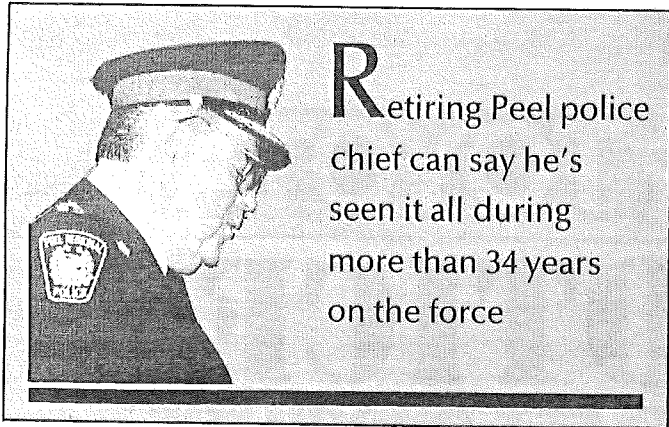
For more than 20 years the aspiring officer toiled as a detective, studying new investigative techniques, solving crimes and rising through the ranks.

Perhaps the peak of Teggart's career as a crime solver came with the resolution of one of Canada's most celebrated murder cases. A plaster cast of Christine Demeter's skull holds a prominent place in Teggart's office and the chief still talks proudly of the monumental effort taken to convict Peter Demeter in the 1973 slaying of his wife.

Demeter was Teggart's last arrest before he became an administrator and began to change the face of policing in Peel.

Teggart sees no reason to remain modest when citing accomplishments that include the formation of several different bureaus and the metaphorical weathering of storms.

The Tactical and Rescue Unit,



Retiring Peel police chief can say he's seen it all during more than 34 years on the force

Canine Bureau, Marine Unit, Underwater Search and Recovery, Snowmobile Unit, Explosives Disposal, Polygraph Bureau, Industrial Relations, Race and Ethnic Relations and Crime Stoppers have all been created under Teggart's command.

The community's response to the police shooting of Missis-sauga teen Wade Lawson, and dissension between the police commission and police association can count as two of the storms.

Peel Biography

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TEGGART, B...