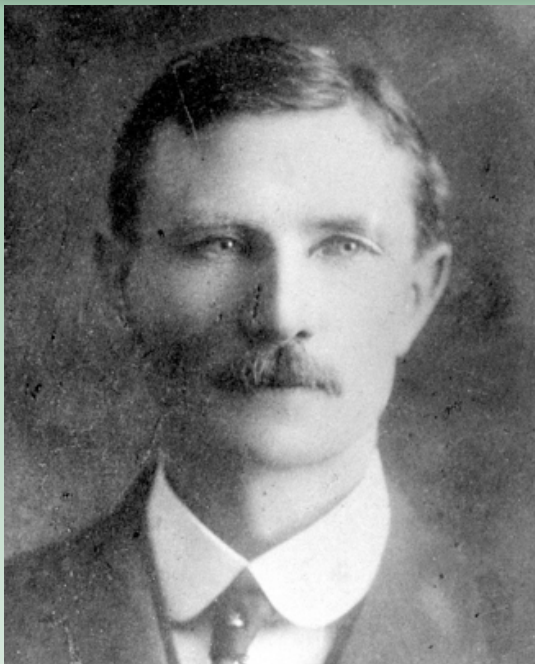


The B.C. Police Years

1918-1929



*B.C. Provincial Police
Superintendent and
Provincial Game Warden
William G. McMynn
1918-1923*

The "Game Act" was amended in 1918, abolishing the "Game Department" and giving the Provincial Police sole responsibility for enforcement of game protection laws. Provincial Game Warden A. Bryan Williams was forced to "retire", and handed over to William G. McMynn, Superintendent of the Provincial Police. All but 2 former Deputy Game Wardens were discharged.

The Superintendent of the Provincial Police force was designated ex-officio (by virtue of his office) the Provincial Game Warden and all Police Constables were ex-officio Game Wardens, and as such would now include game protection work in their regular duties.

An appointed Game Conservation Board made recommendations on seasons and regulations. It was only an advisory board and many of its recommendations were never passed into law. Its first Chairman A.R. Baker was accused by MLA R. Pooley of 18 acts of malpractice related to his position but the allegations could not be proven. He was however deemed to lack good judgment and it was determined that he had allowed two American friends to use his address to buy resident hunting licences. By 1929 the Game Conservation Board had grown from its original 5 members to 13 and was becoming disorganized and ineffective.

ANNUAL REPORT
—OF—
THE GAME CONSERVATION BOARD
—OF THE—
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
1920



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1921

The 1920 Annual Report was the only one ever prepared by the Game Conservation Board. All other reports during the BC Police reign were produced by the Provincial Game Warden.

Tom Booth, Member of Game Conservation Board, Constable George Turner of the Provincial Police and Frank Butler, Secretary of the Game Conservation Board on a patrol near Barkerville in 1925.





By 1920 twenty Provincial Constables were specifically detailed for game protection work, and were augmented by 24 Special Constables, recommended by district fish & game protective associations, during the hunting season. In 1921 no constables were assigned to this role, and only 20 "Specials" were employed.

**Supt. J.H.
McMullin**

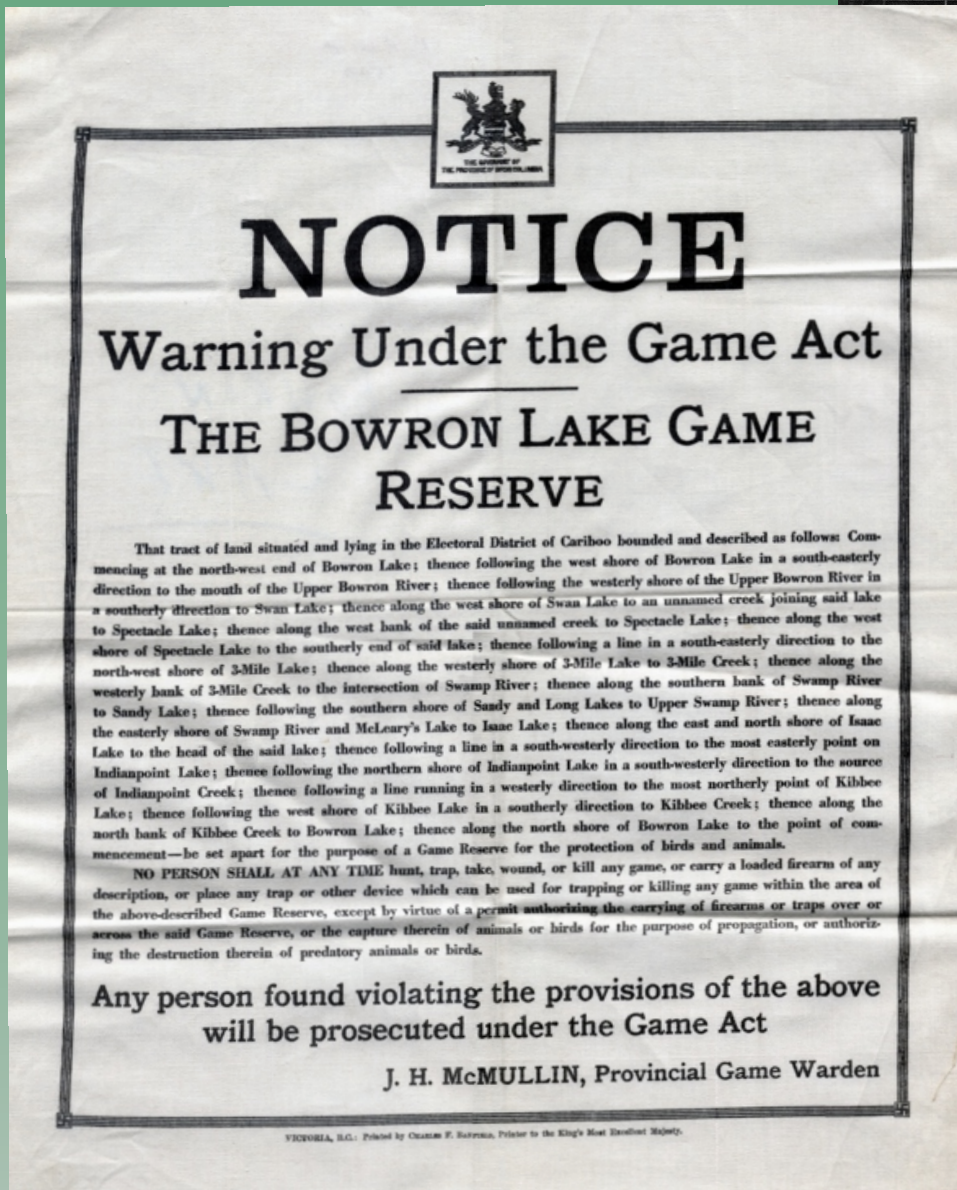


In 1923 J.H. McMullin became the Superintendent of the Provincial Police and Provincial Game Warden. In 1924 the Police Force was re-organized and uniforms were issued to members for the first time.

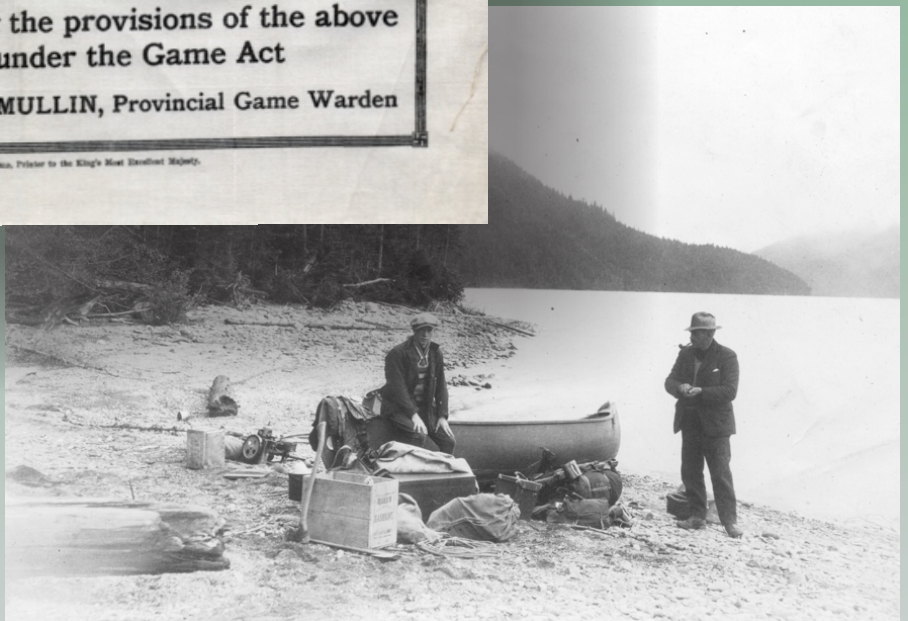


Charlie Shuttleworth was employed as a Special Constable for a month in 1924 to hunt cougars in the Kootenays, one of the first instances of a dedicated Predator Control Officer.

Right: Game Sergeant Thomas Van Dyk, Prince Rupert 1927. He served as a Deputy Game Warden for a short time in 1916 before joining the Provincial Police. He died in 1947 while serving as an Inspector in the Game Department in



Game Conservation Board Secretary Frank Butler and Chairman M.B. Jackson on a survey of Bowron Lake Game Reserve in 1925, the year it was established.



Since the creation of the office of Chief Game Inspector in 1918 the position had never been permanently staffed. Following the reorganization of the Provincial Police in 1925, Major Montagne Furber was appointed as Chief Game Inspector, the first step toward establishment of a Game Laws Enforcement Branch.



Through the 1920s Game Associations had grown in numbers and influence, and mainly because of their united disapproval of the present state of game management, a Game Laws Enforcement Branch was established within the B.C. Police in 1926. Game Conservation Board Secretary Frank Butler was made Headquarters Staff Sergeant.



This is the oldest known photograph of members of the BC Police Game Laws Enforcement Branch in uniform. This photo is of the Vancouver Detachment in 1928. Left to right: J.F. Ritchie, W. Clark, J.G. Cunningham and A.P. Cummins.

The P.M.L. (Police Motor Launch) #3 was assigned to the Game Laws Enforcement Branch of the B.C. Provincial Police in Vancouver in 1927, and was placed under command of Game Constable W. Clark. It replaced the "Watla" which was transferred to Powell River under command of Game Cst. F. Boyt and then Game Warden Roy Allan.



The situation with the Police Force was less than ideal because regular police work always took precedence, even for the members of the Game Laws Branch. By 1929 the Game Conservation Board had grown from its original 5 members to 13 and was becoming disorganized and ineffective. To address the concerns of the Game Associations and to provide for better application of the law, the Game Act was amended in 1929, creating the office of the Game Commissioner who could appoint Game Wardens as he saw fit.



A. Bryan Williams was recalled from retirement and appointed Game Commissioner of the re-established Game Department.

