

Enforcement Chiefs, 1905-2005

1905 On July 1, 1905, **Arthur Bryan Williams** was appointed British Columbia's first Provincial Game and Forest Warden. Williams would head the newly created Department for the Protection of Game and Forests.



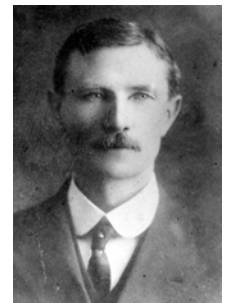
Arthur B. Williams

1918 The *Game Act* was repealed, abolishing the Game Department and transferring responsibility for the enforcement of fish and wildlife laws to the BC Provincial Police.

Provincial Game Warden A. Bryan Williams retired, handing control over to **William G. McMynn**, Superintendent of the BC Provincial Police.

An advisory Game Conservation Board was established to develop provincial policy and direct game management programs.

1926 **Major. M. Furber**, Chief Game Inspector, would oversee the day-to-day operations of the newly created Game Laws Enforcement Branch within the BC Provincial Police.



William G. McMynn

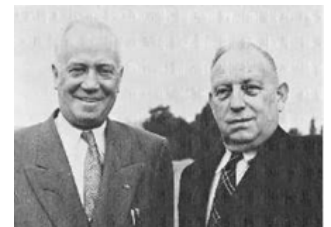
1929 The *Game Act* was amended, removing the administration of fish and wildlife from the jurisdiction of the BC Provincial Police and the Game Conservation Board.

Arthur Bryan Williams was recalled from retirement and appointed Game Commissioner under a re-established Game Department.

1934 Game Commissioner A. Bryan Williams retired for the second and final time.

Williams was replaced by a three member **BC Game Commission**, comprised of:

- **Frank R. Butler**, former Headquarters Inspector
- **James G. Cunningham**, former E Division Inspector
- **A. G. Bolton**, former head of the Fish Culture Branch



F. Butler and J. Cunningham

1936 A.G. Bolton retired from the Game Commission due to ill-health.

1954 Game Commissioner James G. Cunningham passed away suddenly due to a heart attack, leaving Frank R. Butler as the sole Commissioner.

1956-1957 The Game Commission was disbanded and fish and wildlife administration, previously under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Attorney General, was transferred to the new Ministry of Recreation and Conservation.

The Game Department was renamed the **Fish and Game Branch** and former Game Commissioner **Frank R. Butler** was now its **Director**.

1962

Frank R. Butler retired after 48 years of service, marking a significant change in the management of fish and wildlife. Butler was the last enforcement officer appointed head of Fish and Game and was replaced by Deputy Director Dr. James Hatter.



Charles E. Estlin

Charles E. Estlin, Game Inspector, Nelson, was promoted to the new position of **Chief Conservation Officer** for the Game Protection Division of the Fish and Game Branch. The title of Chief Estlin's position would change to Chief Protection Officer and Chief of Enforcement during the course of his term.

1978

Charles E. Estlin retired as Chief of Enforcement after 35 years of service. Soon after, Conservation Officers, along with the Fish and Wildlife Branch as a whole, became part of the new Ministry of Environment. Line direction from the field to the Chief was discontinued as field duty officers now functioned as part of the Regional Operations Division. Additionally, headquarters for the Ministry's Enforcement Program was incorporated in one of several HQ Divisions.



R.L. Aldrich

1979

R.L. (Ralph) Aldrich, retired RCMP Staff Sergeant, was appointed **Chief Conservation Officer**. Aldrich's experience as a professional police officer would bring considerable, specialized expertise to the ministry's enforcement program.

1980

The designation, **Conservation Officer Service**, was employed for the first time. This title applied to both regional and headquarters staff - two sections of the same Enforcement Program.



Nancy Bircher (Crowe)

1991

The position of Chief Conservation Officer was discontinued. **Nancy Bircher (Crowe)** was appointed as **Director of Enforcement**. From 1993 until 2002, the Ministry's Environmental Emergency Program also came under the purview of the Director/Manager of Enforcement.

1996

The position of Director of Enforcement was eliminated. **Donna Humphries** served as **Manager of Enforcement** for the headquarters section of the Conservation Officer Service.

2000

Mark A. Hayden was appointed as **Director of Enforcement and Chief Conservation Officer**. He was the first Chief since Charles Estlin, in 1962, to have come up through the ranks of the COS.



Mark A. Hayden

2002

The **Conservation Officer Service** and the position of **Chief Conservation Officer**, who once again had complete supervision over the Service, were officially established in legislation under amendments to the *Environment Management Act*.