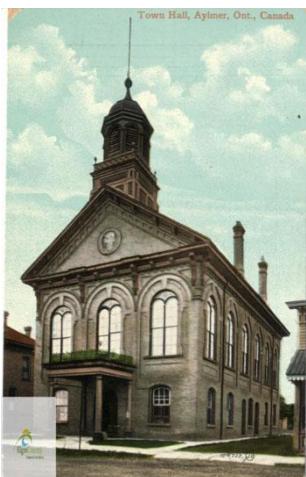
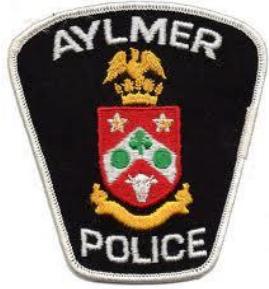


## History of the Aylmer Police

- The first recorded Constable for Aylmer was Eli Caverly, who served from 1870 to 1886. In 1886 William Hare followed him.
- After Aylmer was incorporated as a town in 1887 a by-law was passed creating the office of Chief Constable for the town.
- The first person on record to hold this position was Alex Milne, who was appointed for the year 1896-97. He also filled the position of Town Engineer, Caretaker of the Town Hall, and Bailiff.
- Near the turn of the century the position of Chief Constable was held by John Sears, who was the grandfather of the late Wilfred (Ducky) Smith.
- The next appointee as Chief Constable was J.F. Peters in 1915 and his duties also included various other jobs for the municipality.
- In 1919 Dr. D. T. Augustine, a veterinarian, was appointed Chief Constable and he held this position until 1930. During these years, the County Constable gave assistance to the Chief Constable of the town when it was required.
- Peter Anderson followed Dr. Augustine as Chief Constable and held the position for five years. A second officer, William Wakeling, assisted him. At this time two County Constables, Michlon Power and Jack McTaggart, were appointed to enforce regulations under the Liquor Control Act.
- Floyd Haight in 1935, Ralph Taylor in 1936 and Victor Summerfield in 1937 followed Anderson.
- In 1942 Harold Henderson was appointed Chief Constable, with Forrest Moore, who later became Mayor, as Constable. Mr. Moore resigned in two years but Henderson was Chief for twenty-seven years.
- Under Chief Henderson the force grew along with the town to consist of a Chief of Police, a sergeant and five men. The force obtained its first cruiser in 1947 and became radio equipped in 1967.
- In 1969, Reg Armstrong a twenty-four year veteran of the force, was appointed Chief of Police. The Aylmer Police moved from its cramped quarters at the old town hall to the renovated facility behind the present Town Hall in 1976. The force now had two marked police cruisers.
- In 1977 the force increased in strength to a total of eight sworn officers. Chief Armstrong retired in 1978 after 33 years of service to the citizens of the Town of Aylmer, only to pass away three days later.
- William Kavanagh was appointed Chief of Police in 1979, having served in Montreal and Petrolia. One of the first things Chief Kavanagh did on arriving in Aylmer was to hire the first Secretary for the Police Force. In 1980 Aylmer purchased its own





Breathalyzer, having three Constables trained on its use at the Centre of Forensic Sciences. As Aylmer grew, so did the Police Force. In 1986 the force grew to include one more Constable and a Special Constable to do the duties of Court Officer.

- Chief Kavanagh resigned in 1987 to take the position of Deputy Chief in St. Thomas. Rudy Gheysen, who had started his career in London, and had served 10 years with Aylmer, replaced him. Chief Gheysen, at 31 years of age, was one of the youngest Chiefs of Police in the province. Chief Gheysen implemented the Auxiliary unit of five volunteers, to supplement the sworn officers.
- In 1990, Sergeant Henry Gehring retired from the Aylmer Police Service, having served the town for over thirty years. In 1991 Chief Gheysen hired the first female officer for Aylmer, Constable Marsha Geling. In 1994 the Aylmer Police moved into the computer age, with the purchase of 5 computers, and going on line with the Ontario Municipal and Provincial Police Automation Co-Operative for records management and report taking. The force now had two marked cruisers and an unmarked leased vehicle.
- Chief Gheysen resigned in 1995 to take the position of Deputy Director at the Ontario Police College. Bil Segui, a twenty-year veteran of the force, replaced him.
- In 1996, with the assistance of grants made available by the province, the Aylmer Police increased in strength by two more officers.
- In 1997 the Aylmer Police, with the assistance of Federal and Provincial grants, moved its facility to a modern new building on Beech Street East.
- In 1998 Aylmer was rocked by a large fire at a plastics recycling plant and subsequent bank robbery at the Imperial Bank of Commerce. Aylmer officers captured three young offenders shortly after the robbery. With the assistance of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Aylmer Police Auxiliary unit, approximately one thousand citizens were evacuated from their homes while firefighters attempted to bring the fire under control. This incident is believed to be the first bank robbery in Aylmer's history.
- 1999 is marked by the retirement of Special Constable James Allen with twenty-nine years of service, and Deputy Chief Wayne Lamoure with twenty-seven years of service.
- In 2000 Robert Taylor retired with 30 years of Police Service
- In 2007 Larry Dickson retired with 42 years of Police Service
- In 2010 Chief Bil Segui retired with 35 years of dedicated service.
- In 2011, Andre Reymer was promoted from Deputy Chief to Chief of Police with 23 years of policing experience.
- In 2012 the Town of Aylmer, and the police service, celebrated its 125th Anniversary.
- The Aylmer Police Service now consists of a Chief of Police, four Sergeants, eight Constables, two Special Constables, two Dispatchers, five Auxiliary officers, and seven part-time jail guards. The vehicle fleet has four marked cruisers and a bicycle.

