

# Research Guide

## Ontario Provincial Police

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### Print Resources

- **A Century of Policing. The Ontario Provincial Police 1909 – 2009, Toronto, Ont.: Pristine Printing, 2009.**  
This full colour hardcover publication includes photos and stories from the OPP's first 100 years
- **Barnes, Michael. *Dedication to Duty: OPP Officers Killed In the Line of Duty*. Burnstown, Ont.: General Store, 2000.**  
Recounts the stories behind the names of the officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and are listed on the OPP Honour Roll prior to 2000
- **Barnes, Michael. *In the public service: the Ontario Provincial Police*. Cobalt, Ont.: Highway Book Store, c1974.**  
How provincial police were trained, some of the ways they worked and details of the equipment used on the job in the 1970s
- **Barnes, Michael. *Policing Ontario: the OPP today*. Erin, Ont.: Boston Mills Press, c1991.**  
A general history of the Ontario Provincial Police
- **Cumberland Township Historical Society. *Murder in Navan*. 2005.**  
Recounts the events surrounding the murder of OPP Constable Harold Dent on June 20, 1940 at the Navan train station, just east of Ottawa.
- **Hayes, Adrian. *Murder and Mayhem at Waubamik: the Shooting of Thomas Jackson*. Markham, Ont.: Stewart Publishing and Printing, 2002.**  
The events surrounding the fatal wounding of an Ontario farmer in 1928. Includes numerous photographs, and references to the OPP, which continued to investigate the case as late as 1950
- **Higley, Dahn. *O.P.P.: The history of the Ontario Provincial Police Force*. Toronto: Queen's Printer, 1984.**  
The official history of the Ontario Provincial Police, covering the period 1864-1983
- **Maksymchuk, Andrew. *Champions of the Dead*. Friesen Press, 2014**  
Former OPP member's personal memoir highlighting his experiences and investigations as a detective in the OPP's Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) in the 1980s and 1990s and includes a history of CIB as well as a profile of several historic OPP investigations.
- **Maksymchuck, Andrew. *From Muskeg to Murder: Memories of Policing Ontario's Northwest*. Trafford Publishing, 2008**  
Former OPP member's personal memoir that includes policing in Northern Ontario

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- **Maksymchuck, Andrew. *TRU Tactics and Rescue Unit. The Last Resort in Policing.* Renfrew, ON: General Store, 2011.**  
Former OPP member's personal memoir on his career with the OPP including his involvement in the formation of the OPP's Tactics and Rescue Unit in the 1970s
- ***OPP Annual Report. Orillia: Ontario Provincial Police.***  
Published annually from 1922 to 2000 & 2003 & 2006 onward. In recent years, annual reports have been included in OPP Business Plans
- ***OPP Review. Orillia: Ontario Provincial Police.***  
Published quarterly from 1966 to present day. Primarily a resource for OPP employees, the *OPP Review* may be viewed at the OPP Eric Silk Library (reference access only). Current issues may be available through the editor, OPP Review, Corporate Communications & Executive Services, 705-329-6860
- **Rackham, Reg. *Before I forget – an autobiography.* Oshawa, Ont.: Maracle Press, 1991.**  
This is the autobiography of Reginald John Rackham, who joined the Ontario Provincial Police in 1949 and was influential in setting up and developing the force's first identification unit outside headquarters in Toronto. He tells of cases worked on in his many years of policing, and tries to explain, in a simple way, the scientific processes used in police investigation
- **Schultz, Richard Henry. *Hendersons Those Elegant Machines (supplement).* Waterbury Publications, 2014.**  
Features photographs of the museum's 1931 Henderson KL as well as a chapter on the history of this rare and unique OPP motorcycle.

*\*note: some of these books may only be available through inter-library loan.*

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### Other good sources

#### 1. The OPP Museum

Plan a visit to Orillia to see the most recent exhibits. The museum is open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday (except statutory holidays); information also available online at [www.opp.ca/museum](http://www.opp.ca/museum). Please note: the museum does not provide general research services

#### 2. Published local histories

Someone may have written about the history of your location. If not, consider looking at the local history of a neighbouring location, as it could contain references to your area. Although these local histories probably won't focus on policing, there may be several references to the police and significant crimes or criminals.

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- Barbara B. Aitken. (1978). *Local histories of Ontario municipalities, 1951-1977: a bibliography*. This book lists local written histories. Entries are arranged alphabetically by geographic name (towns, townships, cities, regions, villages, counties, etc.) You can skip this step by asking your library staff for local history, but in case they don't know about any, you can give them the information listed in Aitken's book.

### 3. Newspapers or periodicals

Newspapers or periodicals (a publication published at stated regular intervals) are a great source of local information. They can answer who, what, where, when and why. They contain photographs. Many communities have local newspapers. Even if your community does not have a newspaper, check to see if it once did. Back issues of these papers may still be available in print, microform or electronic format. Some are indexed to make it easier to locate specific information.

### 4. Church records/business records

In many locales, churches and businesses existed before newspapers. Many churches kept records detailing not only the religious life of a community, but also its social, educational and economic life. Cemetery inscription can provide historical data.

### 5. Local OPP staff (current and retired) and local citizens (especially seniors) are a great source of information about the OPP

Here are some interview tips: ask only one question at a time; ask brief questions but ensure they require more than "yes" or "no" as an answer; listen more than speak; make notes of things you want to return to later rather than interrupting; don't put words in the interviewee's mouth; start with questions that are non-controversial until the interviewee is more comfortable with you; be respectful of the interviewee's time as an hour and a half is probably the maximum, so don't overstay your welcome.

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## Online sources of information

Many public libraries have local history collections. They also tend to have back issues of local newspapers and periodicals. You may also want to check with the newspaper publisher itself. Consider also the local university or college library.

- Index of Public Libraries in Southern Ontario <http://www.sols.org>
- Directory of Ontario Public Libraries (Ontario Library Service – North) <http://www.olsn.ca>
- Ontario Historical Society [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)
- Ontario Museum Association [www.museumsontario.com](http://www.museumsontario.com)
- Canadian Museums Association [www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca)

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- Archives of Ontario [www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)  
 The Archives holds a wide variety of materials including some OPP records. Please contact them directly for information regarding the types of records held and how to access them:  
 The Archives of Ontario 134 Ian Macdonald Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M7A 2C5. By phone: 1-800-668-9933 (toll-free in Ontario only); 416-327-1600 (phone); 416-327-1999 (fax); email: [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca)

Ontario Provincial Police	<a href="http://www.opp.ca">www.opp.ca</a>
<i>The OPP Museum</i>	<a href="http://www.opp.ca/museum">www.opp.ca/museum</a>
Friends of <i>The OPP Museum</i>	<a href="http://www.oppmuseumfriends.ca">www.oppmuseumfriends.ca</a>
Ontario Provincial Police Association Note: includes a list of OPP officers killed in the line of duty, with photos and biographical information	<a href="http://www.oppa.ca">www.oppa.ca</a>
Ontario Provincial Police Veterans' Association	<a href="http://www.oppva.ca">www.oppva.ca</a>