

The Many Hats of George Sumner

As **Chief Constable**, Sumner's duties were varied:

- Enforcing the law, including taking prisoners to the County Jail in Milton;
- Regulating the behaviour of the human and animal population, particularly drunks, dogs and cows;
- Being responsible for the care, lighting and heating of the Town Hall and Lock-up;
- Taking tickets at all public functions at the Town Hall - the first to enter and the last to leave; and
- Superintending all works on roads and sidewalks, including arranging for snow clearance.

As **Tax Collector**: drawing up, delivering and collecting tax bills;

As **Health Officer**: regulating unsanitary practices;

As **Harbour Master** (1874): collecting tolls and arranging repairs;

As **Truant Officer** (1892): keeping a tolerant eye on the school population.

In his youth, Sumner had learned the trade of ship's carpenter, and he continued to work at odd times in the shipyards. He also did jobs of painting, house carpentering and paper-hanging. He weighed grain and was steamship ticket agent.

We can only wonder how he did it all!