

Cathy LINTON

NOMINEE: Cathy LINTON

MEMBER SPOUSE: Woodrow "Woody" F. LINTON, # 3013

DETACHMENTS: Minaki 1967 – 1978, Sioux Narrows 1978 - 1987

NOMINATOR: Spouse

SILENT PARTNER STORY

On sitting down with Cathy on this subject, I was met with "I don't really have anything too outstanding to talk about." You know, Cathy just did whatever she had to do under the circumstances and took it for granted it had to be done – like most officers' wives in those days.

In the 1960s especially, as others have pointed out, things were much different as far as policing was concerned. Inadequate communication was standard. Backup personnel were not always immediately available. Other associated agencies were not there at your bidding, and remote settings were the norm.

Cathy, both in Minaki and later in Sioux Narrows and Kenora, wore a number of hats: housewife, confidant, school teacher and mother of two young boys. Add to that: matron, social worker, first aider, call taker, prisoner meal-maker and dinner speaker's table partner. I also recall we housed a CIB Inspector (who had no other place to stay) and fed him for several days during one of a number of homicide cases I was involved with.

Well before First Nations Program policing was thought of, Cathy and I lived at White Dog for six months. This was due to there being absolutely no accommodation available in Minaki.

A stressful environment

Cathy's trial by fire was indeed at White Dog. We lived in the teachers' accommodations. Days were fairly quiet, but come evening all that changed with gunfire in the night and the ever-present sound of breaking glass.

One of Cathy's talents had been to make friends and she did so during this period with great results for me. Having the locals on your side means an easier job for the officer. During the difficult incidents she wiped blood from my face and gave me encouragement.

I remember one trying time when I was driving from White Dog to Minaki in the borrowed station wagon of the school principal (not having a police vehicle). Cathy was in the back seat comforting an injured, assaulted female, and I was in the front driving with the perpetrator beside me - still trying to harm anyone within range.

Oh! Did I mention? During this period of time she continued to update her university qualifications.

Of course, living at detachment in Sioux Narrows had its peculiarities. For one, it was easier to leave the vehicle unlocked than to risk a broken window. One morning, Cathy, intent on making her way to the school house, had to remove a drunk from our vehicle

There were always police officers, commissioned officers and who knows else being fed by Cathy in our kitchen. This included hungry crown attorneys.

Answering the front door was always a challenge, especially at night. When I was not there, Cathy, like it or not, represented Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of the Province of Ontario. She always stood up to whatever she encountered and made sound decisions.

Overall, the occurrences were many. What can I say about my Silent Partner during my career with the OPP? I am glad Cathy was there by my side.

About Sioux Narrows

Situated on the eastern shore of Lake of the Woods on Sabaskong Bay, the resort community of Sioux Narrows Falls has about 300 permanent residents, but sees this number increase substantially during the summer months.