

NOMINEE: **Claudette MINNICK**

SPOUSE: **Sergeant Greg MINNICK, #5567**

OPP DETACHMENT: **Beardmore Detachment – 25Oct1971 – 03Jul1973**

CIRCUMSTANCES OF QUALIFICATION:

The following summary provides particulars on why Claudette Minnick is deserving of your consideration for a Silent Partner Award.

This chronicle is submitted on behalf of Claudette's husband, OPP Sergeant (retired) Greg Minnick (see his nomination letter, including photo, attached).

Greg Minnick's OPP Career

On October 4, 1965, Greg Minnick was hired as a Provincial Constable by the OPP. During the first part of his career he served at Port Arthur DHQ, Beardmore Detachment and Special Investigations Branch (Thunder Bay). After a brief interlude (1975 to 1977), Greg completed his career with the OPP, serving at Markdale Detachment, Mount Forest DHQ Crime Unit, Mount Forest Detachment, Mount Forest DHQ Communications Unit and Burlington DHQ Communications Unit. He retired on December 31, 1996.

Background Summary (from Greg Minnick's nomination letter):

Claudette Minnick was twenty-five years old in 1971, when the OPP transferred Greg and her to Beardmore detachment. They had three children, ages six, five and three. They lived on the main floor of the government house located behind the detachment in Beardmore.

The detachment phone was answered from the house and the detachment. Claudette often answered the phone at all hours when Greg was out. There were no communications between the detachment and the officers on the road. In order to contact them, Claudette had to call Nipigon detachment and get them to relay the messages via the car radio. However, that did not work every time.

Claudette also answered the door at all hours of the day and night. Alone with her three children, it was especially worrisome to answer the door to strangers in the middle of night.

Whether it was by phone or in person, Claudette took complaints and calls for service and relayed them to Nipigon detachment when she could, or to Greg when he got back from patrol.

Then there was the matter of getting ready for inspections. Claudette had to clean the jail cell (it had to be spotless) and the detachment several times. She even endured the criticism of inspecting NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers) if it did not meet their standards.

Then there was the cooking for prisoners, court officials and visiting senior officials. On one occasion, one such official told Claudette that he had a cold and everything tasted like cardboard. Accordingly, she served him a cardboard sandwich. "No use serving him a perfectly good meal."

There was also the matter of taking in children, who often were Indigenous, and at the same time dealing with her own three children. The children had nowhere to go but the OPP detachment or their government house located behind.

Two years after they were posted to Beardmore, Claudette and Craig were transferred.

Today, Greg and Claudette Minnick are active members of OPP Veterans' Association - Chapter 6 (Guelph). Greg was Chair of the Chapter for a few years and Claudette was the social convener. They are both enjoying retirement in Cambridge, Ontario.

SUMMARY

In summary, from 1971 to 1973, Greg Minnick was posted to Beardmore detachment, and his wife, Claudette was at his side, raising their three children in the residence attached to the detachment. Claudette answered the detachment / residence door when people knocked. She routinely answered the phone, wrote down the details and dispatched Greg by calling Nipigon detachment so they could reach him by radio, or failing that waiting for him to arrive home. When necessary, Claudette would tend to the people who arrived at their doorstep, providing assistance as needed. This included caring for children, in addition to her own three young ones. She also cleaned the detachment, including the cells (that needed to be spotless), and fed various OPP personnel and dignitaries that arrived at their doorstep. Claudette received no compensation for her services.



About Beardmore:

Beardmore is located in Ontario Superior County Region along highway 11 near Poplar Point
Founded in 1914, population is approximately 4636.