

Elma DAWSON

NOMINEE: Elma DAWSON

MEMBER SPOUSE: Arthur Vernon DAWSON # 1151

DETACHMENT(S): Still River 1952 – 1953

NOMINATOR: Allan DAWSON (Son), # 4217

SILENT PARTNER STORY

My father was the Detachment Commander of the Still River Detachment from 1953 until 1959. During that time, Still River was a two-man detachment that served the area of northeastern Georgian Bay from the hamlet of Pointe au Baril to the French River along Highway 69 and including the northeast area of Georgian Bay to the west and to the east almost to the village of Port Loring. The area had three Indigenous communities and two other small communities of Britt and Byng Inlet.

The present detachment building was constructed in 1953 and remained largely unchanged until the late 1980s when the Corporal's residence was renovated to create more office space. During my parent's posting, the Corporal's residence was attached to the detachment office and cells. In the early days the basement also served as the court room. In order to go from the residence to the laundry area, residents had to walk through the detachment with their laundry.

During my Mom's approximately five-year stay at this three-year duration posting, she would routinely answer the OPP telephone day or night, take complaints, use the police radio, provide comfort to victims of crime, write statements, act as secretary and matron, as well as cook and serve meals to prisoners and visitors alike, all without financial compensation. Her dedication should be recognized because during this time frame she still maintained her own household and raised her children. Dedication such as my mother's enhanced the image and reputation of the Ontario Provincial Police and allowed the Detachment to meet its day-to-day needs.

As an attribution to both my father and mother, two of their children; Ray and Allen, both served as OPP members. My brother Ray was stationed at Still River Detachment from 1980 to 1983 and part of my career included the OPP Northeast Region, which commands Still River Detachment and I clearly recall growing up there.

About Still River

Located 101 kilometers south of Sudbury on the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 69) Still River is now part of Henvey Township, which includes Britt Station as well.