

Evarachel (Eva Rae) FERGUSON

NOMINEE: Evarachel Eva Rae FERGUSON

MEMBER SPOUSE: Jack MURRAY, # 3757

DETACHMENT(S): Vermilion Bay 1962 – 1967

NOMINATOR: Evarachel FERGUSON

SILENT PARTNER STORY

My husband, Jack Murray, was transferred to Vermilion Bay Detachment from Kenora in 1962. Jack had been assigned to the detachment as the Constable, in charge of the two-man detachment, so we moved into the government house which served as both a residence and the detachment. The second officer was required to find lodging elsewhere. We had two children, Heather age five and three-year-old Jack Jr. Our third baby was born in 1963 when we lived in Vermilion Bay.

The residence portion of the building had two bedrooms. Since it was not connected to the community water system, we had to order water and have it delivered. The office consisted of an extension of the main entrance foyer in the middle of the house, which separated the kitchen from the living room.

When an officer was interviewing a complainant or taking a statement, I was frequently cut-off from my children if they happened to be in the living room while I was in the kitchen (and vice versa). It was a difficult time, especially during my pregnancy and following the birth of our third child.

My husband and the second officer were away a lot and I had to answer the phone, take messages and answer the office door at all hours of the day and night. If there was a serious emergency and the officers were away or out in the police car, I would call Dryden (the nearest detachment) and they could try to contact them or send another officer. Back then, there were no police radios at the detachment.

I was expected to keep the office clean and always had a pot of coffee ready. I prepared many meals for the single boys (a third officer was posted there near the end of our stay).

We left in 1967.

About Vermillion Bay

Located 44 kilometers west of Dryden on the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 17), Vermilion Bay is home to approximately 1,200 people. This town, in the Municipality of Machin, is located on the shores of Eagle Lake and began as construction camp where railway workers for Canadian Pacific Railway were based.