

**Geraldine "Leslie" STANTON**

**NOMINEE:** Geraldine "Leslie" STANTON

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** James Milligan STANTON, # 3193

**DETACHMENT(S):** Ear Falls 1963 – 1965

**NOMINATOR:** Tamara KONOSKI

**SILENT PARTNER STORY**

I would like to nominate my mother, Geraldine "Leslie" Stanton, for the Silent Partner Award. I think that she is a candidate for this award, especially as my Dad was the first officer in Ear Falls after Cal Fulford was murdered by Tom Young. It must have been terrifying for a young wife to know what happened a few short years before to knowingly go into a remote town like Ear Falls.

The job of an OPP wife, and I use this term loosely, as they were really more of an unpaid partner to their husbands, varied from the location to which their husbands served. While my parents were in Ear Falls, my Mom was also raising one small child, expecting another one, and at the end had two young babies. To help my Dad out, she also took care of answering the police incident calls, finding out where the location was, as well as the severity and type of call. While he went out on the call, she kept the phone operator informed of where he was and whether or not help was needed.

Of course, help was a long way away, so it usually wasn't available. When a prisoner was brought into the cell, which was attached to the housing provided to the officers, it was up to my Mom to cook for them, as well as clean up after them. While it wasn't part of the job, caring for, feeding and donating their own clothes to many of the native children also happened frequently.

My parents tell of a time just before Christmas, when my Dad received a phone call about a family of small children left alone in a cabin with no parents around. When he arrived there, he opened the door to the younger children being looked after by their siblings, of which were barely babies themselves. He

started a fire, looked after the kids, started a stew on the stove for them and found someone to stay with them. He then proceeded to go back home, tell my Mom about it and ended up taking the toys and clothes that were meant for my sister and I back to the family to try to give them a Christmas.

As well as doing these types of jobs, whenever other officers and government employees came to Ear Falls, she fed and accommodated them for however long they were there for. I believe that the wives of the OPP officers that were stationed in these remote areas deserve an award for the hardships that they endured while trying to help their husbands to serve and protect. It was not always a hardship, as many good friendships were made while being so far from family, but in those days, it would have been a very different world than what it is today. You never knew when your husband went on a call, whether he would be back in a few hours, or a few days, as once he went out, there was no more contact.

Thank you very much for considering my Mom, as I think she and the many others deserve this recognition.

### **About Ear Falls**

Located approximately 480 kilometers northwest of Thunder Bay on the English River, Ear Falls “was once known as Otahwaka Powitek to the Ojibwa people. This area was believed to be haunted by the spirit of a giant beaver which lived between the upper and lower falls. It was said that when the beaver was swimming, its ears could be seen rising and falling in the foaming water. It is from this myth that the name Ear Falls was adopted.” <http://www.ear-falls.com/visit/ear-falls-history>

A lot has changed since the Hudson’s Bay Company and North West Company united to set up posts in the Ear Falls area almost 200 years ago; however, hunting and fishing continue to draw many to this town of approximately 1,000 people.