

**Jean KELLAR**

**NOMINEE:** Jean KELLAR

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** Earl KELLAR, # 1675

**DETACHMENT(S):** Ear Falls 1965 – 1977

**NOMINATOR:** Spouse

**SILENT PARTNER STORY**

In September 1965, I was transferred to Ear Falls Detachment. My addition made it a two-member detachment. The other officer was Constable E.C. Kellar. He and his wife Jean and their children lived in the detachment residence.

At that time we had one police car, a 1965 Chev equipped with a radiophone. This was our only communication with Red Lake Detachment. However, I did not work in Ear Falls. We had to go to Manitou Hill or 15 miles north to communicate. The other option was the phone at the detachment, which also was connected to the residence.

People wanting the police phoned the detachment number and if no answered, they phoned Red Lake Detachment.

If Earl was at home, he would take the call and turn on the front light at the residence. I would see the light and stop to get the message. If we were both working or if Earl was away, Jean would take the call, turn on the light and give me the information she had recorded.

If we had people in the cells that required meals, we called on Jean to provide them.

There were many days when Jean took more than a dozen calls and provided this information to Earl and I.

In 1966, the detachment increased to four members because of the Griffith Iron Mine located in Ear Falls. The OPP radio system was improved and Red Lake had 24-hour operators. Ear Falls had a base radio in the office, operated by the steno on Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm. The remainder of the time, Red Lake was to dispatch an Ear Falls officer. This did not work well as there were a lot of dead spots.

For the next 8 years, Jean continued to use the front light system to advise Ear Falls members of calls for service.

In addition to the above, Jean was always there to provide any help she could to officers, both those stationed in Ear Falls and those who worked in Ear Falls on major occurrences, road closures, lost hunter searches, etc.

### **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.