

## Lucy NAGLE

**NOMINEE:** Lucy NAGLE

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** Ronald NAGLE, # 2969

**DETACHMENT(S):** Central Patricia 1969 – 1971

**NOMINATOR:** Spouse

### SILENT PARTNER STORY

In 1969, I transferred to Central Patricia Detachment as the officer in charge. My wife, Lucy, and I spent two years there and we lived in quarters attached to the detachment. During that time, Lucy would act as a matron on occasions when I had female prisoners in the detachment cells, which required her to be awake all night checking on them. She did this in spite of the fact that we had a newborn son, Kevin, in 1970, which made it more difficult because her “shift” may have ended in the morning when I returned to work, but her real work day began looking after Kevin.

Lucy also answered the telephones and recorded messages from callers requiring police services while I was out. She prepared meals for both male and female prisoners many of whom commented on the fact that the food was better than what they got at home, which made us chuckle on a few occasions.

One time when my partner and I were out of town attending court, Lucy dealt with a male who had come to Central Patricia from either Fort Hope or Lansdown House. The man had been drinking at the Central Patricia hotel, which was directly across from the detachment. When he had too much to drink, the bartender refused to serve him. Unhappy, he crossed the street to the OPP office to complain.

When no one answered the office door, the man knocked on the residence door and Lucy responded. He told her that he was looking “for the cops” and when she told him they were away, he did not believe her and tried to push open the door to see for himself. They ended up in a pushing match with him trying to push the door open and Lucy trying to shut it to prevent him from entering. After she was

able to close and lock the door, the man left. Lucy was very lucky and, although she was not injured, it scared the daylights out of her. It also made her think twice about opening the residence door when she was alone.

My partner and I returned later that day. In the meantime, the intoxicated man had gone back to the hotel and continued to make a nuisance of himself. We promptly arrested him and he spent the night in the detachment cells before boarding an airplane back home the next day.

There is so much more that can be said about the sacrifices the wives of officers in small detachments made back then and recognizing them for their efforts is long overdue.

### **About Central Patricia**

Central Patricia dates back to the discovery of gold on the Crow River and at Pickle Crow in 1928. By 1935, mines had also been established in Pickle Lake. From 1928 to 1995, over 2.5 million ounces of gold were produced in the area. While Central Patricia still has a few buildings and residents, Pickle Crow has been almost entirely abandoned. The Township of Pickle Lake now encompasses both of these communities and listed a total population of 425 people in 2011.