

Marilyn DULMAGE

NOMINEE: Marilyn DULMAGE

MEMBER SPOUSE: Robert C. DULMAGE, # 1783

DETACHMENT(S): Geraldton 1959 – 1961, Beardmore 1965 – 1967

NOMINATOR: Spouse

SILENT PARTNERS STORY

As an OPP member, I, Robert C. Dulmage served as an OPP Provincial Constable in charge of Geraldton and Beardmore Detachments. In the case both cases, they were one-man detachments with the exception of the last six months of my posting.

Assistance Provided at Geraldton Detachment

In the days before radio and CPIC, we completed our record checks by referring to RCMP cards that were housed at the District Detachment office. This was the lockup for the areas of Longlac, Geraldton and Geraldton Municipal Detachment.

Many evenings were spent in the office filing released prisoner cards while leaving the door open to the living quarters, to keep on ear open for our sleeping children. My wife, Marilyn, was the adult female resident of the building and was often required to assist with the female prisoners during their detainment.

On one occasion, an internal search was required on a female prisoner and the presiding a medical examiner demanded a female witness be present during the search. During these times, my wife was required to carry out matron duties. Common day occurrences for her included answering the phone, taking down detachment messages and receiving visitors at the office.

One visit of note while alone at the Geraldton Detachment and while her husband was in the hospital having his broken nose repaired was a surprise visit by Commissioner W. H. Clark, accompanied by a

gentleman who introduced himself as Eric Silk. He requested a tour of the building. The years of liberal graffiti inscribed on the cell walls were duly noted and passed off by my wife as sex education. The cells received a very quick painting shortly thereafter.

On a totally different type of visit at the Beardmore Detachment, assistance was required by a member of the public. In this case, I returned to the office to find a male developmentally challenged person dictating a letter to his mother. My wife was actually transcribing the letter. The gentleman was also a known arsonist who was repeatedly admitted to the Ontario Hospital for treatment. His condition was well known by my wife who realised it was better to humour him by preparing the letter on his behalf than to face the possible consequences of having a fire. He left happy, with a letter to mail to his mother.

Meals were served to incarcerated persons at both detachments. The prisoners ate exactly what the family ate. It goes without saying, that visiting police members including DHQ staff were offered snacks, tea and coffee.

During our service time at both of these detachments, the only service we did not perform was the use of the radio as during our tours because there was no fixed radios in either detachment. All messages were relayed via telephone. This often resulted in the spouse being called upon to placate complainants during times when officers were out of the office.

About Geraldton

With a current population of just over 2,000, Geraldton lies 282 kilometers northeast of Thunder Bay. The town's name is a combination of its 2 co-founders, J.S. FitzGerald and Joseph Errington and was incorporated as a town in 1937. In 1998, the Municipality of Greenstone was created in 2001 by amalgamating the towns of Geraldton, Longlac, Nakina and Beardmore.