

**Phyllis RAYBOULD**

**NOMINEE:** Phyllis RAYBOULD

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** Scott RAYBOULD, # 1513

**DETACHMENT(S):** Elliot Lake 1956 – 1958, Bruce Mines 1958 – 1961

**NOMINATOR:** Kim RAYBOULD (daughter)

**SILENT PARTNER STORY**

While visiting my mom in Peterborough, I was looking through the OPP Review, which she has continued to receive since my dad's death, when I noticed an article regarding spouses of OPP officers during the early years, where the officers were posted to remote one-man detachments.

That certainly was my dad. He was accepted to the OPP and after training went to Sault Ste. Marie, where he met my mom who was a nurse at the Plummer Memorial Hospital. They married in 1957 and moved to Elliot Lake where the busy mining boom was taking place. From there, they moved to Bruce Mines where he worked out of Thessalon.

I remember many conversations concerning my mom being all on her own with two young babies, myself and my brother. My brother, Robbie, was born with Apert syndrome, which involved a severe intellectual disability. My dad was away from home a lot while he patrolled and maintained this one-man detachment. There were many stories, including specimens being stored in our fridge until they could be properly processed. During the times mom did not know where he was, she had to be the "dispatcher" when something came up in the community. These were just some of the things she experienced.

I know times were tough for them, money was tight but it did help my mom to become the resilient person that she is today. Although over 80 and despite some health problems, she still lives on her own. We will often talk of those days and she will laugh wondering how they ever managed to make it. I have

a sister, Karen, who lives outside of Sault Ste. Marie, so I try once a year to take my mom up to visit her. While we drive along Highway 17, mom likes to reminisce of those by-gone days.

#### About Elliot Lake

Elliot Lake, which celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, was home to most of the world's uranium production for a period of 40 years, beginning in the mid 1950s. Located 30 kilometers north of the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 17) between Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie, Elliot Lake now relies on tourism, forestry and a retirement living program that has reportedly attracted 2,000 retirees from North America and Europe to the area to power the local economy. Elliot Lake was proclaimed as Ontario's 50<sup>th</sup> city in 1991 and is home to just under 11,000 residents (2016).