

Rhonda Gail CRAWFORD

NOMINEE: Rhonda Gail CRAWFORD

MEMBER SPOUSE: Garry CRAWFORD, # 2175

DETACHMENT(S): Warren 1962 – 1971; Wawa 1971 – 1980

NOMINATOR: Spouse

SILENT PARTNER STORY

When I first went to Warren in 1962 there were four constables and one cruiser. We were required to work two shifts; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. We were paid for five and a half days a week but actually worked six days in order to provide back-up for our members working Saturday night. If you worked Saturday night you came back in for 9 a.m. on Sunday day shift.

These were trying times for our spouses who, in most cases, were raising children. We were constantly taking calls at our homes and, as a result, people got in the habit of coming to our homes since we all lived in the small village. Many times, when were absent our wives took the calls and relayed the information to us.

It may be, and often was, a neighbour who was being assaulted or had a family member who was attempting suicide. It may be an informant who himself was a criminal. I can think of one instance where one of my best informants was the ex-president of a biker gang and had been convicted of shooting two rival gang members. He would call and leave a message at my home to have "Garry call Tommy." One day my wife asked who Tommy was and I foolishly told her. For a long time after, she became quite stressed whenever she heard a motorcycle or snowmobile.

More than once I brought home teenage runaways to stay the night and she clothed and fed them, sometimes for a few days until their family members came from southern Ontario to retrieve them. There were also times when an abused spouse would knock on our door in the middle of the night. She

would not want any charges laid and, as a result, spend the night on our couch. In the morning our children would ask their mother why this lady was sleeping on our couch.

Many times, I would be called out to a very serious occurrence, which we would handle ourselves in those days as there were no specialty teams such as TRU or ERT. My wife would know what the call was about but many times would not hear from me again until the following evening.

Things were different then; it was our job and we did it willingly. We got a pat on the back every once in a while but our spouses stayed home and waited. As I moved up in rank and changed detachments my wife still had occasion to be involved in some sticky situations as a result of my employment but they were less often than in those early years.

About Warren

Located between North Bay and Sudbury on the Trans Canada Highway (Highway 17) Warren is now part of the town of Markstay-Warren, which was incorporated on January 1, 1999. Starting as a lumber town in the late 19th century, Markstay-Warren is now home to 2,566 residents (2016).



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