

## **Shirley RUTHERFORD**

**NOMINEE:** **SHIRLEY RUTHERFORD**

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** **Malcolm RUTHERFORD, # 1678**

**DETACHMENT(S):** **Apsley 1966 – 1970**

**NOMINATOR:** **Spouse**

### **SILENT PARTNER STORY**

In May 1966, I was transferred to the Apsley Detachment as Detachment Commander. Before then, my wife, Shirley, our four children, ranging in age from 18 months to nine years, and I had resided in Campbellford in a large spacious four bedroom home. My wife was also employed as a part-time nurse at Campbellford Hospital.

As Detachment Commander, it was expected that I should reside in the small one and a half storey detachment house with the police office occupying approximately one quarter of the main floor. This left a kitchen, living room and a very small room off the living room which we used as my daughter's bedroom. There were two bedrooms upstairs. A bathroom was located on the main floor which our family shared with the office staff and visitors.

For the next four years, we resided in this house during which time my wife, in the absence of myself or other staff members, answered the telephone and met with the public, relaying any police calls to Peterborough Headquarters at which point our members would be dispatched by radio.

Most calls received were routine, however, on one occasion, my wife received a call from an anonymous caller reporting a robbery at a local store. She was highly suspicious of this call and immediately called the store in question and on speaking to the owner, was advised that everything was okay. She then called headquarters with this complaint and her suspicions. There had been a previous situation in an

adjoining detachment of a similar nature which resulted in police being dispatched on phony calls and, in their absence, a local bank robbery took place.

When we arrived in Apsley, there was a Red Cross Outpost hospital operated by a doctor and his nurse wife. My wife secured employment there one day a week as a registered nurse. The hospital later closed except for one day a week when a doctor from Peterborough would attend. From that point on, my wife was the only health care personnel available in the area and on numerous occasions, calls were received at the OPP detachment requesting medical advice from my wife. Sometimes she attended and rendered medical treatment as directed by the doctors from Peterborough.

On one occasion, the parents of a small child stopped at the detachment en route to the hospital in Peterborough. My wife took care of the child, obviously deceased. The child was kept in my daughter's bedroom while we waited for the coroner to arrive.

Another time, a wounded deer hunter was brought to the detachment with part of his hand blown off. My wife administered medical aid sufficient to allow his transfer to the hospital in Peterborough.

These are just a few of the many instances where my wife assisted members of the general public and OPP staff. She also kept a pot of coffee on for the staff or any visiting police personnel. Another duty that she performed was that of office caretaker and for that we received approximately one dollar a day.

A disadvantage to being stationed in such a small community was the fact that my wife, in order to continue my daughter's musical education, had to drive her to Peterborough, a journey of 80 miles (126 kilometres) there and back.

### **About Apsley**

Apsley is halfway between Peterborough and Bancroft. Population is under 2500 and 60 percent are seniors. The population is closer to 12000 in Summer because of the cottages.

