

Stella LEVESQUE

NOMINEE: Stella LEVESQUE

MEMBER SPOUSE: Leo LEVESQUE, # 2790

DETACHMENT(S): Beardmore 1973 – 1976

NOMINATOR: Darrell SMILEY

SILENT PARTNER STORY

From 1973 to 1976, Leo was posted to Beardmore Detachment (formerly District 16, C-Division). Beardmore Detachment was a two-member duration posting situated on Highway 11, approximately 80 km north of the junction of Highways 11 and 17 at Nipigon.

Stella, along with their two sons (J.P. and Phil) accompanied her husband Leo to Beardmore. The small hamlet had few services or support. They lived in the house attached to the OPP detachment while posted there for almost four years.

Being only a two-man detachment, most of the time the member worked and responded to calls alone. Stella supported Leo and the detachment daily in any way she could. She would help keep the office and cells clean, provide meals for the prisoners, perform guard duties when she had to and answer the OPP emergency phone that was permanently located in their residence and take call information to pass along to members. If there were people in the community or travelers that needed help and Stella could do something, she was always willing to go the extra mile for them, all in support of Leo, the Beardmore Detachment and the OPP.

In addition to keeping the home fire going and supporting Leo, Stella took on the duties of Volunteer Ambulance driver and frequently attended the emergency calls and although working in another capacity, she was still supporting Leo and the detachment in getting the important work done in the name of community safety.

Stella was known to be particularly attentive to the children in the community that were in need of some attention and caring. She was always concerned for their safety while they commuted to/from school on bitterly cold days. Following Leo's term of posting, the family re-located to the Thunder Bay area for the remainder of Leo's career where she continued to support Leo in his work, but certainly more behind the scenes.

Being part of the OPP family and with Stella (along with Leo) raising their two boys in that supportive environment and being committed to helping others through their work, left an indelible impression on the community and on their sons. Everyone recognizes, at least in private, that mothers often have larger impacts on their children's development and attitudes than fathers do. The fact that both sons became members of the Thunder Bay Police Service and are now approaching their own 30-year mark as senior officers (Chief and Inspector), speaks volumes of Stella's positive engagement in her role as an unofficial officer and silent partner to Leo, particularly during their time in Beardmore.

About Beardmore

Beardmore, which was amalgamated into Greenstone in 2001, is currently home to less than 500 residents. Located approximately 190 kilometers to the north and east of Thunder Bay on Highway 11, Beardmore is a historic mining area that grew rapidly in the 1930s and now serves as a gateway to tourism in the Lake Nipigon area.