

**Suzanne Claire PILON**

**NOMINEE:** Suzanne Claire PILON

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** Robert H. PILON, # 4678

**DETACHMENT(s):** Dubreuilville 1975 – 1978 & 1980 – 1982, Hearst 1987 – 1990

**NOMINATOR:** Spouse

**SILENT PARTNER STORY**

Sue began her OPP life in February 1973 when she and our four children joined me at my first posting in Sturgeon Falls.

In November 1975, we were transferred to Dubreuilville. The day we arrived with our furniture, it started snowing and the snow and cold lasted until the following May! Many people would simply not believe the bizarre circumstances faced by an officer and his family in a one-man detachment. There is NO privacy and the work is pretty well 24/7.

While I was away from the detachment for various reasons, Sue took my responsibilities on. Among her more daring experiences were the times she broke up fights, including one between two women swinging baseball bats, looking after domestic disputes, treating injuries, and taking in battered wives and children.

She also started preliminary investigations into crimes of all sorts, initiated search and rescue operations, stopped reckless drivers and generally performed the duties of the town's police officer while raising four children in a remote spot.

In January 1980, senior OPP staff asked me to return to Dubreuilville due to serious problems there. Sue, without batting an eye, agreed to leave the comfort of Midland to return. After I was shot and seriously

wounded in June 1980, Sue had to live with the continuous fear of terrible consequences while also serving as the interpreter/assistant to the officers who were sent to police the town.

Later in my career, she followed me when I was posted to Hearst as the Detachment Commander. She demonstrated her unwavering support of the OPP by taking up residence at the detachment apartment and leaving our two eldest children behind in Sudbury so they could attend university. While in Hearst, Sue took on the duty of “mom” to all the young officers and she will always be remembered for her weekly baking day.

Now in retirement, Sue is enjoying her time with me divided between our Florida and Sturgeon Falls homes. Our two eldest children went on to join the OPP, Jeannine Grassie is a Constable in North Bay and Michel Pilon is the Staff Sergeant in Cochrane. We also have ten grandchildren.

### **About Dubreuilville**

Dubreuilville was created in 1961 when the Dubreuil brothers, originally from Taschereau, QC, moved their operations from the town of Magpie after obtaining the cutting rights to an area north-east of the town. Until its incorporation in 1977, Dubreuilville was considered a company town. Vehicles were required to check-in at the gate located just off the Trans Canada Highway to access the town and were denied entry if they did not have sufficient reason to enter.

To this day, Dubreuil Forest Products Limited continues as the main industry in this town of 635 (2011), located at the end of Highway 519, nearly 300 kilometers north of Sault Ste Marie.

### **About Hearst**

Located 92 kilometers west of Kapuskasing, Hearst is home to 3,835 people, with approximately 93.7% of the population being francophone. Incorporated in 1922, Hearst was named after Minister of Forests and Mines and later Premier of Ontario, William Howard Hearst. The lumber industry has long been the major source of economic activity in the community