

**Rainette D. THERRIEN**

**NOMINEE:** Rainette D. THERRIEN

**MEMBER SPOUSE:** Wayne W. THERRIEN, # 2697

**DETACHMENT(S):** Nestor Falls 1975 – 1980

**NOMINATOR:** Spouse

**SILENT PARTNER STORY**

In August 1975, Rainette Therrien arrived at Nestor Falls Detachment with her husband, Wayne, their three-year old daughter and six-month old son. The Therrien family would spend the next five years in Nestor Falls, until Wayne's transfer in July 1980.

In the 1970s an OPP officer assigned to the detachment may have enjoyed a multitude of wilderness activities, including hunting and fishing with their family, but they also faced certain adversity. When the Therrien family arrived, there was very little potable water at the residence. It was a multi-storey old house with office space on the main floor, jail cells in the basement and accommodations for their family.

At times, water was hauled to detachment and stored in a 500-gallon tank in the garage. The water was so heavy with iron it could be not drunk, nor even used for washing clothes. The Therrien's ironstone dishes became rusty in spots due to doing dishes due to the water. Washday at the laundromat was obligatory, especially with a busy and growing family. The water situation was so dire that prisoners were usually taken 45 kilometres north to Sioux Narrows Detachment or 61 kilometres south to Emo Detachment to best accommodate them.

Rainette helped out in the community in several ways. She was a Registered Public Health Nurse and her services were often called upon to assist with ambulance calls. When their children were old enough they attended the one-room schoolhouse, and Rainette assisted as a teacher's aide. On more than one

occasion during the winter, people would attempt to drive through heavy snowstorms and arrive at their door. Rainette would shift their kids around to allow these families to spend the night, rather than try to continue on in the snowstorm.

Rainette also assisted with many tasks around the office. She helped with the detachment cleaning and served the odd prisoner meal. She also provided meals when visiting headquarters staff attended for their annual inspections. Rainette answered the phone and the door when Wayne worked the evening shift, from 6 pm to 2 am, or when he was away on training or other police business.

During the Boise Cascade strike, three officers were sent to Nestor Falls to assist with security at the strike site. These officers enjoyed several meals that Rainette prepared and served during their stay.

Rainette was involved in one major incident when Wayne was on training. Two of the local drug users took a big rock and threw it through the large residence picture window, while she and her children were in the house. She called Emo Detachment and when officers arrived later the two individuals were apprehended and charged.

On more than one occasion, Rainette would host dinners for First Nations Special Constable Larry Indian and his wife, to try and enhance their relationship. This worked well as their families remained good friends for many decades.

It is a testament to the resilience of Rainette that she was able to open her home to all in need and still overcome all problems that arrived at the detachment door in Nestor Falls.

### **About Nestor Falls**

Situated on the eastern shore of Lake of the Woods on Sabaskong Bay, the resort community of Nestor Falls has about 300 permanent residents, but sees this number increase substantially during the summer months.