

## SCAN

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been a part of our Canadian society since February 1, 1920. Prior to that our protectors were called the "North West Mounted Rifles". Approximately 100 to 150 mounted riflemen were given the mission of maintaining law and order patrolling the North West Territories. The name changed again in 1873 to the North-West Mounted Police due to raised concerns from the United States about armed men (military formation) at the border. The name "Royal" was added in 1904 when it merged with the Dominion Police. At that time, the Dominion policed all points east of Manitoba. Today, one hundred years later, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police serve our community and most provinces. They are responsible for enforcing the law, preventing crime and maintaining peace, order and security.

Currently in the community of The Pas, the RCMP is led by Staff Sergeant Brent Lemieux. He moved to The Pas from Roblin, 3 ½ years ago with his wife and four children. He directly supervises 32 staff including RCMP members at The Pas and OCN, as well as maintenance, security and support staff. This will be changing in the foreseeable future as Opaskwayak Cree Nation branch into policing with Manitoba First Nations Police Services. The Pas RCMP detachment is currently operating with 4 officers below the recommended number for our community. This is due to injuries, officers transferring out and new officers short in supply. As well, there is a shortage of guards and matrons.

Recently, I met with RCMP Staff Sergeant, Brent Lemieux. He is the key person behind the SCAN program. His main goal is to bring people and organizations together who desire to create a safer, healthier and connected community. In a short time, I learned much about the SCAN program, but more than that I learned about the amount of time that this individual spends to create community. Community is built through helping each other out and joining in at all levels. Volunteering, assisting and getting involved with the many local groups that require support.

In a short time, I realized that the Lemieux family are caring and fully engaged with our community on a higher recreational and community level. Outside of his RCMP role, Brent is fully involved in Minor Hockey as a Head Coach and Assistant Coach. Brent is very thoughtful and resourceful. When he moved here, he noticed that there was no communication or even worse, miscommunication between groups. He immediately went to work to create the Safer Community and Neighborhoods (SCAN). SCAN's purpose is to gather and partner agencies with the goal of bringing positive practises to The Pas.

The main purpose of this group called SCAN is to provide safe neighbourhoods by networking and partnering with local agencies to create open communication on topics that are relevant to our community. Its design is to bring forward topics around safety and community wellbeing. Through two-way communication the community can move forward and bring many positive practises to those who reside here. There are many stakeholders in a community. "If we are not information sharing, we are not serving each other." The many players in this group include the elected official of the Tri Community, the Kinsmen, victims' services, MPI, NRHA, Kelsey School Division, Manitoba Housing, Crown Council, AFM, COPP, Aurora House, TPCRC to name a few. Other organizations are encouraged to participate, as the greater the involvement, the better we can serve our community. This group bring in keynote speakers who engage participants to try thinking differently in resolving issues that they are experience. Safer Communities and Neighborhoods is a refreshing and different way to create a community that acts like a team. It involves healthy discussion, courageous conversations, kind criticism, interaction and forming a plan for our future.

The practise and objective of Safer Communities and Neighborhoods is to create a cohesive unit for the community. The betterment of the community is through each other. Including everyone who has a vested interest in cultivating a thriving, vibrant, progressive community. The next meeting is planned in the fall on September 12, 2020. The location is yet to be determined but know that you are invited. SCAN wants to see 100 individuals and representatives coming together to share feelings but ultimately working on solutions.

Apply yourself to the world.

“The friendliest people you will ever meet live in this community. The people who live here accept others for who they truly are. I need this community more than it needs me”