

A person in the community whom I admire : Constable Baltej Singh Dhillon

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by Rachel Koblitz

I chose Constable Baltej Singh Dhillon because he is patient and determined. He had to deal with a lot of ethnic prejudice to become a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) Officer but he stuck to his beliefs and was rewarded in time by becoming a member of the R.C.M.P. I interviewed him at the local police station after school one day.

As a child Constable Dhillon wanted to be a lawyer but is now Quesnel's Community Policing Co-ordinator and has been for three and a half years. He is proud of it. He is also proud to be the first member of the R.C.M.P. in Canada to wear a turban. He wears a turban because he is a Sikh. Sikhs are a cultural and religious group from the Punjab in Northern India. The Sikhs are followers of Guru Nanak who found the Sikh faith in the sixteenth century. He feels his turban does not affect his job.

In his job he likes to meet people, to help set up crime prevention in the community and talking in schools however he dislikes the paper work. He says the hardest part about his job is when he arrives too late to help. When I asked him for a brief summary of his job this is what he said: He attends meetings, teaches how to prevent crime and makes sure community police projects are working smoothly. He co-ordinates auxiliary groups and much more. He chose his job because he likes helping people and working outdoors. He was influenced by another officer in the Surrey detachment.

He felt his education prepared him to deal with people by teaching him the social skills necessary to be an R.C.M.P. officer. This is how he became an R.C.M.P. officer: He was motivated, he liked to work with people, he was physically fit and a Canadian citizen. He honestly felt a need to help victims. To people wanting to follow his career he said he determined and patient. When he was applying to become an R.C.M.P. officer no one wanted him because he wore a turban and that hurt him. He couldn't see why they wanted him to change.

In his spare time he likes to watch videos, work out or go to his Temple to sing hymns. He expects to be in Quesnel for another five to ten years.

Thank-you for listening to my presentation.


Constable B. S. Dhillon

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Dhillon, Baltej Singh