

CITIZEN EXTRA

PRODUCT OF



CITIZEN

**SUBSCRIBE
NOW!**

Receive fresh local
content 5 days a week,
to your door!

CONTACT

CITIZEN READER SALES:
250-562-3301



CONTACT US

CLASSIFIED: 250-562-6666
READER SALES: 250-562-3301
SWITCHBOARD: 250-562-2441

Thursday, July 13, 2017 | www.pgcitizen.ca

THE VOLUNTEER CITY

45 OF 52



CITIZEN PHOTO BY BRENT BRAATEN

Mike Burt has been named a Community Champion through the City of Prince George Volunteer recognition awards. He has volunteered with the RCMP Community Policing Unit since 2010 and logged in 6,637 volunteer hours.

A right hand for the RCMP

Burt coordinates
Citizens on Patrol
program

Christine HINZMANN *Citizen staff*
chinzmann@pgcitizen.ca

One local man spends his volunteer hours supporting the local police as best he can.

Mike Burt was recently named Community Champion through the City of Prince George Volunteer Recognition awards for donating his time with the RCMP Community Policing Unit since 2010 and logging in 6,637 volunteer hours.

"It's nice to be recognized, that's for sure," Burt said, about receiving the award.

Before volunteering for the community policing unit, he was an auxiliary constable.

"So in total I have been volunteering in one capacity or another with the RCMP since 2007," he said.

Burt, who is currently the program coordinator for Citizens on Patrol, has always enjoyed his policing volunteer duties.

"It's a great way to be proactive in the

community and in my role now being able to participate in those educational tasks is great," he added.

Burt organizes volunteers that do foot patrols, vehicle patrols, crime prevention notices, speed watches, distracted driving watches and attend special events.

"For a vehicle patrol we typically try and go out during busy times," Burt said. "So when the detachment and the police officers are busy we're trying to be out there and support them by our mandate."

The community policing unit of the local RCMP is the crime prevention section whose volunteers try to achieve common goals of seeing safe homes and safe communities through police-supported educational programs and services, the program website says.

The best part is there are no two patrols that are the same, Burt added.

"You could go out on a Friday at nine o'clock at night and not be able to find very much going on," Burt said. "You could go out on a Tuesday at seven at night and there's all types of activity going on. So it's diverse in that way so it's great because it keeps volunteers interested and you never really know what you're going to find when you're out on patrol."

During a patrol, the volunteers are looking for crime in general, he added.

"So it may be a suspicious person, we

**The community policing
unit members are
a diverse group of about
25 volunteers.**

might be patrolling late at night and find an insecure business and contact the police," Burt explained. "It may be someone that is swerving all over the road and is suspected of driving while impaired."

Speed watch is another educational component to raise public awareness.

"So volunteers will go to certain areas in town, whether it be school zones or residential areas to conduct a speed watch," Burt said. "What that allows is to show the motorists their speed so the motorist knows right away whether they are speeding or not so that's quite educational and along with that we have our volunteers collect the statistics for the areas they attend so they look at the number of speeding vehicles, the number of vehicles that went by, etc., and then we have the ability to provide that information back to detachment and specifically the traffic section so that they know what we're seeing when we're out there and then they can choose to use those statistics as they see fit."

Burt is pleased the community has

started to recognize the members of the Community Policing Unit for the volunteers they are.

"So that's really great," Burt said.

"Being recognized by the public is very rewarding. So people know who we are and what we're doing and why we're there – for the community."

The community policing unit members are a diverse group of about 25 volunteers.

"We have retired folks, we have university and college students, we have the local resident that's been here all their lives," Burt said.

Burt understands the important role the RCMP play in society and that's why he's inspired to volunteer as he does.

"Our first responders and police are always helping community and if we can give back to them just a little bit, whether it's small or big it goes a long way," said Burt, who volunteers 80 to 100 hours a month.

That's a lot of time dedicated to volunteer work on top of a full-time career with the government.

"I have a very understanding and supportive family," he said. "It's a challenge but it's a good challenge and a rewarding one for sure."

Burt is always looking for more volunteers. If interested, call 250-561-3366 or visit the community policing unit at the RCMP detachment at 455 Victoria St.

BINGO!



R0011357756

**WEEKEND
SPECIAL**

Sat. July 22nd 6:15pm

\$200 \$400

Regular Games Double Win

\$2,000 JACKPOT GAME

**\$1000 SPECIAL
CONSOLATION GAMES**

**SUPER
FRIDAY
SPECIAL**

Fri. July 28th 6:15pm

\$300 \$600

Regular Games Double Win

\$3,000 JACKPOT GAME

**SUPER
BINGO**

Sat. July 29th 6:15pm

\$800 \$1600

Regular Games Double Win

\$8,000 JACKPOT GAME

**\$1000 SPECIAL
CONSOLATION GAMES**

**Treasure Cove
Casino & Hotel**

1-866-561-2421

Located at the Junction of Hwy 16 & 97
www.treasurecovehotel.net/casino