

Work with Torch Run very satisfying

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By Virginia Battiste
For Neighbours

When the law enforcement officers Torch Run for Special Olympics kicked off this past Thursday, Cpl. Jim Nadon could finally sit back and enjoy the day, having put in numerous volunteer hours as the Torch Run co-ordinator for the Yorkton Sub-Division. Known in the community for his work in crime prevention and victim's services, Nadon has volunteered as the co-ordinator of the Torch Run since his arrival in Yorkton three years ago.

Work on the Torch Run began in earnest about three months ago and involved organizing the recruitment of runners, collecting of pledges and sale of T-shirts with the Torch Run logo.

The focus of the Run is to collect funds to support the athletes and activities of the Special Olympics.

"The RCMP have taken on Special Olympics as a fund raising project, the same way that Shriner's

focus on children and Kinsmen on Telemiracle," he says.

"Monies are used to help the Special Olympians with equipment, travel, local activities like floor hockey or swimming, as well as Winter Olympics events at local, provincial and national levels."

Countless hours of time went into the organization end of the Run which he also participates in as a runner.

That requires some effort as well.

"You don't just get in the motorhome and get out and run" he says.

"Some of the officers who participate, run year round, others train for a couple of months or so. Each one runs about 10 kilometers."

Nadon grew up in southeastern Saskatchewan, attended the University of Saskatchewan and taught for five years before joining the RCMP in 1974.

From his background, he has always had an interest in athletics and sports.

Unlike many of his fellow officers who may be stationed thousands of miles from home, he has been fortunate to be stationed in Melfort, Moosomin, Kamsack and Yorkton.

The advantage in that has been always allowing him to get home for those significant family events that might otherwise have been missed.

Nadon finds his involvement with the Torch Run and the Special Olympic athletes particularly satisfying.

"I can tell you one thing, I've never been involved with anything in the area of volunteering that has given so much satisfaction as getting involved with the individuals who are mentally challenged," he says.

"Whatever you do for them it's always appreciated. There's so much gratitude expressed without any complaints and that's rare these days."

He's certain that this view represents the opinion of all the officers who take part in the Run.



RCMP Cpl. Jim Nadon has organized the Torch Run for three years.