

Living Heritage at Work

PROFILE

Clive Weighill, Chief of Police, Saskatoon Police Service

As Chief of Police for the Saskatoon Police Service, Clive Weighill understands the importance community. As a prairie boy he was raised to value hard work and self-reliance. His interest in the past was instilled at an early age as well, not surprisingly, by a well-respected teacher at Thompson School in Regina. A single woman who never married, she took a genuine interest in her students and made sure they understood the importance of the past; how it shaped the future and Canada in particular.

Chief Weighill speaks with pride about the Saskatoon Police Service and what has been achieved since assuming his responsibilities there in 2006. A new headquarters will be opened in the very near future. The building has been designed to create a sense of community and will accommodate a variety of activities. For example, the new facility will incorporate a cultural room where aboriginal pipe services can be held and a garden area where people can gather. The idea is to create a facility that welcomes the community and engages them in actively participating in the development of a safe and healthy community. Weighill also looks forward to the establishment of a memorial to missing aboriginal women which will have a prominent position in front of the new building. As Weighill explains, people need a place where they can come together to share their grief; a place for reflection and healing.

Weighill often speaks at public gatherings of the need to address social issues facing the large marginalized population in Saskatoon and throughout the province. He acknowledges that we are all shaped by our environment and we live in a culturally diverse society so we need to understand the people we live and work with. That means police officers receive special training related to culture and diversity and understand that there are different ways of knowing and interpreting the world. In other words, living heritage is a significant aspect of day to day life and informs individual behaviours and choices. New recruits are university graduates who already understand something about human nature as well; we all need to develop a sense of identity, belonging and place before we can become productive members of a community.

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Chief Weighill understands that the best way to fight crime is to address the social issues of those at risk groups that are most likely to resort to crime. This requires community engagement in creating a safe community and building partnerships. He points to the recent work by the province's nine human services ministries, (Corrections Public Safety and Policing, Justice and Attorney General, Social Services, Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, Education, First Nations and Métis Relations, Health, Municipal Affairs, and last but not least, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport) and eight largest police services that, working together developed a strategy to address crime rates in Saskatchewan. The report *Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime*, September, 2011 recognizes that "many of the issues facing children, youth and families at risk are interconnected and common across different ministries, agencies and mandates."

Clive Weighill knows he is making a difference, and this in turn inspires him to go even further. With family roots in Saskatchewan and an understanding of how the past has shaped the present, Wieghill has a genuine interest in serving others. When dealing with others, he tries to put himself in their shoes and consider how he might feel if he was on the other side of the law.



Photo: courtesy of Saskatoon Police Service

Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance is the collective voice of all those who value heritage in Saskatchewan. Our vision is to see heritage as a valued and dynamic legacy that contributes to our sense of identity, creates an understanding of our past, is used to build communities in the present, and informs our choices for the future.