The Pas Bear Clan

“Community People Working with the Community to Provide Personal Security”

What exactly is a Bear Clan and how do they operate. Similar to a mother bear protecting her cubs, the Bear Clan is visible in the community to bring peace and harmony through relationship building and presence. That is exactly how the local Bear Clan of The Pas operate. They protect our community in many ways. Approaching crime prevention in a supportive manner, non-threatening, non-judgemental, and in a non-violent presentation. They are a group of individuals who patrol the community with this vision in mind “With consciousness comes awareness, with awareness comes ownership of personal circumstances, and with collaboration comes change. It is within the context of this approach that the Bear Clan Patrol has been mobilized”.

Organizer, Linda Michelle, spoke to me to discuss the importance of this type of work in our community. Linda heard the call to bring this much needed service to The Pas and area. She started by driving to Winnipeg on the weekends to assist with the Winnipeg organization.

One year ago she decided to bring the concept of the Bear Clan home to The Pas. It started small with herself and her grown children patrolling. Since that time, she has recruited approximately 50 community members to work within the guidelines of the Bear Clan. Although the group have received some financial support from The Pas Community Renewal Corporation to purchase equipment for safe patrolling, she indicated that the organization is always seeking funding buddies to offset costs.

The funds secured from TPCRC covered the costs of radios and vests that identify Bear Clan to the community. The Bear Clan continue to reach out to secure funds for this operation and also for the Living Water Soup Kitchen. These two groups work hand in hand to support each other.

The Bear Clan can be spotted throughout the community. On a typical weekend they are patrolling Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They are looking to provide service during the weekdays as well. Linda Michelle’s calm demeanour and passion is evident. She encourages other to get involved in the Bear Clan. The commitment can be as much or as little as you can offer. Once you apply, you can travel with the Bear Clan as your schedule permits. There is an application process to become a member. The role of this group is to interact with community and keep everyone safe. The Bear Clan are highly respected and visible in all parts of the community. You will see them wearing an official Bear Clan vest complete with logo.

They are truly respectful and respected on patrol. Linda indicated that they always seek permission prior to entering private property. The Bear Clan mission clearly states their role. They are involved in promoting and providing safety, conflict resolution, mobile witnessing and crime prevention, maintaining a visible presence on the streets, and providing an early response to situations.

They are also the go to group for picking up discarded needles in our community. Linda indicated that volunteers can decline any part of the patrol if they are uncomfortable with the service. Bear Clan members always patrol in small numbers due to social distancing measures. Linda spoke to the issue of addictions, stating that it is not just one group that have addictions. Addictions can affect every social economic group. As a community we need to be supportive. Create consciousness, awareness, personal ownership and the possibility of change for a better life.

It is evident that Linda is passionate about continuing this work. She values the importance of community wellbeing and safety. If you want to share her passion she can be reached at 204 978-0567.

Consider the possibility of becoming a Bear Clan Patrol volunteer. If you wish to donate, the Bear Clan accept cash donation or gifts in kind which will go towards the efforts of the Soup Kitchen to purchase bread and other staples. Linda Michelle and Lorraine Ballantyne-Packo work very closely together to keep our community safe. These are two individuals who are working towards redeveloping our community and have vision to not give up the struggle. Donations can be made through grub box number 994. No amount of cash donation is too small to keep the Bear Clan visible and serving our community. The Pas Bear Clan have been operational for just over one year. Let’s keep this great initiative moving forward.

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