

Girl Guides honour Mounties

Constables wounded in June attend Riverview tree planting

BRENT MAZEROLLE
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

About 150 Girl Guides, Brownies, Sparks, their families, and civic officials gathered in Riverview on Saturday morning to grow something special.

The little girls from the Girl Guides of Canada Riverview District, with the

leaders and the Town of Riverview, used a \$2,000 grant from TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment to plant five red maple trees at the town's Riverfront Park, just east of the Gunningsville Bridge.

The trees were planted in a horseshoe shape that will, as they grow, provide a small sheltered place within the park.

The horseshoe shape, the number of trees and their species were all significant.

The park space was created to honour the efforts of local members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

was on vivid display in June, when hundreds of Mounties and their comrades from other regional police forces risked their lives to bring a roving gunman to justice.

Three RCMP constables – Doug Larche, Fabrice Gevaudan and Dave Ross – were killed in the operation. Two others, Codiac Regional RCMP Const. Éric Dubois and Southeast RCMP Const. Darlene Goguen, were wounded.

Both of the wounded RCMP officers came out to the ceremony on Saturday to show their appreciation for the

Guiding vows to 'take action for a better world'

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trees, along with Codiac's commanding officer Supt. Paul Beauchesne.

It was Goguen's first appearance at any of the public events that have been held since the shootings on June 4, and though she didn't speak during the ceremony, she stayed afterward to chat with the many little girls and their family members who lined up to meet her.

With some caution that he could not discuss anything about the events of June 4 for fear of jeopardizing the legal case still before the courts, Dubois was willing to express to reporters what Saturday's ceremony meant.

"It means everyone from Greater Moncton is in solidarity," he said. "I think everyone from the community of the local RCMP appreciates it. What they've done today means everybody is working together and that everybody understand what is our sacrifice to protect the citizens."

Said Dubois, "It's especially nice to hear that even if they are little girls and boys (many of the girls in Guiding had their whole families at the ceremony, including brothers), they understand what we are here for: to protect them when they go to school or play in parks. And hopefully some of them will replace us when we retire."

Beauchesne, meanwhile, told those gathered that he had been reading up on the Girl Guides before the ceremony, and with that reviewed the values of Guiding, which dovetail nicely with the sort of values upheld by the RCMP.

"The Guiding promise includes the vow, 'I will take action for a better world'; The Guiding law challenges



Codiac Regional RCMP Const. Éric Dubois, one of five local Mounties shot in Moncton on June 4, thanks Savannah Knowles for the five trees planted in honour of local RCMP officers. Knowles is a Spark, part of the Riverview area Girl Guide program that planted the five maples beside the Gunningsville Bridge.

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you to protect our common environment and to live with courage and strength," he told the girls and their families.

"I believe you have honoured these

pledges through creating this lasting legacy to our community," Beauchesne said, as he thanked them on behalf of constables Goguen and Dubois and all those who work for the RCMP.