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Seen on TV: Surrey Mountie featured in reality-TV series

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A 36-year-old constable who walks the mean streets of the Whalley "strip" wasn't expecting the attention he received after he agreed to let a reality-TV crew follow him for two days in March.

Percy Hall thought he would be just another officer recorded for "Courage In Red" the 13-episode series about the RCMP that begins airing Sunday November 1 on the Outdoor Living Network.

"I thought it was going to be a one-time thing" Hall says.

But after seeing Hall in action, the producers of the show decided to make him a more prominent part of the ninth episode which is devoted to frontline policing.

The show website at <http://www.courageinred.ca/> lists Hall as a "cast" member along with several other featured officers.

Hall's brief online biography notes the former Ottawa resident was posted to Surrey in 2006.

Before the RCMP, he worked in the information technology field for eight years.

In addition to walking the beat, he also assists with the 'E' Div. Tactical Troop as well the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT).

"In his off hours, Percy enjoys canoeing, sports, chess and working with the Shriners" the website adds.

An online ad for the series shows Hall patiently dealing with the down-and-out people who inhabit the strip that is a home of sorts to drug dealers, hookers and the homeless.

"It's very obvious you're soliciting, right?" Hall tells a scrawny redheaded woman trolling for customers in the shadow of a Skytrain overhead line.

"So what happens if we see you doing it again?"

"Probably go to jail?" the woman responds.



It's an example of Hall's approach to policing, which meets politeness with politeness.

"I let the person I'm dealing with decide how I'm going to react," he says.

"If they're respectful to myself and the other police officers I work with, then it's returned."

If someone is rude they can count on seeing another side of Hall, a broad-shouldered 5'11" former rugby player who has no trouble mixing it up when required.

On the first day of being shadowed by a video crew, Hall made a drug bust within five minutes of starting his patrol.

The rest of the two days were less eventful, likely because word quickly spread that an RCMP constable had "the news" with him and many regulars of the strip didn't want to be caught on tape.

"It was very quiet," Hall recalls.

What you didn't get to see (in the episode) were the real nasties that we deal with," Hall says.

"The ones that want to fight with you, get in your face."

Hall admits to a certain discomfort with the attention he's been given, but believes it's worth it if it helps the public better understand what the RCMP do.

"I thought it would be good [for the force]."

The episode featuring Const., Hall is scheduled to air Nov. 29 on OLN. at 7 and 10 p.m. Pacific Time.

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