



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

BRANDON SALUTES & MILITARY RELATIONS COMMITTEES OVERVIEW

Brandon Military Relations Committee

The Brandon Military Relations Committee was formed as a vehicle to discuss community issues and opportunities that develop between the residents of CFB Shilo, the RM of Cornwallis, the City of Brandon and the members of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Its' goal is to foster and maintain a close relationship between all participating agencies for their mutual benefit. The Committee addresses issues that are of importance to all parties, and that can be solved through mutual goals and co-operation.

The members of the Brandon Military Relations Committee are:

- The Interim Chairperson of the Committee – Chuck LaRocque
- The Mayor of the City of Brandon – Shari Decter-Hirst
- The Reeve of the RM of Cornwallis – Reg Atkinson
- The President of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce – Nate Andrews
- The Base Commander of CFB Shilo – Lieutenant Colonel Richard Goodyear

The Brandon Military Relations Committee identified a need for a group that could undertake community initiatives in a timely fashion. Brandon Salutes was formed to address this need.

Brandon Salutes Committee

Brandon Salutes' activities and functions will be based upon the goal of strengthening the community connection that exists between Brandon, Rural Municipality of Cornwallis, CFB Shilo and the communities surrounding the base. Brandon Salutes will highlight how our communities are already intertwined, and provide opportunities for our communities to grow closer. We will encourage awareness of the different lifestyles that exist in the civilian and military communities, and through understanding of each other's viewpoints, build stronger relations between all. Brandon Salutes will act as a vehicle to continually grow the connection between our areas' different communities. The committee's efforts will be based on a long-term strategy that will connect our communities for years to come. Brandon Salutes will be successful if we continue to raise awareness amongst and engage many different people from our community groups. Brandon Salutes will continue as an organization as long as there is a military presence in our area. Its' shape and form may change, but its' presence will be everlasting.

Brandon Salutes Mission Statement

“Brandon Salutes fosters unity of the Military and Civilian communities in Westman based upon a mutual respect of their unique contribution toward a strong and proud partnership.”

Brandon Salutes Vision Statement

“To have a cohesive community that reflects our collective strength and pride in each other.”

Brandon Salutes Values

- a sense of community and connections;
- mutual respect and pride in our communities and their accomplishments;
- acceptance and empathy/understanding for differing views;
- education; and
- recognition.

Committee Membership – as of 31 Dec 2012

- Chuck LaRocque – Interim Chair – Appointed by the Military Relations Committee.
- Rob Lussier - community member at large.
- Captain Paul Haughey – 26 Fd Regt RCA representative.
- Heather Dalgleish, Councillor, RM of Cornwallis – RM of Cornwallis appointed representative.
- Kathy Vandale – City of Brandon representative.
- Carolynn Cancade – General Manager - Brandon Chamber of Commerce appointed representative.
- Craig Senchuk, Brandon Chamber of Commerce.
- Major Scott Lloyd, Chief of Staff, CFB Shilo appointed representative.
- Lori Truscott, Public Affairs Officer, CFB Shilo appointed representative.

The previous Chair, Mr. Steve Morrison completed his term in May 2012. To this point, there has been no success in attracting a new Chair, so Chuck LaRocque agreed to serve as Interim Chair. 26 Fd Regt RCA is now represented on the Committee. This will be done on a continuing basis in order to provide more representation from “Brandon’s Regiment” in all of our activities.

Projects

The following projects were either completed or started in 2012.

- CFB Shilo Winterfest Appreciation Pancake Breakfast 29 Jan 2012
- Damaged billboard sign at the corner of 1st St and Veteran's Way was replaced
- Two donations of \$1000 were made to BU and ACC Project Hero funds on behalf of AIA Manitoba

Military Events

- Members attended Portraits of Honour Exhibition and Dinner
- 2 PPCLI Freedom of the City and Travellers' Day Parade
- Laid wreaths at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Brandon and at CFB Shilo

Community Events

- Participated in "Red Monday" at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair
- Members attended the annual CFB Shilo Command Team Golf Tournament
- Attended MFRC AGM
- Carried banner in the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba Parade
- Attended Chamber luncheon at which B comd was the keynote speaker

Media/Community Relations

- Thank you cards were produced
- Posters put up in unit lines outlining Brandon Salutes role including a QR code
- Brochures included in Welcome Wagon packages

Business Incentive Program

- A list of local businesses that provide special offers and discounts to military personnel and their families continues to be expanded, updated, promoted and documented on the Brandon Salutes website
- New decals to be displayed in store windows and letters were circulated to all business participants
- The Chamber of Commerce newsletter has been used to advertise the program to potential business participants and suggestions regarding businesses to approach have been solicited from soldiers

Brandon Salutes Website

- Brandon Salutes continues to provide up to date information to our communities through its website at www.brandonsalutes.ca
- The website has been completely redesigned to be easier to navigate and have a more up to date appearance thanks to the staff at the City of Brandon
- Our events continue to be promoted on the City of Brandon, Chamber of Commerce and e-Brandon web sites

Committee Meetings

- The Committee conducted nine regular meetings in 2012.

Recognition Program - "Salutes"

- To recognize special contributions that military and civilian members make with regard to the mission Brandon Salutes developed a formal recognition program to honour these contributions. To date seven "Salutes" have been offered with the most recent taking place in 2011. All "Salutes" can be viewed online at www.brandonsalutes.ca.

Looking Forward to 2013

- The Committee will strive to:
 - ✚ maintain and if possible expand existing programs
 - ✚ complete the goals and objectives contained in our Strategic Plan
 - ✚ involve the military, civilian and business communities in our programs
 - ✚ continue to promote our existence and purpose, and
 - ✚ continue to be actively involved in the community
- Be engaged in supporting activities at various stages of the upcoming deployment