



2015 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 Chairperson of the Committee – Matt Bolley
- The Mayor of the City of Brandon – Rick Chrest
- The Reeve of the RM of Cornwallis – Heather Dagleish
- The President of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce – Jordan Ludwig
- The Base Commander of CFB Shilo – Lieutenant Colonel John Cochrane

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 the 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 2015

- Matt Bolley – Chair (Appointed by the Military Relations Committee)
- Rob Lussier – Member at Large
- Captain Paul Haughey – 26 Fd Regt RCA
- Councillor Mike Waddell – RM of Cornwallis
- Kathy Vandale – City of Brandon
- Carolynn Cancade – Brandon Chamber of Commerce
- Terry Burgess – Brandon Chamber of Commerce.
- Major Craig Ethelston – CFB Shilo
- Lori Truscott – CFB Shilo

We are presently making a concerted effort to attract further members at large. The committee believes that having more people with diverse backgrounds involved with Brandon Salutes will lead to more ideas, which then allows us to better meet our Mission Statement.

Projects

The following projects were either completed or started in 2015:

- We once again provided the materials for the CFB Shilo Winterfest Appreciation Pancake Breakfast.
- Two donations of \$1000 were made to BU and ACC Project Hero funds on behalf of AIA Manitoba.

- The Cadet Salutes award was created and awarded for the first time in 2015 to the Navy League and the Sea Cadet divisions to recognize their work in the community that further advanced the mission statement of Brandon Salutes.
- The Westman Salutes program was launched as a partnership with 880 CKLQ/94.7 Star FM to recognize current and former military members through a monthly radio feature.
- In order to recognize the hard work of military members serving overseas anonymously and to boost their morale, we created the We Care program. We work with CFB Shilo to identify soldiers from the base that are part of UN, NATO or other missions across the world, determine items from home they wish to receive, and compile and send those packages through the Canadian Military.

Media/Community Relations

- We were a non-profit booth sponsor at the Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas luncheon
- We updated our brochure and are working with the Chamber to have our new programs advertised to Chamber members.
- Brandon Salutes recently featured in The Stag newspaper as part of a feature article highlighting the Business Incentive Program and our other new initiatives.

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

Brandon Salutes Website

- Brandon Salutes continues to provide up to date information to our communities through its website at www.brandonsalutes.ca
- The website will be completely redesigned early in 2016 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 ten regular meetings in 2015.

Looking Forward to 2016

- 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
- ✚ continue to be actively involved in the community, and
- ✚ Be engaged in supporting activities at various stages of the upcoming deployment