

# Connections

## Message From City

### Manager Scott Hildebrand

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the City of Brandon's "Connections" Newsletter! With each monthly publication, you will discover more about how the City of Brandon is living its corporate vision statement of "Serving and Building Community". We strive to serve our community with P.R.I.D.E. As employees, we are expected to act in a Professional manner, to show Respect for all the folks we interact with on a daily basis, and to have Integrity in our day-to-day work. Our organization's mandate is extremely Diversified as we provide a wide variety of services ranging from providing clean water, to youth programming, and all the core services in between. We also expect our employees to be Ethical and to simply do the right thing. In any business, there are challenges, both with people and resources, but we will continue to deal with them head on.

We remain committed to communicating with you, considering your valuable feedback, and doing our utmost to "serve and build" your community.

**Scott Hildebrand**

## To Serve and Build:

### The City of Brandon A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex

When it opens its doors to the public in September of 2014, the A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex will truly represent the City's role in building a better Brandon.

The 35,000 square foot complex, located at 638 Princess Avenue in the heart of downtown, will be home to a number of City of Brandon departments, including the Engineering and Planning & Building Safety Departments.

Whether you are a developer in charge of a new sub-division, a contractor working on a new apartment complex or a resident looking to get a deck permit or apply for a yard variance, you can do it all in one spot, under one beautifully renovated roof!

Building a better community doesn't just mean providing a venue for the bricks and mortar projects; it means developing residents in all ways. That's why the A.R. McDiarmid Complex will also house City's Community Development staff, and will also be the location for two very important community meeting places—a Youth Centre and a Cultural Centre. A strong community is a safe community, so the complex will also be home to the City of Brandon's Risk and Emergency Management programming, and will also serve as the back-up call dispatch centre for E-911 services.

#### **A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex**



**A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex**

With all of these public services under one roof, the complex's namesake would surely be proud! Arthur Reginald McDiarmid was a true Brandon builder. The A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex sits on land which was once home to the McDiarmid & Clark Sash and Door Factory from 1914 to 1938. McDiarmid served as Brandon's Mayor in 1919 and was also a prominent business man in the community until his death in 1944.



## Council Connections

By Mayor Shari Decter Hirst

*Have you been stuck at a railway crossing watching countless oil tankers go flying by and wonder what this means to safety in our community? Brandon City Council has been part of the national lobbying effort and we are seeing progress. Recently, Federal Transportation Minister Lisa Raitt announced:*

*- 5,000 of the least crash-resistant DOT -111 tank cars are being removed from dangerous goods service immediately;*

*- All remaining DOT-111 tank cars used to transport crude oil and ethanol that do not meet the most recent tank car standard must be phased out or refitted within 3 years;*

*- Emergency Response Assistance Plans are now required for all shipments of crude oil, ethanol, gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel;*

*- Railways are now required to reduce the speed of trains carrying dangerous goods and conduct robust risk assessments along all routes; and*

*- A new emergency response task force, including municipalities and first responders, will make additional recommendations to improve emergency response capacity in our communities.*

*The new safety measures announced respond directly to our call for urgent and concrete action by the Federal government and are a critical step forward in improving the safe transportation of dangerous goods by rail. No doubt there will be more information shared at this week's Federation of Canadian Municipalities national meetings that I will be bringing to an upcoming Council meeting.*

## Community Gardens Help Build A Community

Gardening is a powerful method of self-empowerment, inspiration, experiential learning, and physical and mental health. While many people have learned to appreciate the act of gardening for its positive contribution to their lives, there is even more benefits to be found when this kind of horticulture is applied on a community scale, with a focus on fruit and vegetable production.

The Brandon Community Garden Network (BCGN) is a groundswell of enthusiastic vegetable gardeners who work together to create and maintain diverse food crop production areas on public lands. Brandon currently boasts a dozen such garden sites, with a total number of 676 garden plots. Construction is currently underway for an additional 75 plots at a variety of sites, four of which are new garden sites this year.



Rideau Park Community Garden

These gardens are made possible by the generous support of the Brandon School Division and the City of Brandon, which have provided most of the land that is currently allotted to community gardens, along with several key funders and local businesses. The creation of these sites is generally through the vision and determination of individuals and organizations, largely volunteering their time, who apply for funding and take on the responsibilities of coordination and project management.

The creation of new gardens and maintenance of existing ones is made possible through the dedicated work of a group of 18 volunteers and representatives from community organizations. The massive success of the garden program and its popularity with all demographics is very encouraging to the coordinators of the BCGN, who are striving towards their goal: to make vegetable growing available to everyone in Brandon.

Bridging demographics, providing real, hands-on interaction with nature, enabling meaningful platforms for trans-generational interaction, increasing nutrition rates and addressing food security, building community pride and increasing neighborhood safety—these are just some of the reasons the Community Gardens are seeing such success in Brandon. So, get your hands dirty in a garden today—it's good for you and your community!

Learn more about Brandon Community Gardens at [www.brandoninbloom.ca](http://www.brandoninbloom.ca).

### Happy Birthday, Brandon!

Did you know that Brandon is 132 years old?

Brandon was officially incorporated as a city on May 30th, 1882. On July 3rd, 1882, the first council of the City of Brandon held its first historic meeting. The first mayor of Brandon was Thomas Mayne Daly.

## Fun in the Sun ...

### And in the water!

The City of Brandon's Community Services Department and the YMCA of Brandon have, once again, teamed up to provide outdoor pool, paddling pool and spray park programming for the summer season!

#### Paddle Pools (Opening July 2nd)

Valleyview ~ 77 Whillier Drive

Mon—Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Riverheights ~ Riverheights Drive

Mon—Thurs 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Kirkcaldy ~ 30 Knowlton Drive

Tue—Thurs 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Spray Parks (Opening July 2nd)

Stanley Park Spray Park

Kin Park Spray Park

Westridge Spray Park

Rideau Park Spray Park\*

Mon—Sun 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

\*Grand Opening on June 26th\*

#### Outdoor Pools (Opening June 23rd)

Kinsmen Pool ~ 411 Park Street

Keystone Pool ~ 13th St & Southern Ave

(June) Mon—Fri 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.;

Sat & Sun 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

(Jul & Aug) Mon—Sun 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Use of the spray parks and paddling pools are free of charge!

The price of admission at the Keystone and Kinsmen pools are:

\$3 per child

\$4 per adult

\$10 per family (up to 5 people)

## Helping You Haul Away Household Hazardous Waste



A trailer full of household hazardous waste at Eastview Landfill

In May of 2013, Brandon's Eastview Landfill became home to the first full service Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot to be located outside the City of Winnipeg.

The full-service HHW depot was made possible through a partnership between the City of Brandon and Product Care

Association, an industry-based stewardship organization, and is funded by Green Manitoba.

Since it opened just over a year ago, the depot has collected a whopping 15,930 kgs of hazardous waste material!

Various types of hazardous waste can be dropped off at the depot, including fluorescent light bulbs (both the tube and compact variety), batteries, paint, aerosol spray cans, flammable liquids such as used gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, PCB ballasts, corrosive and toxic liquids.

Simply bring your household hazardous waste to the depot during regular hours of operation, where it will be taken by landfill staff trained in hazardous material handling.

Summer hours for the HHW Depot at the Eastview Landfill are:

**Monday—Saturday  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
& 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**~ CLOSED ON  
SUNDAYS AND STAT  
HOLIDAYS ~**



The Household Hazardous Waste Depot at the Eastview Landfill

#### **Household hazardous waste accepted at the Eastview Landfill:**

fluorescent bulbs

mercury

ammonia

oven cleaner

rug & upholstery cleaner

brass / silver polish

ant/wasp spray

turpentine

lacquers

kerosene

disinfectants

solvents

mildew remover

toilet cleaner

lighter fluid

septic tank detergents

insecticides/herbicide

epoxies

brake fluid/antifreeze

bleach

medication

rust remover

abrasive powders

drain cleaner

rodent poison

fertilizers

car batteries



## Connections Calendar

Thursday, June 5th, 2014

*“Sneak Peek” of Brandon’s 2014 Global Market (Corner of 12th St. & Rosser Ave. )*

**4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

*~ Local Vendors ~ Hand-made Crafts ~ Local Music ~ Interactive Workshop by the Brandon Community Garden Network ~*

Thursday, June 26th, 2014 -

*Rideau Park Recreation Hub Grand Opening (305 Park Street)*

**Grand Opening Ceremony at 12:45 p.m.**

*~ Free Admission ~ All-Day Water Activities ~ Music Buskers ~ Face Painting ~ Summer Youth Program Registration ~ Evening Fire Show ~ Movie Under The Stars ~*

*Stay Connected With Your Community!*

*Visit the*

*City of Brandon’s Online Events*

*Calendar Here:*

<http://www.brandon.ca/calendar-of-events>



## City of Brandon Scorecard

***“You can’t manage what you can’t measure”***

The City of Brandon’s Corporate Scorecard tracks real data in all departments to ensure we are providing the best public services we can.

You can keep tabs on the City of Brandon’s Corporate Scorecard by bookmarking <http://opengov.brandon.ca/corporate-scorecard.aspx>. Each monthly update will display the statistics gathered for the preceding month.

For example, the most recent Brandon Fire and Emergency Services statistics on the Corporate Scorecard show that in the first four months of 2014, a total of 1,578 calls for service were received. That’s up slightly from the 1,506 calls for service received in the first four months of 2013.

Based on this data, the Brandon Fire and Emergency Services on track in 2014 to meet or exceed its 2013 cumulative count of approximately 5,000 calls for service.

Tracking calls for service are particularly important for Brandon Fire and Emergency Services and the City of Brandon to ensure resources in the department are directed in the right areas.

***“Coronation Bell” on the Move!***

The historic “Coronation Bell” has officially moved from its original home at the former No.1 Fire Hall.

The bell was named in honour of the Coronation of King Edward. It was donated to the Fire Department in 1902 and was placed in the tower of the first station by a team of dray horses. It was taken down and installed in the bell tower of the Central Fire Station in 1911. The bell weighs 4,400 pounds and was built by Meneely Bell Foundry of New York.

It was removed in 1971 to reduce the stress on the tower and was stored at the Central Fire Station until late May. Brandon Fire and Emergency Services now have plans to get the bell polished and sprayed with a permanent finish before putting it on display outside of the No. 1 Fire Hall at 120-19th Street North.

### **Connections Contact Info**

**City of Brandon Corporate Communications**  
**410- 9th Street**  
**Brandon, MB R7A 6A2**  
**P. 204-729-2590**



### **Did you Know?**

The City of Brandon employs more than 500 full-time equivalent staff and close to 650 staff during peak summer service delivery. City of Brandon staff and services are spread across 15 distinct departments and are housed out of 16 different buildings!