

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 8, 2005**

CITY PARK COMMEMORATES BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT SUFFIELD *Official Dedication to be Held August 12.*

Medicine Hat – Medicine Hat residents are encouraged to help celebrate the official opening of BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) Park Aug. 12, 2005.

The official dedication ceremony is at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 12 in conjunction with BATUS's Freedom of the City event. BATUS Park is located at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Second St SE.

"The City of Medicine Hat has enjoyed a successful and co-operative relationship for more than 33 years with the British Army through its training unit at the Suffield base," says Mayor Garth Vallely. "BATUS has enriched our community and helped us during times of crisis, such as the recent flooding. They are to be commended and I am privileged to assist in the dedication of a park in their honour."

BATUS Park commemorates the British Army Training Unit Suffield's 30th anniversary. The park features a brick mural created by local artist Jim Marshall, as well as numerous perennials and annual flowers depicting an English garden theme.

BATUS Park was planned and developed by the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Department in cooperation with the City Centre Development Agency (CCDA). The perennials and annual flowers were planted by volunteers from the CCDA, Medicine Hat District Horticultural Society and the Communities in Bloom committee.

"This was truly a community undertaking," adds Vallely. "Many community groups provided their time or gave donations to assist with the redevelopment of BATUS Park."

The CCDA, Medicine Hat and District Horticultural Society, Medicine Hat Kiwanis Club, Medicine Hat Rotary Club, and Multicultural Folk Arts Council donated a bench in the park. The Medicine Hat and District War Brides Association donated a bird bath and stepping stones to the park.

BATUS is hosting a Freedom of the City event on Aug. 12 starting at 4 p.m. The day's events include a march at 6 p.m., the formal opening of BATUS Park, followed by the North Railway hospital bed race, a military vehicle display, food fair, children's activities and a marching band event (The Beating Retreat) featuring the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division. The evening culminates with a fireworks display at approximately 10 p.m. over the South Saskatchewan River.

— 30 —

For further information, please contact:

Maureen J. Mudry
Manager of Parks Planning and Development
City of Medicine Hat
(403) 529-8334

Mark Freeman
Regimental Corporal Major
BATUS
(403) 952-2365