

Freedom of the Village



“Freedom of the City”, in military terms, is an honour conferred by a community’s council upon a military unit, which grants that unit the privilege of marching into the community "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed".

The honour is usually bestowed upon local regiments, in recognition of their dedicated service, and it is common for military units to periodically exercise their freedom by arranging a parade through the community.

This honour dates back to ancient Rome which regarded the "pomerium", the boundary of the city, as sacred. Promagistrates and generals were forbidden from entering it, and resigned their imperium or authority immediately upon crossing it.

The granting of the Freedom of the City to troops of the realm dates back to medieval times when troops bearing arms who wished to enter a city were stopped at its gates by the Chief Magistrate. The Chief Magistrate would determine if the intentions of the troops were honourable and then grant or decline admittance to the city accordingly. The Freedom of the City was an honour granted only to troops which had earned the trust of the local populace, either through some valiant action or simply by being a familiar presence.

The 20th Independent Field Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery originated on February 1, 1908 when the 25th Battery was authorized to be formed.

The Village of Stirling recognizes the service of the 20th Independent Field Battery in and on behalf of southern Alberta. Stirling pays tribute to those Officers and Soldiers who defend the security of our nation and contribute to the success of military operations around the world.

As part of Stirling’s 125th Anniversary celebrations, Council passed a unanimous motion granting Freedom of the Village to the 20th Independent Field Battery.

A formal ceremony to bestow this honour will take place outside the Village Office at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 20th. Everyone is welcome.

