



HERO TO HERO

Team Canada



Newsletter Dec/12/2009



Brandon, Manitoba firefighters sign t-shirts and a banner.



ICER
H2H shirts in Afghanistan



Troops wearing York
Regional Police shirts & hats.

Today there are approximately 3300 Canadian troops deployed around the world. Although the majority of them are in Afghanistan, Canada also has troops deployed in places like Sudan, Haiti, Israel, Balkans and other distant lands. Another 5000 troops are preparing to deploy or returning from deployment. Hero To Hero Team Canada gives first responders an opportunity to show our deployed troops we have not forgotten them as they serve our country in far away lands. No politics involved... simply a troop morale boost.

FIRST RESPONDERS.... We need you to step up and show our troops you are willing to give them the shirt off your back.

It's that time of the year for you to go to your closet and see if you have a gently worn shirt or two you can live without and would be willing to send to a Canadian soldier. Any clothing item with your Department or city/town logo on it would be appreciated. In the past we have sent shirts, ball caps, toques, gym shorts, jogging suits, jackets and balaclavas to our troops.

This past year we shipped 2200 items of clothing to our troops deployed in Afghanistan and Sudan. We also sent shirts to the crew of the HMCS Winnipeg while they were deployed off the coast of Africa escorting U.N. food transports, protecting them from Somali pirates.

In Afghanistan, shirts were delivered to the Role 3 Multi National Hospital at Kandahar Airfield. Along with t-shirts, the staff received several boxes of scrubs donated by the staff of 3 hospitals in Sarnia & Petrolia, Ontario.



Dutch medical staff wearing donated hospital scrubs.



U.S. & Canadian nurses & doctor wearing donated scrubs.

Welland, Ontario Firefighters



Special thanks to Phil Dyson for heading up Welland's troop support effort.

The firefighters at Kandahar Airfield received shirts from London, Ontario's airport crash firefighters.

Several troops received shirts for their platoons deployed at Forward Operating Bases and Kandahar airfield.

Special thanks has to go to Capt. Robin Cooke who oversaw the the distribution of 800 clothing items to troops as they returned to KAF after being deployed at Forward Operating Bases.

TROOPS..... if you have received a shirt, we would love to see a picture of you in it.

We will post your pictures on our website.

Packout 2009



Our 2009 "Packout" was held at Fire Department Headquarters in London , Ontario on Feb/29/2009. Reed Holland from London Police Services did an incredible job of including **all** of London's First Responders in our campaign this past year.

Although we collect shirts all year round, now is the time we really look for your support. Between now and February 14th. (Valentines Day), we need to collect at least 2200 clothing items for our troops. Request for shirts have already come in!

We need your help to spread the word to as many different first responders across the country as possible, so please feel free to pass this e-mail on to anyone you feel might be interested in supporting our Canadian (and U.S.) troops. Remember, the point is to try and get the troops a shirt from their hometown.

At the bottom of this e-mail is my contact information and the address where shirts are to be shipped. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

IN OTHER NEWS.....

This past year has been a busy and rewarding one for Hero To Hero Team Canada

NEW WEBSITE

We launched our new Canadian website, HeroToHeroTeamCanada.com in conjunction with HeroToHero.US



London Area Support Unit.
The journey to Afghanistan begins.

Many thanks to
Shawn Davidson and
Kamloops Fire Service



A smile from
Afghanistan

On the website you will find up to date info on what we are doing with our program as well as what others are doing to support our troops.

We also launched our new SmugMug photo gallery in conjunction with the new website. Any pictures we have taken at different events can be found in our Photo Gallery section. You can download any of the pictures for free.

Any photos we receive from troops are posted here. To date we have over 100 photos from deployed troops in the photo gallery!



EVENTS

Events have included Red Friday Rallies in Point Edward, Waterloo, and Petawawa, Ontario. At the Red Friday Rally in Petawawa, we had the honour of presenting the Minister of National Defence, Peter MacKay with a Canadian flag signed by Jack Babcock, Canada's only living World War One Veteran. Jack also happens to be a Celebrity Hero Ambassador for Hero To Hero.



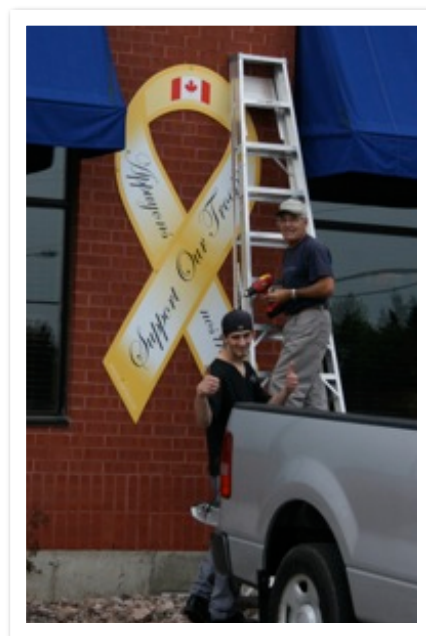
Flag signed by Jack Babcock presented to Peter MacKay

New pages on our website.....

Three new pages on our website need your input.

Signs of our Times.... Send us photo's of troop support signs, posters, bumper stickers, murals, paint jobs on vehicles etc. that display support for our troops.

Let's show our troops how much they are supported across Canada.



Memorials.... How has your community paid tribute to our fallen troops? Does your town have a Cenotaph or other memorial that is dedicated to our fallen troops. Send us a few photo's of your communities memorial with a brief description.



Petrolia, Ontario



Ipperwash, Ontario

Red Fridays.... Are you hosting a Red Friday rally or other troops support event? Send us the details and we will post it on our website.

Photo Gallery

Check out our photo galleries to see the events we participated in this year....

HMCS Ville De Quebec visit to Sarnia
9/11 Memorial Service



A salute to those lost on 9/11

Emergency Services Adventure Race (ESAR)



Firefighters charting their course at ESAR

Red Friday Rallies



Point Edward, Ontario



Petawawa, Ontario

Ontario Provincial Police Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team

Proud supporters of our Troops



O.P.P. Officers posing for the HeroToHero "Badass" photo.

Troop Homecoming

The highlight for me personally this year was being invited to attend a troop homecoming in Ottawa. Here are a few photo's taken by Liz Jackson.

We are a Troop Morale Campaign and we did our best to put smiles on the faces of our returning warriors (not that they needed much encouragement). They were ready to play.....



Celebrity Hero Ambassadors

Hero To Hero is proud that all of the following great people have chosen to support our troops through our program. They are our Celebrity Hero Ambassadors .



Denise Marek and Sharon Quirt are the co-authors of: *The Keys: Open the Door to True Empowerment and Infinite Possibilities.*

The Red Friday Ladies, Karen Boire and Lisa Miller.

If you know what a Red Friday is, you likely know who these two ladies are. Only they could convince the Minister of Defence to pose for a "Badass" shot,



Hero To Hero is beyond honoured to be able to say Jack Babcock is a Celebrity Hero Ambassador for our program.

Jack is 109 years old and is Canada's last surviving soldier who served in World War One. Jack and his wife Dorothy are the most gracious people we have ever met.



Julian Austin aka G.I. Jules....friend to our troops. Supporter of Hero To Hero. If you do anything to support our troops, this man will back you 100%. In this picture Julian poses with his friend, Jack Graham who fought in Dieppe and spent 3 years in a POW camp.



VIDEO PAGE

Check out our video page.

Our highlight this year was receiving a video from Afghanistan, sent to us from Capt. Robin Cooke, who distributed 800 t-shirts to the members of his Battle Group.

Brochure

We are pleased to let you know that we now have a brochure printed and available.

Below is an e-copy. If you would like some original brochures simply contact me at the e-mail address below.

Thanks to Sharon Quirt for helping us make these a reality.

Also thanks to Stirling Durance from Visual Stimuli for the great job designing these brochures.

RED FRIDAYS

Simply by wearing RED each Friday you send the message to our troops & their families that you are thinking of them.

REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED



From their first Red Friday Rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in September 2006, these two young ladies from Petawawa, Ontario, Lisa Miller & Karen Boire, AKA "The Red Friday Ladies" have been on the front lines of the Red Friday movement in Canada. In 2009, they became official "Celebrity Hero Ambassadors" (aka Hot ChaCha's) for the Hero To Hero Troop Morale Campaign & we are pleased to work with them in support of our Canadian troops.

"Red Fridays is about the power of a single colour... RED... We wear it for our troops and their families & it speaks volumes without us ever having to say a word. Hero to Hero is about the power of a single gesture... Our Heroes (first responders) giving our deployed Canadian Forces heroes the shirts off their backs! Supporting our heroes is what we do... What an honour and privilege it is to work with Hero to Hero Team Canada." Lisa Miller & Karen Boire - Canada's Red Friday Ladies

Speaking of Hot ChaCha's ... No one has more friends in the Canadian Armed Forces than Canadian Country music artist and Hero To Hero "Celebrity Hero Ambassador" Julian Austin.

"G.I. Jules" as he has become known to the troops, has devoted himself to supporting our troops in many ways. From performing for our deployed troops all around the world, to visiting wounded troops in hospital, to donating proceeds from his cd's to various troop support organizations. When asked why he chose to also support our troops via the Hero To Hero Troop Morale Campaign he said "It Is The Canadian Thing To Do And The Least That I Can Do As A Proud Canadian" ...We like how he thinks!

THE SAME - BUT DIFFERENT...

The procedure for collecting & distributing shirts to Canadian troops is different than the U.S side of the program. Your best source for up to date info is our two websites.

CANADA...

All donated items from first Responders are shipped to the address below. Troops then apply for adoption of their entire unit. They receive an assortment of shirts from across the country.



Kevin McHarg - Canadian Director
HERO TO HERO TEAM CANADA
1940 Avenue Rd. SS1
Bright's Grove, Ontario
Canada N0N 1C0

E-MAIL: mchargs@xcelco.on.ca
PHONE: 519-464-2644
WEBSITE: www.herotoheroteamcanada.com
FACEBOOK GROUP: HeroToHero.US & Team Canada
"Why YES, I AM a BadAss, why do you ask?"
TWITTER: H2HTeamCanada

UNITED STATES...

www.HeroToHero.US

Liz Jackson - Director & Founder
HEROTOHERO.US TROOP MORALE CAMPAIGN
5700 100th Ave SW #224
Lakewood, WA 98499



E-MAIL: HeroShirts@aol.com
PHONE: 253-279-9817
WEBSITE: www.HeroToHero.US
FACEBOOK GROUP: HeroToHero.US & Team Canada
"Why YES, I AM a BadAss, why do you ask?"
TWITTER: HeroToHero

Team Canada HERO TO HERO

FIRST RESPONDERS GIVING THE SHIRTS OFF THEIR BACKS...



...TO CANADIAN TROOPS DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS...
...WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!**

**NO POLITICS
NO PRO/ANTI-WAR STANCES
NO BORDERS TO OUR ALLIES**

*"Troops Don't Choose their battles any more than firefighters or police."
- Hero To Hero Troop Morale Campaign*

WHAT IS THE HERO TO HERO TROOP MORALE CAMPAIGN?

HeroToHero.US & HeroToHeroTeamCanada.com is a non political Troop Morale Campaign enabling firefighters, law enforcement, EMS, and many other first responders to give the shirts off their backs to Canadian & U.S. troops deployed around the world.



OUR HISTORY

The HeroToHero.US troop Morale Campaign was founded by Liz Jackson in Tacoma, Washington shortly after September 11th, 2003 ... After the start of the Iraq War.

It honors and is dedicated to U.S. Army "STRYKER" Sgt. Jake Herring, Tacoma Police Officer James Lewis, and every Fallen & Wounded Hero - and their loved ones. Army Sgt Herring died in Talafar, Iraq April 28th, '04. That same day, we also lost Tacoma Police Dept motorcycle cop/USMC vet James Lewis. Both men were killed in their respective line of duty.

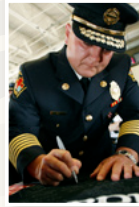
Liz wanted to do something to recognize our heroes... The military men & women deployed overseas as well as those who put their lives on the line at home.

In September 2005 Sarnia, Ontario firefighter Kevin McHarg learned of the Hero To Hero Troop Morale Campaign when he met Liz at the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs. With the unanimous support of the Sarnia/Lambton County first responder community, the program was started in Canada with Liz's guidance and support. Since then the program has spread from coast to coast across Canada.

ARE YOU A FIRST RESPONDER?

*Police Officer *Firefighter *Paramedic *Coast Guard *Border Services *Or any of the many other agencies that serve and protect our communities.

Looking for a way to show your support for our troops deployed around the world? We have a great way for you to do it!



Step 1.
Take the shirt off your back, or out of a drawer. You get the idea.

Step 2. Write a non political message of support on your shirt

Step 3. Staple your contact info to the inside collar of your shirt.



Step 4. Send your shirt(s) to Hero To Hero Team Canada & we'll make sure it reaches a deployed troop

Accepted Items: T-shirts, hats (new only), sweatshirts, sweatpants, jogging suits, sweaters, toques, shorts, tank tops, jackets, balaclavas. These items should have a hometown name on them. **Remember it's okay to send a gently worn shirt, but make sure it's one that won't embarrass you if the troop comes by to thank you after they return home ... They do that sometimes!

Timelines: Items are collected year round, but February 14th is the cut off date each year.

This is when we start shipping shirts to the troops on a first come, first served basis in the Canadian program.

***U.S. troops & first responders should check the HeroToHero.US website for info as the U.S. program is run differently
www.HeroToHero.US

WHAT DEPLOYED TROOPS SAY ABOUT HERO TO HERO TEAM CANADA...

"I would like to express my utmost gratitude and honour of receiving one of your shirts from Hero to Hero."
Y. Martel, Afghanistan

"...they are very popular, and everyone who got one is proud to be wearing it."
J.Muir, Afghanistan

"I am currently serving as part of the United Nations mission in Sudan. Thanks for participating in this program, it was very nice to receive a piece of Canada here in Sudan."
Capt. J. Gauger, Sudan

"Thank you very much for your shirt. It's really nice to know that we have support from you guys. Every little thing that we receive here means so much to us."
A. Davidson, Afghanistan

"Things like this make all the difference in the world to us. It brings morale up."
C. Thompson, Afghanistan

"Thank you all from all of the Canadian military members here at OP PROTEUS for your donation of First Responder T-shirts and ball caps. We pass our sincere gratitude on to you for your donations and your continued support."
Lt (N) W. Dabbagh, Office of the US Security Coordinator, Jerusalem

WHAT FIRST RESPONDERS SAY ABOUT HERO TO HERO TEAM CANADA...

"The OPFFA is proud to support our troops through the Hero To Hero program as it gives us a great opportunity to show our troops we are proud of them."

Fred LeBlanc, President, Ontario Professional Firefighters Association

"It's important to show the troops we care."
London Fire Chief John Kobarda

"Hero To Hero gives troops an opportunity to reconnect with home back here in Canada."
Armand P. La Barge, Chief of York Regional Police

"...just trying to keep our soldiers backs covered while they're busy covering ours."
Mike Nixon, Kennebecasis Firefighters Union

"As a Paramedic, I'm honoured to be a part of "Team Canada". What better way to remember our deployed troops."
Leila Paugh, Niagara Falls, Ontario

"The Red Deer Fire Fighters are proud and honoured to work with the Hero To Hero program as it is a great way to support our troops!"
Brad Readman, Treasurer IAFF L1190, Red Deer, Alberta

On behalf of Liz Jackson and myself, i want to thank everyone who has supported our troops through the Hero To Hero Troop Morale Campaign in Canada and the United States. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin McHarg
Canadian National Director
Hero To Hero Team Canada
1940 Avenue Rd. SS1
Bright's Grove, Ontario
Canada, N0N 1C0
Home: 519-869-6940
Cell: 519-464-2644
e-mail: mchargs@xcelco.on.ca
Website: HeroToHeroTeamCanada.com

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS..... WEAR RED ON FRIDAY'S

I would like to thank firefighter Peter Varro for assisting me with producing this much improved newsletter.