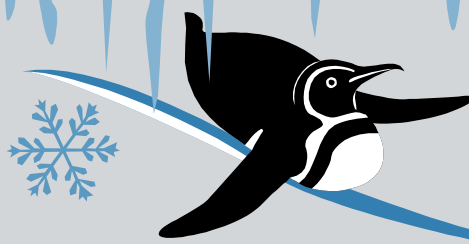




# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

783 (CALGARY) WING

*Winter* NEWSLETTER 2008/2009



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### [President's Message](#)

Greetings!

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable Christmas during this colder than normal season. For those of you that did any traveling over the Christmas/New Years period; I can only imagine that you had a few incidents that you wouldn't want to become routine. Many people had their plans up-set and delayed this year.

Marj & I motored up to Spruce Grove (not a very long trip), and spent a couple days with family over Christmas. The highway was good in both directions, so we didn't have any travel difficulties.

The Wing had a couple good events during the month of Dec. which was really enjoyed by those that participated.

Many thanks to Pat Sulek and Kenn Nixon for the wonderful arrangement of the Remington Carriage Museum Bus Tour and subsequent Christmas Dinner with 702 Lethbridge Wing. The Museum tour was well programmed and a very interesting historical event. Members from both 783 Wing and 702 Wing had a great social evening in the Christmas spirit singing Christmas Carols and enjoying the company of each other during a great Christmas dinner, prepared by 702 Wing member volunteers.

A Thank You card has been sent to 702 Wing in appreciation for the invitation to share their Wing Christmas Dinner with them. Everyone had a good time!

I would also like to THANK the 783 Wing members on the Bus Tour who generously donated non-perishables to 702 Wings Food Bank collection.

Many THANKS also go out to 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bob Clarke, Pat Trollope & Dot Deines for arranging our Wing Christmas Dinner at Br. 285. Those that attended had an enjoyable evening, good food and shared the spirit of Christmas.

Although many of you are probably not aware of the “MANY” comings and goings of our Wing P.R. Director (Brian Lewis); he also deserves a great big THANKS for the many activities that he has attended, especially during Nov. and Dec.; taking photographs of many events – Military, Cadets, Memorial, Various Parades, Tours and Christmas Events. You will soon see the professional results of Brian’s efforts as “2009” starts to unfold. (and perhaps in this Newsletter) THANK YOU, BRIAN!

On a sadder note: I have been informed that AB. Grp., Imm. Past President, Carl (Pappy) Theiss, passed away on December 31, 2008..

I hope most of you have perused the Nat. Convention (AGM) bulletin that I prepared for you and distributed at the Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Wing Meeting.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it’s contents and bring any of your questions or comments to the Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Further: AB. GRP. will be meeting in Red Deer on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and 783 Wing must decide AB. GRP., Nominations and Group Awards at this meeting, to be timely with the Group Meeting in Feb. Your co-operation and attendance would be greatly appreciated.

I have started preparations for the 783 Wing Charter Anniversary Banquet for Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>, and further details will be updated at the Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and finalized at the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The Alberta Group AGM will be held in (Grand Centre) Cold Lake, this year, tentatively scheduled for Apr. 24 – 26.

This is 784 Wing’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, and it would be admirable to have a good representation from 783 Wing to help celebrate their milestone.

Further details will become available closer to the date.

Please mark these dates on your calendar (day timer) for future reference.

On behalf of your Wing Executive, I extend to all our Wing Members a healthy, safe and very prosperous 2009!

Thank you, for your past co-operation!

R.J. Roe

President: 783 Wing, AFAC

## **PER ARDUA AD ASTRA**

### **[WEBSITE INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION](#)**

783 (Calgary) Wing now has a Website which is currently under construction. It is:

[www.afac783wing.ca](http://www.afac783wing.ca) and [www.783afacwingcalgary.ca](http://www.783afacwingcalgary.ca)

A decision was made at the September 24, 2008 General Meeting to distribute the Newsletter by e-mail to those for whom we have e-mail addresses, in order to save some photo-copying and mailing expenses. It will continue to be mailed to those for whom we have no e-mail addresses. If anyone who receives the mailed copy and has an e-mail address, we would prefer to e-mail only, so please contact Anna Lewis (Editor-in-Chief) with your email address. Please note that in the future, once our website is up and running, all pictures will be available online for viewing.

We encourage all members to become active in this newsletter by submitting ideas, news stories, pictures or general comments. Feedback will help in the development of your newsletter.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



*Well Christmas is long past and the New Year was rung in and I'm exhausted. Every year I swear that the next one will be easier and not so many people. This year we had our "Orphans" Christmas and 18 of us sat down for the Christmas feast. Well most everyone sat down, I don't think I sat once in two days and my legs were letting me know that they felt like they had just ran the Boston marathon when it was all over. New Years was spent quiet, trying to recover from Christmas and then we celebrated Ukrainian Christmas (OK not on the exact day, I always plan it for the nearest weekend) and had another 16 people over. One of the traditions we have on Ukrainian Christmas, is that our guests bring food items for the Veteran's Food bank and this year we collected 46 lbs of non-perishable food items (way to go family).*

*Glutton for punishment I know but as always, as the year carries on, I look back at those days and relish the memories of laughter, loud music, mounds of food, enjoying friends and family and "thank God" that we are able to get together without fear of oppression and pray for the safety of all of our troops overseas.*

*We recognize that the Christmas season is not always a festive time for many of us. My daughter-in-law just lost her uncle a few days before Christmas and many of you are aware that "Pappy" passed away most recently. Our hearts, prayers and thoughts go out to his family.*

*We wish you and everyone in your family a safe and memorable New Year! Merry Christmas, God Jul (Swedish), Bunoe Feste Natalizie (Italian), Srozhdestvom Kristovym (Ukrainian), Joyeux Noel (French). May the wonderment of the season always be close.*

*Sincerely,*

*Anna Lewis*

*Editor-in-Chief*

*P.S. Check out the Air Force Museum Society's website – It's up and running. Looks great, Kenn! Also thank you to those of you who read the last newsletter and have submitted your email addresses to me Thank you very much and your newsletter will now be sent to you electronically.*

## AIR FORCE MUSEUM SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

The Air Force Museum of Alberta (AFMSA) is an equal partner in the new Military Museums at the location of the former Museum of the Regiments on Crowchild Trail. Construction of the AFMSA is still in progress. The Museum will soon need volunteers to be Tour Guides, so please consider volunteering by contacting Kenn Nixon.

The AFMSA website is [www.airforcemuseumalberta.ca](http://www.airforcemuseumalberta.ca). Comments and suggestions should be directed to Kenn Nixon. Wing members are encouraged to become members of the museum. The AFMSA is an approved charitable organization, and can provide official receipts for tax purposes for all donations. For further information and applications for memberships, please call Don Norrie, the membership chairman, at 403-949-2579.

## LAST POST



**April 15 1934 - 31 December 2009**

Carl "Pappy" Theiss dedicated his life to the Air Force for more than 50 years. A beloved friend and supporter of the Air Force, he passed away Dec. 31, 2008 at the Cold Lake Medical Centre, Cold Lake, Alta., at the age of 74. He was a dedicated member of the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) following his retirement from the Canadian Forces, and for two years served as President of the Alberta Group of AFAC.

A Celebration of Life for Pappy was held at the Cold Lake Agriplex on the 10th of January at 1:00 pm.

Carl "Pappy" Theiss was born in Vancouver in 1934. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1951; where he spent the next 33 years in the air element of the Canadian Forces. He joined as an Aero Engine Technician; later he became a crewman and then received his Wings as a Flight Engineer. He first started flying on the C-47 Dakota and then went on to fly C-119 Flying Boxcars out of RCAF Station Rivers, Man. from 1953-56. His next tours of duty included 436 (Transport) Sqn RCAF Station Downsview, Ont. from 1957-60, and 435 (Transport) Sqn RCAF Station Namao (Edmonton) from 1961-65. He spent 1960-61 on Caribou aircraft with 115 Air Transport Unit (ATU) in El Arish, Egypt. In the fall of 1965 he attended the boat school at RCAF Station Comox, B.C. on the Albatross flying boat. He stayed there with 121 Composite Unit (KU)/442 Sqn from 1965 to 1970. He accumulated a total of over 8,800 flying hours in his flying career.

In 1966 he reverted back to his formal trade as an Aero Engine Tech. He was introduced to the CC-130 Hercules in 1966 and worked in a maintenance capacity on that aircraft at CFB Edmonton. His final two postings were a tour in CFB Winnipeg and one tour at CFB Cold Lake. Pappy's last rank was Warrant Officer. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration and two bars, United Nations Emergency Force Medal, and the Canadian Peace Keeping Service Medal, and Canadian Centennial Medal.

Pappy retired from the Canadian Forces in 1984 and resided in Cold Lake.

After his release from the Air Force, Pappy became one of the best known auto mechanics in Cold Lake. There wasn't much he couldn't fix and he was a mentor for many young men who did their motor mechanic apprenticeship under him.

In 1984, 784 Diamond Jubilee Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association, received its Charter and Carl and his wife joined two years later.

After joining 784 Wing, he served continuously on the Wing Executive as Welfare Officer, Bingo Chair, Nevada Chair, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and two years as Wing President. He has also served as the Wing representative on the Lakeland Bingo Committee for many years and worked countless hours as a Wing volunteer bartender and with Wing clean-up activities. He served as Vice President North for AFAC Alberta Group 2002 - 03. Then in April 2005, he was made President of the Air Force Association of Canada, Alberta Group. He served in that position for two years.

He received the 2004-05 "Member of The Year Award" for Alberta Group.

Pappy was the 784 Wing representative on the Lac La Biche Legion's "Airmen's Memorial Cairn Project".

He also was the "gopher" for the Wing as he did the ordering, pick-up and delivery of bar and kitchen provisions.

Pappy was dedicated to the Association, always the first to volunteer to participate in parades and remembrances, until he became physically unable to march. Needless to say that never stopped him from being present at all the ceremonies and was always ready to represent the Wing and Alberta Group whenever an occasion demanded.

His commitment to Air Force Association of Canada was readily evident, as seldom a day went by that Pappy didn't stop by the Wing to run an errand, or work in the office, or finish up another of his myriad of tasks that he cheerfully took on. He was awarded the 784 Award of Merit for outstanding volunteerism.

In 2008 the Air Force Association of Canada national president presented Pappy with the Associations Meritorious Service Award, recognizing him for outstanding commendatory service with the Association.

His personality glowed with a constant smile and good nature, making members and guests feel at home and very welcome to 784 Wing. He was a man of extraordinary character who kept the 784 Wing alive and well. When you met him for the first time he'd say to you, "I'm Carl, but just call me Pappy, everybody does," saying it with that big friendly smile of his.

Carl served on the Executive of the Lakeland Branch of the Federal Superannuates National Association (FSNA) as 1st Vice President from 2003.

He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 34 years and a member of the 435/436 Burma Squadrons Association.

Pappy was truly one of those rare members who gave his all and more to any organization he was involved in. Through his dedication, professionalism and initiative, Pappy's efforts had a direct impact on 784 Wing, Alberta Group and the Air Force Association, the FSNA and Canada's military.

Pappy is survived by his wife Bea, nine sons and daughters: Candy MacDonald (Dave), Fort MacMurray, Alta.; Lawrence Cantera (Mary), Edmonton; Rene Symth (Glen), Victoria; Linda Norhcott (John), Sherwood Park, Alta., Edward Cantera (Shirley) Cold Lake, Alta.; Leslie Theiss (Debbie), Edmonton; Norma Kordac (Frank), Edmonton; Norine Ebel (Dwight), Orleans, Ont.; Steven Theiss (Corinne), Vermillion, Alta.; 19 grand children and 11½ great-grand children.

Pappy will be sorely missed by all that knew him; he's put his Flight Engineer's Wings back on and is currently flying somewhere in the wild blue yonder.

From "[http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/site/newsroom/news\\_e.asp?cat=114&id=7566](http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/site/newsroom/news_e.asp?cat=114&id=7566)"

## NOTICES

- Please save your used stamps for Marion Mascaro. She is collecting used stamps to be donated to the Alberta Cancer Society.
- Eleanor Berlin requests notification of any wing member who is ill so that she can send them a card from the Wing.

## 783 WING FUNCTIONS

Entertainment - Pat Trollope and Dot Deines have taken on the task of organizing Wing entertainment. They request that Wing members phone them to pass on their ideas and suggestions.

Special Events/Bus trips - Pat Sulek, our event coordinator, welcomes all suggestions and comments.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

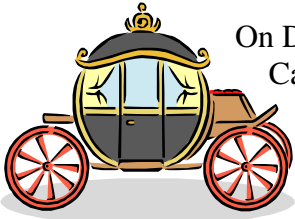
General Meetings will continue to be held at No 285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Horton Road, for the foreseeable future. All members are encouraged to attend the General Meetings to find out what's going on and have an input into the Wing decisions and activities.

- **January 26, 2009**                      **Wing Meeting**
- **February 21, 2009**                      **Alberta Group Meeting in Red Deer**
- **February 21, 2009**                      **Alberta Air Cadets Selection Boards in Penoka**
- **February 23, 2009**                      **Wing Meeting**
- **March 21, 2009**                          **783 Wing Charter Anniversary Banquet**
- **March 23, 2009**                          **Wing Meeting**
- **April 24-26, 2009**                      **Alberta Group AGM – (Grand Centre) Cold Lake – date to be confirmed**



## CATCH UP ON PAST WING EVENTS.....

To view more pictures contact Brian Lewis (Public Relations Officer)



On December 6<sup>th</sup> some of our Wing members and guests went on a bus trip to Cardston, Alberta to visit the Remington Carriage Museum. They have over 200 horse & buggy carriages on display. We ate lunch, had a tour and carriage ride.

All the “gals” received a “wedding ring” (made of a horseshoe nail).



As you can tell, we had a full bus. So full, that Kenn had to count us numerous times (wink to you Kenn!)



Carriage ride anyone?



The lunch and the service was great!

On the way back, we were invited to the Lethbridge #702 Wing Christmas party which happened to be on the same day. The Lethbridge Wing did a great job in welcoming us. We sang songs, ate great food (they have some good cooks there) and laughed a lot (yes, a little drinking went on too). We had brought non-perishable food items and a \$500 donation to be distributed to their Salvation Army. It was an all day trip but well worth it. Big thanks to Pat Sulek and her “ever” ready helper, Kenn.



Good vocals! And the rhythm wasn't bad either guys!



The hall was full of good times.



Even Santa stopped in to help celebrate much to the delight of some (few tears from others).

**Q. What does Santa like to eat?**  
**A. A jolly roll.**

**Q. How does Santa take pictures?**  
**A. With his North Pole-roid.**

**Q. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?**  
**A. Claustrophobic.**



December 19<sup>th</sup>, we had the #783 Wing Christmas Party at #285 Legion on Horton Road. It was a great time and I know that we all enjoyed ourselves. The Legion kitchen staff did a fabulous job catering our event. A big thank you to Pat and Dot for all their hard work including the “elves” that helped them with games and prizes (Some of us were lucky enough to win a “Hawk One” pin, four were given out). The traffic was terrible that night but enjoying everyone’s company made up for it.



**Q. What do you get when you eat the Christmas decorations?**

**A. Tinsel-itus.**

**Q. If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?**

**A. Missletoe!**



**DID YOU KNOW .....**



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....



Allen Spielman

Allen Spielman joined Air Cadets as the first cadet in 538 Squadron in Calgary in 1950. He worked his way up through the ranks, serving as #15 Wing Training Officer, Administration Officer and became Commanding Officer of 604 Squadron. After retiring as CO, he joined the Calgary Center Sponsoring Committee, which administered and raised funds and support for 52, 538 and 604 Air Cadet Squadrons.

After serving as Sponsoring Committee Chairman for four years, he then joined the Provincial Air Cadet League as a Squadron representative in the Southern Zone. He became Zone chairman for three years, spent two years as Vice Chairman, two years as Provincial Chairman, and presently is a member of the Past Chairmen's Board of the Alberta Air Cadet League. He also coordinated the Effective Speaking Contest for the Provincials for two years. He was awarded a Life Membership of the Provincial Air Cadet League in 2003.

Even though his main interest has been Air Cadets, he spent twelve years being involved with the Lions International Youth Exchange. Over the years, he arranged for over 1500 young people to travel to other countries (Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Finland, Britain, and Italy to name a few) and brought students from these countries to experience cultural exchanges.

He is a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, serving with 783 Calgary Wing, and has held the position of President at both Group and Wing levels. He served three separate terms as Wing President. Allen is also a past National Director of the Association and holds the honor of being presented with the first Life Membership award in the newly named Air Force Association of Canada. He has been a key figure in the fund raising for the Wing, serving as Casino chairman for over 16 years.

He has been instrumental in guiding young people and thrives on participating and molding the futures of young men and women in Cadets. Allen had been involved in the White Hatters at the Calgary Airport for eight years and is a member of the Quarter Century Club. He has been vice-president of the For Love of Children Society which works with disadvantaged and under privileged children locally, provincially and internationally. He has now turned his efforts to aiding the Army Cadet League of Alberta where his knowledge and experience are gratefully appreciated.

He worked for the Solicitor Generals Department as a Correctional Officer for 30 years. He received a Life Membership in the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees after serving on the Provincial Executive for over 10 years.

For his numerous activities, he has received many awards; among the highest is the Canada 125 Medal, the Certificate of Honor from the Air Cadet League of Canada, Life Membership in Alberta Air Cadet League, and the Alberta Centennial Certificate and Medallion. He has just been awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2008. In 200, he was also recognized as a "Great Albertan". Allen has been married for 51 years, with three children and has three grandchildren.

## OTHER NEWS.....

### AFAC Pilot Training Awards

Here is the list of recipients of AFAC Pilot Training Awards in Alberta. We received six this year - up from three last year. The national total is 19 awards so this is quite impressive. We will get these presented over the next few weeks.

The recipients are:

F/S Gouda, Pishoy, 831 RCACS Leduc,

F/S Harrington, Matthew, 52 RCACS Calgary,

WOII McKenna, Jillian, Blairmore,

WOII McReynolds, Sarah, 604 RCACS Calgary,

F/S Mlynrsky, Raphael, 395 RCACS Edmonton,

WOI Toye, Matthew, 88 RCACS Airdrie.

### Air Force Advocacy

Get involved in Air Force Advocacy! Share your ideas with Canada's Air Power Voice – The Air Force Association of Canada. Your input is important!

Groups who wish for the Aviation Affairs Committee to address a concern are encouraged to submit their views. Views may take the form of a resolution for consideration if desired. Importantly, it should be noted that the Committee will undertake to deal with issues on a continuing basis – as they arise, rather than limiting consideration to a meeting schedule. To aid this, electronic communications will be used extensively.

Individuals are encouraged to contact their Group authorities to make their view known and assist in developing positions for the Association. Members at Large are equally welcome to engage. Please contact our staff:

Executive Director Dean Black 613-232-4281 [director@airforce.ca](mailto:director@airforce.ca)

Administrator/Membership Susan Arsenault 613-232-2303 [contact@airforce.ca](mailto:contact@airforce.ca)

The Aviation Affairs Committee fulfills a key role for the AFAX – advocacy for issues in which we believe. Your support and involvement is important.

Website – [airforce.jimmedia.ca](http://airforce.jimmedia.ca)