



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

783 (CALGARY) WING

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT clarkerb@telus.net	Robert Clarke	403-236-8862
*HONORARY PRESIDENT crosswind@shaw.ca	Col. (Ret'd) Don Matthews	403-288-5526
*IMM PAST PRESIDENT aerroestar@msn.com	Robert Roe	403-280-1253
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT keithmann@shaw.ca	Keith Mann	403-236-3580
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT daveandbettyw@shaw.ca	Dave Watson	403-249-5764
TREASURER keithmann@shaw.ca	Barbara Mann	403-236-3580
SECRETARY aspielman@telusplanet.net	Bev Spielman	403-253-6297
*PAST PRESIDENTS CHAIR aspielman@telusplanet.net	Al Spielman	403-253-6297

DIRECTORS

Air Cadet Liaison kbnixon@telusplanet.net	Kenn Nixon	403-238-5388
*Casino Manager keithmann@shaw.ca	Keith Mann	403-235-3580
*Ceremonial / Protocol	Art Hill	403-289-0062
Entertainment	Pat Trollope	403-249-8427
*Entertainment Co-chair dmdeines@telus.net	Dot Deines	403-256-3268
Membership kgspielman@shaw.ca	Kendall Spielman	403-256-3612
Newsletter Editor bandalewis@shaw.ca	Anna Lewis	403-730-8969
Public Relations bandalewis@shaw.ca	Brian Lewis	403-730-8969
Special Projects psulek@telus.net	Pat Sulek	403-281-7037
Welfare	Eleanor Berlin	403-244-8217

As elected at the Annual General Meeting held June 22, 2009. (* Non-elected positions)

Newsletter INDEX

• Directory - Executive and Directors.....	Pg 2
• #783 Wing President's Report.....	Pg 3
• Alberta Group President's Message	Pg 4
• Website Information & Newsletter Distribution.....	Pg 5
• Membership Report.....	Pg 5
• Letter from the Editor.....	Pg 5
• Last Post.....	Pg 6
• Air Force Museum Society of Alberta.....	Pg 7
• Notices.....	Pg 7
• Cadet Liaison Report.....	Pg 7
• 783 Wing Functions.....	Pg 8
• Special Tours Report.....	Pg 8
• Calendar of Events.....	Pg 9
• Catch up on past events.....	Pg 9-10
• Recipe Swap.....	Pg 11
• Comedy Corner.....	Pg 12
• Getting to know you.....	Pg 13
• Other News.....	Pg 13-14

#783 WING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 2010

Well here we are in 2010 and we seemed to have survived the 19 days of extreme cold we had.

The weatherman has been more than cruel to us just recently. After months of planning and effort by quite a few people Mother Nature stepped in and only 24 people were able to make it to our Christmas Party on December 4th.

The setup at the Blackfoot Inn was more than excellent and the food was really delicious. Sue and her committee had a great night planned and all that attended seemed to enjoy it very much.

In the spirit of the season the Wing received Christmas cards from the National President, the National office, our Alberta Group President Gilles McDermott and 702 Lethbridge Wing.

I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you all the best for 2010.

There are a number of events that we will be involved this year. One important one is the Alberta Group Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for May 8th at the Port of Call Inn.

I am sure both our Special Events Coordinator and our Entertainment Committee will have some interesting events planned for us very soon.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Clarke
President 783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC

Per Ardua Ad Astra

ALBERTA GROUP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to take this opportunity to say Happy New Year to everyone. May this year bring health and happiness to you and your families.

Dear members, your ongoing support either as a volunteer giving your time, or financial support through your Wing to our youth groups such as the cadets, is a worthwhile endeavor for which I thank all of you.

There is one side of the Air Force Association (AFAC) to which I would like to raise your awareness, and as a member you should be as equally proud of. This is the Advocacy the AFAC is conducting on a monthly basis, which at times may seem difficult, obscure, and maybe even irrelevant. But I assure you this cannot be further from the truth.

If one person shouts in the wind, his voice will likely be lost. But if a crowd shouts the same message it will be heard through sheer strength in numbers and that strength helps the decision-maker in the National Defense and our Government make the right choices. Our Military as well as the cadets need our support. So let us show them we are here for them, let us increase the strength of our voices. If you know a member at large (MAL), bring that person back. If your friend or neighbor shows interest, invite them.

Gen. George Macdonald, Ret. provides us with a wealth of articles where our advocacy may provide some resolve. If you are interested in those articles, please contact your Group Vice President Mr. R.J. Roe or Mr. Ben Cloney to be put on a distribution list.

Dear Members, the RCAF Trust Fund is in need of directors, it would be greatly appreciated if one of you could come forward and take this worthwhile position. For more information, you may contact me at gmc1@telus.net or (780)594-7767.

Yours truly,

Gilles McDermott

WEBSITE INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

783 (Calgary) Wing website is up and running but still in under construction. This is your original website that we are currently updating and revising. One new item on this website is the calendar. Please submit events for the calendar in writing (snail mail or email) to Brian Lewis.

www.783afacwingcalgary.ca

Distribution of this newsletter is either by e-mail or Canada Post. In an effort to be fiscally responsible and eco friendly, e-mail is the preferred method of distribution. (It will continue to be mailed to those for whom we have no e-mail addresses.) If anyone who receives the mailed copy but now has an e-mail address, please contact Anna Lewis with your new email address.

We encourage all members to become active in this newsletter by submitting ideas, recipes, news stories, pictures or general comments. I'll even take some good "clean" jokes. Feedback will help in the development of your newsletter and website.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of our last meeting, we have 83 regular and 6 life memberships for a total of 89 wing members.

Invoices were mailed out in May/09 for this year's membership fees. \$18.00 for singles and \$25.00 for couples. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Kendal Spielman as the due date for payment was June 30/09. Remit payment to #783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC, c/o Kendall Spielman, 95 Shawcliffe Circle SW, Calgary, AB T2Y 1J3 or phone 403-256-3612.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Wow, didn't 2009 seem to fly by! It just seems that we just get used to writing 2009 and suddenly 2010 crept up. I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season whether it be with family and friends or taking the time to reflect by yourself on how lucky we are as Canadians to be part of this Global community.

This year in the Lewis household, Christmas was much quieter than in past years but just as satisfying. Sometimes we all get caught up in the "busy-ness" of it all and need to take the time to slow down and recharge our batteries.

Since our last newsletter, things have been quiet for the wing other than our Christmas party at the Blackfoot Inn in December. Unfortunately, Old Man Winter tried to snow us out but some of us braved the elements and had a great time. Big thank you to the organizing committee for putting on a fabulous event. We all had a great time, visiting, singing and yes even playing some games, and of course winning prizes. As always, the Blackfoot Inn served us a fantastic buffet.

Also check out our "Other News" section as we have a guest columnist – Peggy McAllister. If there are any other "budding" columnists or comedians please flex your writing muscles and send me your thoughts/jokes.



Yours truly,

Anna Lewis

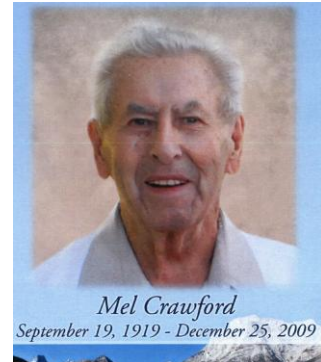
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. I encourage you to continue with your feedback on the likes or “dislikes” of our newsletter or webpage. Recipes! I need recipes, gals and guys for our “Recipe Swap” section!

LAST POST



Melvin Crawford, a member of the #783 Wing, passed away on December 25, 2009. Our sympathy and condolences to his family during this time of loss.



Melvin (Mel) Arthur Crawford **September 19, 1919 – December 25, 2009**

Melvin Arthur Crawford of Calgary passed away at Southwood Hospice on Friday, December 25, 2009 at the age of 90 years. Mel was born in Hanna, AB to Bertha and Alexander and moved to Calgary in 1924 where he attended Connaught Public School and Western Canada Tech. He studied auto mechanics and wood working. Mel was a member of the Calgary Glider Club in the '30s. He began his thirty-eight year career with the CNR in 1940 with the Bridge and Building department, and then joined the Army in 1941. As a Sapper in the Royal Canadian Army, 2nd Division Engineers, he served in Great Britain and Northern Europe. He married Margaret McFarlane in Dunoon, Scotland on April 23, 1945 and returned to Canada in September 1945. Margaret joined him in Calgary as a War Bride in 1946. He resumed his career with the CNR in Calgary and from 1971 to 1978 he commuted

weekly to the CNR head office in Edmonton, working as an Engineering Coordinator for the Regional Engineering/Bridges and Structures department. Following his early retirement in 1978, he became active in the CN Rail Vets, Canadian Legion - Horton Road #285, Sappers Club, and was involved in the Kerby Centre in Calgary. Until recently, Mel took great pride in maintaining his home, caring for his garden and socializing with a broad circle of friends and neighbours. Mel will be remembered as a caring dad, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle. Mel is survived by his son and daughter, Ron (Maggie) of Calgary and Linda (Mike) of Fenelon Falls, ON; grandchildren, Kim, Kelly, and Mark (Tannis); great-granddaughter Lily; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Australia, a brother-in-law and sisters-in-law in Scotland; and by his special friend, Glenys Goossens of Calgary. Mel was predeceased by his wife, Margaret in 2000; father Alec in 1960; mother Bertha in 1981; brother Cec; sister-in-law Viva; sister, Vi; and brother-in-law, John.

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. The Museum needs volunteers to be Tour Guides, so please consider volunteering by contacting Kenn Nixon. Official opening was on May 7, 2009.

The AFMSA website is 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.

NOTICES

- Please save your used stamps for Marion Mascaro, 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.

CADET LIAISON REPORT

Air Cadet Report November 23, 2008

All the squadrons in Southern Alberta played an important role in a wide variety of Remembrance Day service throughout Southern Alberta. Each seemed to participate in several services, including the Legion or community events.

There is significant evidence that the program is having success with recruiting of Air Cadets but the program is experiencing a real problem of recruiting officers to support the program. The National and Provincial Committees are trying to develop a campaign to recruit and retain officers. In southern Alberta the ACO has indicated that he is short more than 30 officers in the program today. Anyone who knows someone who has thought about joining the program please have them contact either Capt Randy Fisher or contact me and I shall put them in touch with him.

This year 903 Sqn from Strathmore are sponsoring the Southern Zone Drill and Sports. They reported that the plans are well underway to have a successful competition at the end of April.

There have been some significant changes as to how the Provincial scholarship boards will be conducted. These will be that some of the costs like transportation will not be available. Accommodations and food will still be provided. The boards are scheduled for the weekend of February 20 – 21, 2010. I am sure that we will be able to support this as members of the interview panels for those who wish to.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenn Nixon

Nov 23, 2009

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 TOURS

Special Events/Bus trips - Pat welcomes all suggestions and



Sulek, our event coordinator, comments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



General Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, except in July, August and December, when there are no meetings. They will continue to be held at 1930 hrs at the #285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Horton Road, for the foreseeable future. Members may enjoy dinner at the #285 Legion before the meeting (last call for the kitchen is 1815 hrs).

All members are encouraged to attend the Wing Meetings to not only find out what's going on, but also to have input into the decisions and activities. Summer dress attire is from May 1 to Sept 30.

Date missing? Wrong information? Let us know! We're always looking ahead, so all dates (even a year in advance) are most welcome.

- **January 25, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **February 22, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **March 22, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **April 26, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **May 7-9, 2010** **Alberta AGM, Port 'O Call, Calgary, currently in the planning stage**
- **May 24, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **June 28, 2010** **Wing Meeting & AGM**
- **July & August, 2010** **No Wing Meeting**

- August , 2010 **Peacekeepers Parade**
- September , 2010 **Battle of Britain, Military Museum**
- October , 2010 **National AGM, Comox, BC**

CATCH UP ON PAST EVENTS.....



Day before Remembrance Day,
Juno Beach Academy Ceremonies
at Queen's Park Cemetery.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies at
Jubilee Auditorium.



A great turnout!

Getting lined up for the march in.



Lovely to see the cadets at our ceremonies.

Man of the hour – Major (ret'd) Kenn Nixon.
Retirement party at Mewata Armouries on
Saturday, Jan 16, 2010



Coca-Cola Cake

Recipe from Joanna Howard #783 Calgary. Sounds yummy!

For the cake:

2 cups all purpose flour
2 cups sugar
2 sticks butter
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 cup coca-cola
½ cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon vanilla
1 ½ cups mini marshmallows



For the icing:

½ cup butter
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
6 tablespoons coca-cola
2 cups icing sugar

Preheat oven to 350 and lightly grease and flour a 9x13 sheet cake pan. Sift flour and sugar into a large mixing bowl. Set aside. In a small saucepan, bring butter, cocoa and cola to a boil over medium heat. Pour over flour mixture and stir. Add buttermilk, baking soda, eggs, vanilla and marshmallows, and stir. (Batter will be thin and marshmallows will float to the top).

Bake cake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Just before the cake is done (5 minutes), make the icing by bringing all the ingredients to a boil in a large saucepan. Cook until it reaches the consistency of a thin glaze. Poke holes in the cake with a toothpick or wooden skewer (to let the icing sink into the cake), then spread the icing over the cake while both are hot and let cool.

COMEDY CORNER



Remind you of the good 'ole days and the
"one who got away" stories!



"REPEAT AFTER ME: AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES...
AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES... AT LEAST..."



Sorry, but I thought this was funny!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....



Robert Clarke

Bob was born and raised in Newfoundland and has been living in Calgary for the past 32 years.

For the past 47 years, he has been in the Construction Inspection field and had been working for the City of Calgary for 29 years, and retired as a Senior Building Inspector in 2007. He is presently semi-retired and is working for Alberta Permit Pro.

At present Bob is the President of the Air Force Association of Canada (783) Calgary Wing and is also the President of the Alberta Building Officials Association.

He has been involved with Air Cadets for over 25 years. Starting as a parent he worked his way through starting with the Sponsoring Committee to the Provincial Executive up to becoming the Provincial Chairman. He was also a National Governor of the Air Cadet League of Canada for quite a few years.

He has been a director of The McKenzie Towne Residence Association for seven years and has been active with the For Love of Children for past several years.

Bob enjoys helping his friends with odd jobs and enjoys vacationing in Palm Springs with his wife Susan. He has been married for 26 years, has 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

OTHER NEWS.....

“PER ARDUA AD ASTRA”

Guest Columnist – Peggy McAllister (#783 Wing Member)

The motto of the Air Force Association of Canada is a phrase we see, and use often. Many of us can quote it, but how many members know what it means?

The literal translation from the Latin to English is “Through Adversity to the Stars”, or more modernly “Through Struggles to the Stars”. It is the motto of the Royal Air Force as well as other Commonwealth Air Forces including the RAAF, RNZAF and the former RCAF. It dates from 1912 and was first adopted as the motto for the newly-formed Royal Flying Corps.

The first Commanding Officer of the Royal Flying Corps., Military Wing, was Col. Frederick Sykes. He asked his officers to come up with a motto for the new service; one which would result in a strong esprit-de-corps.

Two junior officers were leaving the Officers’ Mess one evening, discussing the issue of the motto, when one of them came up with the phrase “Sic itur ad Astra” (“Thus do we Reach the Stars”), and then expanded by also mentioning “Per Ardua ad Astra” (“Through Adversity to the

Stars”). This Junior Officer was Lt. J.S. Yule, and he had first come across this motto in a book called *The People of the Mist* by Sir Henry Rider Haggard. The author was describing stately gates and pillars, which supported a Coat of Arms and a banner with these words inscribed.

The suggested motto was presented to Col. Sykes, who liked it, and submitted it to the King, who approved its adoption.

The exact origins of the motto are unknown. Where author Haggard came up with the words is unclear. It is known that an Irish family – Mulvany – used it as their family motto for hundreds of years. The authoritative translation of the motto is also unsure. There are a number of different meanings to the words “Ardua” and “Astra”, so that scholars have declared it to be untranslatable in perfect form.

This motto is used in many ways by many institutions, not just the Commonwealth Air Forces. It is the official motto for many schools, colleges and universities around the world. It is the name of a sculpture by Oscar Nemon on University Avenue in Toronto, Ontario. It appears in the game “Sword of the Stars”, in the Buck Rogers television series, and in the Welsh Space Program! Institutions of higher learning prefer to use the translation “Through Hard Work (or Toil) to the Stars”.

Our motto has an interesting history and a proud and respected tradition – it should always be used wisely and in a noble and worthy context.