



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

783 (CALGARY) WING

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011



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As elected at the Annual General Meeting held June 28, 2010. (* Non-elected positions)

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ALBERTA GROUP AFAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (May 14, 2011) Lethbridge, Alberta

National Immediate Past President,
John Melbourne installs the Alberta
Group Honourary President, Bill
Werny (of STARS)





National IPP John Melbourne presents the Mynarcki Trophy to Dr. Powell of STARS Ambulance who was the guest speaker at the AGM.

National Immediate Past President, John Melbourne Robert Roe into the Alberta Group - President (Change of Command)



The following awards were given to our #783 Wing members at the AB AGM:



Group Member of the Year: Steve MacDonnell

Peter Allan Memorial Award: Pat Sulek



Wing of the Year: #783 Wing accepted by President Robert Clarke



Side Hill Gougher Award: Lorne Fleming (presented at our Wing Meeting)

#783 WING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following Presentations were awarded at our local #783 Wing AGM meeting June 27th.

Service Pins:



5 year pin: Walter Wakula (absent), Brian Lewis and Anna Lewis



10 year pin: Kendall Spielman and Randy Fisher



25 year pin: Pat Trollope



35 year pin: Ken Carlin, Allan Collins and John Fox



Award of Merit: Anna Lewis, Betty Watson, Dave Watson, Sue Clarke (absent), and Bill Cooke (absent)



Award of Distinction: Keith Mann



Elections for the new executive and directors were completed at our June 27th AGM.
 [Left to right] Front Row – Eleanor Berlin, Anna Lewis, Marion Mascaro, Dot Deines
 Back Row – Art Hill, Randy Fisher (hiding behind Art, Pat Sulek, Barb Mann (also hiding behind Pat), Peggy McAllister, Thom Gordon, Robert Clarke, Keith Mann, Dave Watson, Kenn Nixon, and Brian Lewis

#783 WING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nothing to submit.

Robert Clarke
 President 783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC

Per Ardua Ad Astra

ALBERTA GROUP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Corner:
 Dear Members and Friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you for the past two years as Group President. I have met many of you and have great memories from it. Throughout my term as President I always felt the support from each Wing and membership, as I always mentioned, Alberta is a great Group.

I will now introduce you to your new Group executive (some not so new)

AB Group President, Robert (RJ) Roe of 783 Wing Calgary
Immediate Pass President Gilles McDermott of 784 Wing Cold Lake
Vice President South Robert Clarke of 783 Wing Calgary
Vice President North Alex Richards of 700 Wing Edmonton
Treasurer Kenn Nixon of 783 Wing Calgary, and
Secretary Bev Spielman of 783 Wing Calgary.

Their contact information is available at your respective Wing or through your Wing President, feel free to contact them and bring new ideas to the table as this is how we evolve and grow.

I am please to introduce you our new Honorary Alberta Group President, Colonel Bill Werny (retired). Mr. Werny's last military assignment was as the Commanding Officer of AETE at 4Wing Cold Lake. He is currently employed as operation officer for the Alberta STARS in Edmonton, and a member of the 700 Wing in Edmonton.

Once again, **THANK YOU** all, and hope to see you in the future.

Yours truly,
Gilles McDermott
AB Group President
(780) 594-7767
gmcd1@telus.net

V.P. (S). MESSAGE

Greetings from the AB. Group, V.P. (S)

The past 2 months have been a rather busy period of time with the Alberta Group AMG followed by a rather large amount of Air Cadet ACR's. I was supposed to attend Base Comd Dave Wheelers Change of Command Parade at 4 Wing, however there just was too much going on at the same time, so Grp IIPP Gilles McDermott covered for me, as he lives in Grand Centre and it was far more convenient and no transportation costs.

I had the pleasure of attending the Memory Lane Bus Tour, this past Saturday June 25th and Marj and I really enjoyed the tour, the home cooked meal, the scenery and company. As it turns out, the tour became much more memorable. I come to realize that as of completing the Wing Election on June 27th I will have served on the Wing Board of Directors for 21 consecutive years. It really hit home when I had an Omen displayed to me "RJ is heading off to Pasture" (cow named RJ).



On the positive outlook: I will have more time to carry out the duties of Alberta Grp President. Having served 2 years as VP (S) AB Grp, I have a good idea of the travel times and distances involved and with the assistance of the Grp IIP and the 2 Reg VP's I should be able to cover all the bases required. It is the demands and requirements imposed from NEC, that worries me. In parting from the Wing executive, I would like to THANK all of the Past Presidents who assisted and guided me along the way and the co-operation of all the various Directors who collectively continued to keep the business and social aspect of the Wing alive and functional. As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories..."

Respective submitted,
RJ Roe
VP(S), Alberta Group, AFAC

Per Ardua Ad Astra

WEBSITE INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

783 (Calgary) Wing website is up and running. This is your original website that we are always tweaking and revising. Want to publish an event on the website calendar? Submit 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 85 regular and 5 life memberships for a total of 90 wing members.

Due to the postal disruption this year, we are going to ensure that all of our members in good standing as of June 27, 2011 will have the National Dues portion covered for 2011/2012 BUT we need you to make sure your Wing portion is paid. \$18.00 for singles and \$25.00 for couples/duals. Invoices are out and we look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Kendal Spielman as the due date for payment was June 30/11. Remit payment to #783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC, c/o Kendall Spielman, 95 Shawcliffe Circle SW, Calgary, AB T2Y 1J3 or phone 403-256-3612.

If you have any changes to your membership information, such as address, phone or email addresses, please contact her to update your file.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is with great pleasure to introduce Thom Gordon who will be taking over as your Newsletter Editor starting next September. I wish him well and know that he will do a great job. I have enjoyed being your editor for the past 3 years and but don't worry I'm not going anywhere. I will be busy helping the Wing come September as your new Membership Chair.

I think I'm safe to say that I am not the only one who is looking forward to the summertime season. BBQ's, family visits and vacation travel.

One of the highlites this summer will be the annual stampede breakfast at the Spielman's ranch on July 9th starting at 9:00 am. (See the Calendar of Events) Don't forget to bring your lawnchairs and your appetites and hopefully we'll need our sunscreen. Dress western! This is open to all wing members so come join the fun! Hee haw! Don't forget the night before (July 8th at 6pm) we will be meeting to setup tents, etc and throw a few burgers on.

This July 21st, our wing is sponsoring a hole at The Military Museum Golf tournament at the Silver Wings Golf Club. We have entered a team but need 2 more members to make a foursome. Please contact Keith Mann @403-236-3580 keithmann@shaw.ca if you would like to sign up. They will be meeting at 11:30 am that day.

Also don't forget September 18th is our Battle of Britain at the Military Museum. See Calendar of events for time and address.

Yours truly,

Anna Lewis

Editor-in-Chief

LAST POST



Les Brockelsby, a member of the #783 Wing, passed away on April 30, 2011. Our sympathy and condolences to his family during this time of loss.

LESLIE 'LES' GEORGE BROCKELSBY December 8, 1923 - April 30, 2011 Leslie "Les" George Brockelsby of Calgary passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the age of 87 years. His zest for life will be remembered by all who knew him. He lived life to its fullest and when he took on a project it was always full speed ahead. Les had many interests including Scouting, to which he committed himself for twenty-four years. He also had a passion for magic from a very young age, performing his first magic show at age seven as 'The Wonder Boy of Plymouth'. Once retired, his interest in magic returned when he helped organize a local magic club, Calgary Magic Circle - Ring 66 which is now known as the 'Les Brockelsby Ring'. Les spent much of his time mentoring aspiring young magicians. His crowning achievement would be the raising of six children together with Rosemary, his wife of fifty-eight years, who predeceased him in 2003. The Brockelsby residence was always a welcome home for friends of their children who came to call Les and Rosemary 'Mr. and Mrs. B'. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his children David, Gerry, Gay, Tim, Nancy and Susan and his grandchildren Ryan, Shawna, Scott, Geoff, Jennie, Taylor, Lawren and Kate; and a wide circle of friends in Toronto and Calgary.



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. You can bring them to the monthly meeting or send them to:
 - #783 (Calgary) Wing, c/o 100 Rosevale Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2K 1N5
- Eleanor Berlin requests notification of any wing member who are ill so that she can send them a card from the Wing. Phone: 403-244-8217



CADET LIAISON REPORT

Air Cadet Reports June 27, 2011

All the ACR's have been completed for the squadron and everyone is gearing up for camps, etc.

At the National Air Cadet AGM, our very own Keith Mann was elected as the National Vice President for the Air Cadet League.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenn Nixon

SPECIAL EVENTS TOURS

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



UPCOMING TOURS

Come and join us for two exciting tours.....We will have signup sheets available at our next Wing meeting.

SASKATOON FARM LUNCHEON SEPT 24 11:00 - 14:00 (approx)

Leaving Horton Road Legion and down for a delightful luncheon at the Saskatoon Farm, and spend some leisure time looking around their terrific gift shop and garden shop.

ROSEBUD THEATRE GIFTS OF THE MAGI NOV 26 time TBA

Get ready for Christmas. Come with us to the Rose Bud Theatre, enjoy a wonderful buffet brunch, discover unique Christmas gift ideas in numerous gift shops, then watch a terrific play.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Sulek.....(your “tour guide”)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



General Meetings are usually held on 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 around 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.

- **July 8, 2011**

Setup Party for the Stampede Breakfast

- **6:00 pm – Spielman's ranch**
- **9528 – 3 street SE**

- **July 9, 2011**

Annual Stampede Breakfast @ 9:00 am

- **Spielman's ranch**
- **RSVP (403) 253-6297**
- **Dress western and bring your lawn chairs**
- **Guests are welcome**

- **July & August, 2011**

No Wing Meeting

- **August 7, 2011**

Peacekeepers Parade UN Peacekeepers Parade, 11:00 am Peacekeepers Park, Calgary

- **September 18, 2011 Battle of Britain, Parade starts at 2:00 pm
Military Museum, 4520 Crowchild Tr SW**
- **Sept 16-18, 2011 #1 Air Division Reunion, R.C.A.F. in
Edmonton, AB**
- **September 17, 2011 AB Group Executive Meeting, Red Deer**
- **September 26, 2011 Wing Meeting**
- **October 14-16 , 2011 National AGM, Quebec City, Quebec**
- **October 24, 2011 Wing Meeting**
- **November 11, 2011 Remembrance Day Functions, details to
follow**
- **November 28, 2011 Wing Meeting**
- **December 2, 2011 Wing Christmas Party**
- **December , 2011 No Wing Meeting – Enjoy the holidays!**
- **January 23, 2012 Wing Meeting**
- **February 27, 2012 Wing Meeting**
- **March 26, 2012 Wing Meeting**
- **April 23, 2012 Wing Meeting**
- **May 11-13, 2012 Alberta AGM hosted by 784 Diamond
Jubilee Wing, Cold Lake**
- **May 28, 2012 Wing Meeting**
- **June 2, 2012 #702 Wing Lobsterfest**
- **June 25, 2012 Wing Meeting & #783 AGM**

CATCH UP ON PAST EVENTS.....

Al Spielman's For the Love Of Children Orphanage

The orphanage has been opened and is serving about 50 children now. The place is equipped with electricity, and has a fresh water system installed. The system requires a filter that only has to be changed twice a year, at a cost of about \$4K. Ashid has managed to get hold of mattresses for the children and they are all being well cared for. Allen would have been so humbled at having this orphanage named after him. I am just so thankful that his contributions to society have been recognized in such a tangible way.

Bev Spielman



HAITI



June 25th Bus Tour



First stop was the Rocky Mtn House Museum.

Then lunch downstairs in the museum...all homemade...yummy!



Then off to see the historical site of Stephansson House and then the Creamery in Markerville.

It was a full day enjoyed in the company of great people.



RECIPE SWAP



Food Recipes

Submitted by Ethel Fleming

Salad Dressing

1 cup of Milk	1/2 cup of Sugar
1/2 cup of Water	2 Tbsp Flour
1/2 cup of Vinegar	1 1/2 Tsp. Mustard Powder
2 Eggs	add Salt to your taste

Combine and mix in a blender. Can be cooked in a double boiler or microwave ... heat until thick. Add 3 Tbsp of Butter, when it has melted. put into a clean sterilized quart jar. Store in the refrigerator after it cools.

Orange Honey Dressing

3/4 cup of Miracle Whip	1/8 cup Orange juice
1/8 cup of Honey	1 Tbsp grated orange rind

Serve over romaine lettuce, mandarin orange sections and top with toasted almonds.
Serves 4.

Summer Drink

4 cups of water	3 cups of Sugar
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Juice from 2 Lemons & Juice for 2 Oranges
Wash the fruit and grate the rind off of both the Lemons and the Oranges; add this to the liquid. Add 1 oz of Citric Acid (available at the Drug Store.) Bring the mixture to a rolling boil. Let the mixture sit over night, strain. Use this as syrup to your taste in ice cold water. Store in refrigerator.

Cool Rhubarb Punch (a guaranteed crowd pleaser)

Basic ingredient; 4 lbs of Rhubarb Choose good (red) color; wash and cut into small pieces Cover with water and cook until the fruit falls apart. Strain through a jelly bag. **Hint:** can be prepared and frozen while rhubarb is in season, and can be used as an excellent punch at Christmas; or used right away. When ready to use add the following:
1 6 oz can of frozen Orange Juice 1 6 oz can of frozen Lemon Juice
Add all ingredients to a large punch bowl the fill the bowl until full with bottles of either: Sprite, 7up, Ginger ale etc. A syrup of sugar and water (previously boiled and cooled) can be added to your taste, but most times the pop is sufficient to sweeten the mixture.

Christmas idea: Freeze Sprite, 7up etc in a bunt of other tube type cake pan. Add Red and Green cherries. Remove this from the pan and place the ring into the punch bowl. It will cool your punch, look Christmasee and not dilute your punch.



COMEDY CORNER



I was out walking with my 4-year-old daughter. She picked up something off of the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

'Why?' my daughter asked.

'Because it's been on the ground; you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, And probably has germs,' I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, 'Mum, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart.'

I was thinking quickly and replied, 'All mums know this stuff. It's on the Mum Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mum.'

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

'Oh....I get it!' she beamed, 'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the dad.'

'Exactly,' I replied with a big smile on my face.

<< And that my friends, is why the chicken crossed the road!

My Wife always wanted a riding Lawn Mower.

She works all day and was always tired when she came home from work and I thought that a riding lawn mower would help her get the yard work done quicker so she would have more time for the chores inside the house.

SO, being the handy sort of guy that I am, I made her a riding lawn mower. I guess I thought she would squeal with delight or something and give me a big hug.

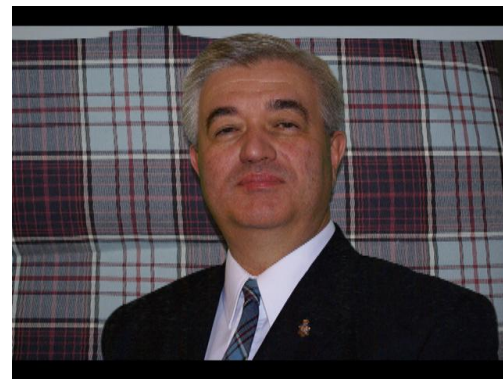
To this day, I have never been able to understand why some women are so hard to please.



PS. I can see out of my left eye pretty good now and should be able to leave the hospital sometime next week!

Steve MacDonnell, P.Eng

Steve MacDonnell is a native of Sydney, Nova Scotia. A descendent of Highland Scots given an exit visa after Culloden Moor, he is equally as proud of his French Canadian roots dating back to 1648 at Port Royal, NS. As a youth he was involved in music, the scouting program and was a graduate of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program. His father, a veteran of the RCA in WWII, gave his sons a choice about cadets. That choice was sea, land or air. Steve attained his power flight wings, skydiving certification (the League and CF then looked the other way from these local training initiatives), and the position of squadron warrant officer with 693 "Rotary" Squadron. His time in cadets culminated with an exchange tour to the UK. He was a member of a local band called the "Push Rods"- we all rebuilt old V-8s in those days. The band performed popular, light rock and a sort of Celtic flair before others actually made money at it. Steve was found behind the keyboards or on the bass guitar.



While still in High School and a member of 693, he also joined the local field engineering squadron (militia) and remembers the trips to the outdoor range in the winter in the back of the old "deuce and a half" singing "Drink rum, drink rum, drink rum, drink rum and come along with us"! Using money from the militia, the band and some shifts at Zeller's he managed to upgrade his pilot's license to commercial with a FI rating at the old Eastern Flying Services. He did a brief one year stint in the CIL as Training Officer at 693. After moving to Halifax to attend Dalhousie University, he transferred back to primary reserve and served at CFB Shearwater. It was there where he found an early copy of "Airforce" magazine, nabbed the MAL card insert and joined the RCAF Association. He also volunteered as a ground school instructor with 615 "Bluenose" Squadron in Halifax and flew tow planes with the NS Gliding Zone never forgetting the lessons learned in landing a tail dragger (L-19) in cross winds. Over the years he was also a co-owner of both a C-185 and a Piper Seneca. Steve returned to uniform much later with 538 "Buffalo" Squadron, Calgary, serving from 1991 to 1996, the last three years as commanding officer. Following his time with 538 Squadron he transferred to the Canadian Forces Supplementary Reserve.



NCO 420

CO 538 Sqn

Getting on with real life, Steve graduated with a B.Sc. in Physics from Dalhousie and subsequently a B.Eng and M.Eng. in Civil and Environmental Engineering respectively from the then Technical University of Nova Scotia (now part of Dal). He is also a graduate of the University of Calgary in management, the Banff Centre in leadership and holds a Certificate in Risk Management from McGill. Registered as a professional engineer in 1983, he has held technical and management positions in the natural resources and energy industries. He has worked on and led both domestic and international projects. He has also served on design code committees with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment and the Canadian Standards Association.

Steve actually began his professional career in Halifax as a project engineer with Acres International Ltd. A brief posting to a resident engineering position in Argentina was followed by a transfer to Calgary. He later joined Shell Canada Limited working on projects for Shell and its subsidiaries throughout the country. He founded Shieling Technologies with two partners in 1991 providing consulting services in environmental engineering and risk management to national and international clients. He was recruited by the Gemini Corporation of Calgary in 1997 into a senior project management role. Steve is a principal engineer with Gemini and also serves as a project advisor.

He is a former executive member of the Dalhousie University Alumni Association, volunteer in the mentoring program of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta, volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society and is a member of several professional, service, military and community and aviation organizations including the Canadian Owners' and Pilots' Association, the Royal Alberta United Services Institute, Royal Canadian Legion and the Air Force Association of Canada. He is a Past President of both 783 (Calgary) Wing and Alberta Group. He also served the association on its National Executive Council. Steve was highly honoured to receive the Meritorious Service Award from the association in 2009. He promotes the air force, air cadets and aviation wherever he can in his business and community involvement.

Although expensive, Steve still enjoys getting into the air as often as possible. In his down time, which is usually vacation time, he enjoys skiing, sailing, kayaking, history and music. His favourite author is Jack Higgins, his favourite actor is Michael Caine, his favourite actress is Meg Ryan, his favourite music is, well, "all music", and his favourite movie is still "Planes, Trains and Automobiles". On the cultural side, he and his wife Jane together enjoy Scottish Country Dancing and, in support to their daughters, are members of the Calgary Highland Dancing Association and the Canadian Parents for French. They reside in Calgary with their children Heather and Alyssa.

Although goals are most important in a happy and successful life, Steve has always found that the journey is much more fun and interesting than the destination. Happy trails!

OTHER NEWS

Memorandum of Understanding

A MoU with the Air Force Association for \$1000 for the Top 3 AB Cadets – 1st place - \$500, 2nd place - \$300, 3rd place - \$200. This MoU was signed by AB Prov. Committee Chairman Darlene LaRoche and Air Force Association Alberta Group President Gilles McDermott on April 16, 2011 at Edmonton AB. To view the MoU, please visit the Alberta Provincial Committee Air Cadet League of Canada's website. www.aircadetleague.ab.ca





His Excellency The Governor General – David Johnston, congratulating Edith McMinn for volunteering at The Military Museum – (background – Tom Doucette, Director The Military Museum, also attaché to the Governor General and retired RCAF officer, John Melbourne)



At the podium, Brigadier General Paul Wynnykm Commander of Land Forces Western Canada.

Standing right to left, Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Morrison, RCAF Edith McMinn, Navy Ian Christie and Army Ray Gilbert. We later accepted a citation for volunteering on behalf of all the volunteers.

Did you know that I have several photos and items in the display case at The Museum. I just happen to be there when they had just opened and mentioned that they didn't have much re: *The women*, and the curator said "no-one gave me anything", and I said - I have some "stuff" at home in my trunk. He said to bring it in right away. And that is the reason I am in the display. I volunteer there every Thursday afternoon and sometimes for special tours, eg: I gave one in French for students from Quebec City. I have to admit, I did my homework (out came the French dictionary.) I enjoy meeting people from all over the world, that's great!

Submitted by Edith McMinn

[Airwomen's 60th Anniversary – Reunion Edmonton, Alberta– June 2011](#)

Submitted by Edith McMinn

The Ex-Airwomen's Association of Edmonton, AB invited all Ex-Airwomen to join in the celebration of their 10th Reunion, held at the Radisson Hotel on June 3,4,5- 2011. We had 275 attendees that came from across Canada, Whitehorse Yukon and the United States.

The Reunion coincided with the Sixtieth Anniversary of Airwomen, who joined in 1951-2011. At that time we were known as Peacetime Airwomen, also at the Reunion, we had some Airwomen from WW II, they were known as WD's (Women's Division). At the banquet on Saturday night, they were recognized for their contribution to the war. The four from Calgary were Norma Cooke, Bunny Hall, Phyllis McNally, & Evelyn Saunders.

The Peacetime Ex-Airwomen from Calgary, that attended, are as follows – Marlene Gibbons, Glenys Goossens, Carney Henderson, Aleane Johnson, Lois Maxwell, Edith McMinn & Lorna Salter*(who was a founding member of our Calgary Club, but now lives in Summerland, BC.*)

The first Reunion, by The Peacetime Airwomen was organized in June 1990. It was held in Vancouver twice, then it followed every two or three years in the following cities – Ottawa, Kingston, Halifax, Edmonton (twice), Cornwall, Regina, & London. Calgary had a Women's Division and Airwomen's Reunion in 1988. Our next Reunion is in Cornwall, ON in June 2013. Our Hostesses provided us with brochures of Edmonton, photos & pins. Vests and T-Shirts with logo were made available for purchase as souvenirs. Also, in our gift bag we had a Nominal Roll of Airwomen names (last post & present); and other valuable information including, maiden names, course numbers, addresses, telephone numbers and emails.

The weekend passed very quickly. Our hostesses arranged for tours to The Edmonton Garrison, Canadian Forces Base; The Royal Alberta Museum and West Edmonton Mall. The high lite of weekend was our Saturday night banquet; it was nice to see some husbands who were brave enough to attend! Our guest speaker was Captain Mary-Frances Jasper (local gal). She spoke about her military career, and all the changes that have happened since women were in the Military. Later in the evening we were entertained by Comedian Zandra Bell – Her dialogue was called *At Wit's End*; Zandra has a flair for finding unexpected wit and humour in every situation.

Sunday morning dawned earlier than usual, maybe it was the late night! After breakfast we all attended Church Parade, as is custom at all our Reunions. Major (The Rev) Maude Parsons-Horst of the Edmonton Garrison led us in prayers and hymns. The closing hymn being, "*God be with you till we meet again*".



Aleane Johnson,
Joan Fancy, Edith
McMinn and Lois
Maxwell – June
2011



Evelyn Saunders,
Bunny Hall,
Phyliss McNally
and Norma
Cooke.

Alberta



Group

**Air Force Association
of Canada**

**L'Association des Forces
aeriennes du Canada**

Her Majesty the Queen

Patron

Sa Majeste la reine

27 June 2011

Dear RJ, Roe AB Group President

As you are aware I was present at the 4 Wing Change of Command for the Base Commander Col Wheeler and Chief Warrant Officer Dion This past June 24.

Col Wheeler is going to Ottawa to work alongside of Major Gen. Yvan Blondin, he is being replace by Col. Patrice Laroche.

CWO Mario Dion, I did not get a chance to talk to the gentleman and so do not know where he is going, he is being replace by CWO Helen Wheeler (no relation to the previous CO).

Short biography are attached

Sincerely,

Gilles McDermott
GIPP



CWO Helen Wheeler, Cd1

CWO Helen Wheeler was born in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. She enrolled in the Canadian Forces on 8 October 1981. Upon completion of recruit training in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia she has enjoyed a wide variety of postings in the Administration and RMS Occupations such as CFSAL Borden, CFSCE Kingston, Canadian Forces Station Barrington, NDHQ Ottawa with the Chief of Staff for Operations J3 followed by the Directorate of Protocol and Foreign Liaison, then off to the 1-year French language course. Shortly thereafter she joined the Chief of the Air Staff's Executive team for three years followed by two years with the Air Command CWO as his Executive Assistant. Although her career profile had been diverse to this point, it was time to reunite with her Bluenose roots in 2002, this time with the Navy at MARLANT Headquarters for one year and then with the Army at Land Force Atlantic Area Headquarters for 4 years which included a deployment to Bosnia, Herzegovina.

A promotion to CWO on 1 April 2007 led to a posting back to NDHQ Ottawa in DMCA (Director Military Careers and Administration), responsible for Terms of Service for the CF and at which time she also assumed the secondary duty of Occupation Manager/Senior Trade Advisor for the RMS Occupation and the role of DMCA CWO.

In August 2009, CWO Wheeler was posted to ADM (Fin CS) DG Fin Management as the Group CWO and retained the role of RMS Occupation Manager. In July 2010, she was posted to a Key Appointment in DGMP (Director General Military Personnel) as the Division CWO and NCM advisor on Personnel Management Strategies.

CWO Wheeler has benefited from a wide scope of experience from the Tactical to Strategic levels, in all three Environments and in positions within the Joint and Pan-CF domains.

CWO Wheeler will assume the responsibilities of 4 Wing Chief Warrant Officer in Cold Lake, Alberta on 24 June 2011.



Colonel Patrice Laroche, CD

Colonel Laroche joined the Canadian Forces in December 1987 and completed his flying training in April 1989. He was then assigned to Base Flight Cold Lake where he flew the CT-133 Silver Star until December 1990.

In January 1991, Colonel Laroche began his fighter conversion training on the CF-5 Freedom Fighter and CF-18 Hornet to join 433 Squadron in January 1992 upon completion of his training. He subsequently served three consecutive tours at 3 Wing Bagotville in various capacities at both the Captain and Major level at 3 Wing Operations and 425 Squadron. Promoted to Lieutenant-colonel in 2005, he returned for a fourth tour to 3 Wing Bagotville, this time as the Commanding Officer of the newly formed 425 Squadron merged with 433 Squadron.

During more than a decade on fighters, Colonel Laroche has completed a multitude of tactical courses to include the Fighter Weapons, Fighter Electronic Warfare and Instrument Check Pilot courses. His operational experience includes combat missions and three operational tours at Aviano airbase in Italy in 1998, 1999 and 2000 as part of operations DELIBERATE FORGE and ALLIED FORCE. He also took part in NORAD's operation NOBLE EAGLE in the aftermath of 9/11. Over these years, he has accumulated over 2800 flying hours of which over 1800 hours on the Hornet.

Colonel Laroche's staff experience includes three years at NORAD HQ in Colorado Springs from 2002 to 2005 where he held various positions to include Executive Assistance to Deputy Commander NORAD. In 2007, he was assigned the position of Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2009, he was promoted to his current rank and assigned to Ramstein, Germany as the Head of the Tactical Evaluation Division at the Allied Air Component Command Headquarters and subsequently as the Chief Air Liaison.

Colonel Laroche is a graduate of the USAF Air Command and Staff College and USAF Air War College as well as holds a Bachelors degree in Military Arts and Science from the Royal Military College in Kingston.

Col Laroche enjoys running, sailing, golfing and skiing in his spare time. He is married to Anne and is the proud father of Natacha and Matthew.