

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



783 (CALGARY) WING

October 2013 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – Monday, November 26th, 2013, at 7 pm

Next AGM – Monday, June 23rd, 2014 (follows Wing meeting)

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EXTRACTS FROM WING REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

From September 23rd, 2013 Wing Meeting at Horton Road Legion

Main Reports

President's Report

President Dave reminded us of where the words to our 'Act of Remembrance' came from. The poem 'For The Fallen' was written by Robert Laurence Binyon [1869-1943] in England in 1914 shortly after the Retreat from Mons in WW 1. We use the 4th verse for remembrance:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We Will Remember Them.

Correspondence

Several letters were received thanking 783 Wing for generous donations and support. These included 604 Moose Squadron (2013 Tattoo) and the new 952 'WestJet' Sqn RCAC. We also received an invitation from Juno Beach Academy to their Remembrance ceremony at Queen's Park Cemetery.

Committee Reports

Membership

Currently at 136 Regular and 5 Life Members (total of 141) This includes 2 new Members and 2 MALs.

Other Business

Battle of Britain

Kenn Nixon thanked his co-workers for a very successful 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain (see Event Photos). Steve MacDonnell, will be in charge of next year's parade.

National AGM

Proxy forms were filled in to fulfil the '*every member having a vote*' precept.

NOTICES

Wing Members in need of Encouragement

If you know of any wing members who are sick or need encouragement, let us know. We can send them a card from the Wing or visit with them.

Call Edith McMinn at **(403) 242-2417**

Save your Stamps!

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

Moved? New Phone or Email? Know someone who wants to join as a member?

Contact Anna Lewis (Membership):

Address: #783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA
c/o Anna Lewis,
271-78 Ave NE,
Calgary, AB T2K 0R5

Phone: (403) 730-8969

Email: bandalewis@shaw.ca

Volunteers needed

285 Legion Liaison

783 Wing urgently needs a volunteer to act as Liaison to 285 Legion. We need a keen individual who can keep the Wing updated on Legion events and functions. 285 Legion – Horton Road graciously provides us with meeting and display space. Contact Dave Watson or Pat Sulek if you can help!

Air Force Museum Society of Alberta

The Museum needs Tour Guides. Consider volunteering. Contact Kenn Nixon or airforce.museum.ab@gmail.com for more information.

The AFMSA website is <http://rcaf.museum/>

Calgary Military Family Resource Centre

The CMRFC is always looking for volunteers to help support the families of active service members in the area. They need help with Activities, Events, Workshops and their Keeping in Touch program. For details on volunteering with the MFRC, email audra.demolitor@calgarymfrc.ca, sign up online at www.familyforce.ca or call the MFRC Office at (403) 410-2320 extension 3590.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Wing Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm!

No meetings will be held in July, August or December.

Meetings are at 1900 hrs at the #285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, at 9202 Horton Road SW. Members may enjoy dinner at #285 Legion before Wing meetings. Last call for the kitchen is around 18:15 hrs.

All members are encouraged to attend Wing Meetings to find out what's going on and have input into the Wing decisions and activities. Summer dress attire is from May 1 to Sept 30.

November 11, 2013 Remembrance Day Celebrations

Calling all Wing members, friends and family.

Plan to attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Mewata Armory. Be seated by 10:30 am.

A reception will be held upstairs in the Dining Room following the Service for all dignitaries and Wing members. Children are discouraged from attending the reception as it is a mess function.

Plenty of parking at the old car lot across the street (North side of 9th Ave).

November 15, 2013 Wing Pre-Christmas Party

Blackfoot Inn at 6:00 pm for Cocktails with Dinner at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$25.00 each. Call Bev Spielman for additional information.

November 17 & 18, 2013 783 Wing Casino at the Deerfoot

All volunteers should report to the Deerfoot Casino as advised. Check with Peggy McAllister.

November 26, 2013 783 Calgary Wing Monthly Meeting

Meeting at the Horton Road Legion at 7 pm.

November 30, 2013 Rosebud Theatre Tour

Join us for Lunch and *"It's a Wonderful Life, the Radio Play"* in scenic Rosebud!

Bus departs Horton Road Legion. ETD is 9:30 am. Call Pat Sulek for additional information.

December 30 & 31, 2013 Military Museum Casino at Elbow River

The museum needs volunteers at the Elbow River Casino. Check with Kenn Nixon

January 27, 2013 783 Calgary Wing Monthly Meeting

Meeting at the Horton Road Legion at 7 pm.

SOMETHING NEW TO REPORT? DATE MISSING? WRONG INFORMATION? LET US KNOW!

LAST POST

McLEISH, Neil



We are sad to announce that former Wing member, Neil McLeish, passed away on August 12, 2013, at the age of 98. Neil was born on a dairy farm near Oak Lake, Manitoba on April 3, 1915. He had a very happy childhood with his family. He met his wife of sixty-two years, Vera Smeltz, in Oak Lake when she went to board with her sister while going to high school. Neil loves to tell the story of seeing her outside of the General Store. His friend asked him if he knew who the new girl was and if he had met her. Neil answered: "I haven't met her but I know that she is Myrtle's sister and I'm going to marry her someday". Neil was overseas for every day of WWII serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force and, when he came home, they married and lived a happy life together. Neil stayed in the R.C.A.F. after the war and was very proud of his twenty-six years' service to our country. Vera and Neil moved all over Canada and England with their two children, Dennis and Wendy, during his career. They led a very exciting life. After Neil's retirement from the R.C.A.F., in 1964, they settled in Calgary and he went to work for the City of Calgary as a supervisor of golf courses until he retired at age sixty-five. Their son, Dennis, died from leukemia in 1977 and this was the greatest tragedy in their lives. They both took wonderful care of Dennis while he was sick and they did their best to help him to die peacefully. Shortly after Dennis's death, the births of Neil's granddaughters, Jennifer and Sarah, helped Neil have joy in his life again. Jen and Sarah are missing their Grandpa terribly. Neil's daughter, Wendy, and son-in-law, Darrel, also survive Neil and are so sad about his death. Neil's life-time love, Vera, died in 2007 and Neil missed her for the rest of his life. His family thanks all of the many, many friends and relatives who faithfully visited Neil over the years and made his life full and fun. If desired, donations may be made in Neil's name to the SPCA.

Neil had been a member of 783 Wing since 1968. He will be missed.

EVENTS AND PHOTOS

Battle of Britain Parade 2013

The Annual Battle of Britain Parade co-sponsored by the Air Force Museum of Alberta and the 783 Calgary Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association was a great success again this year. Our Chaplain for the past ten years, Major (Ret'd) Eric Haffenden, was our Guest of Honour this year. There were about 180 Air Cadets from the city Squadrons on Parade as well as approximately 40 dignitaries, 30 representatives (from various Legions and Air Crew Association) and some two hundred spectators on hand to enjoy a beautiful September day.



Air Cadets Remember



Veterans Observe



Veterans Lead the Parade



Reverend Eric Haffenden
Col (Ret'd) Don Matthews



Members 783 Calgary Wing RCAFA

Courtesy of the Air Force Museum of Alberta (rcmf.museum)

Rest are taboo and the last is R.J. Roe laying wreath at peace keeper in August .
Anna Lewis at peace keepers and the flag party at peace keepers are reserved according to the boss.

Wing Awards

The President awarded Long Service pins to members Gerry Morrison, Ian Morgan, Mike Ricketts, Joanna Howard and Ron Howard. He congratulated all on their years of membership in our Wing and the RCAF Association.



Gerry Morrison – 30 year Service Pin



Ian Morgan – 5 year Service Pin



Mike Ricketts – 20 year Service Pin



Johanna Howard – 25 year Service Pin



Ron Howard – 25 year Service Pin

Swearing-In Ceremony

As Keith Mann and Randy Fisher were not able to attend our AGM on 24th June, 2013, our President took this opportunity to welcome and swear both in as Members of the Board of 783 (Calgary) Wing, RCAF Association; Keith as Past President and Randy as 2nd Vice President.



Randy Fisher and Keith Mann swearing in for Randy (2nd Vice) and Keith (IPP)

Tribute to Gordon Jones - High River

At the September meeting, Grant Whitson reviewed the illustrious Air Force career of Gordon Jones, of High River, who passed away on September 20th.



Gordon Jones was born in Bangor, Saskatchewan in 1923. The year was 1941 and Jones, then 18 years old, came to the EFTS Flying School north of High River. It would be his first contact with flying and he received his wings.

After finishing his training in Fort Macleod, Jones was stationed at the school as a flight instructor from 1942 until its closure in November of 1944. As an instructor with the British Commonwealth Air Training, Jones trained hundreds of pilots on the Tiger Moth aircraft—who would then graduate to the bombers.

The WWII flying instructor purchased a Tiger Moth in 1967, similar to the one he trained in.

"It's the one that was used as an elementary trainer so it was very important during the war," he said. "Almost everyone started out when they learned to fly on the Tiger Moth and then they expanded it to larger airplanes as they went along."

Jones attended several fly-in events and his Tiger Moth was always a hit among pilots and spectators.



Gordon Jones' much-admired Tiger Moth was among dozens of aircraft to land on the airstrip at the AJ Flying Ranch northeast of Nanton before enthusiastic crowds at the Joe English Memorial Fly-In on July 27th 2013. Jones had attended the event since its inception in 2001.



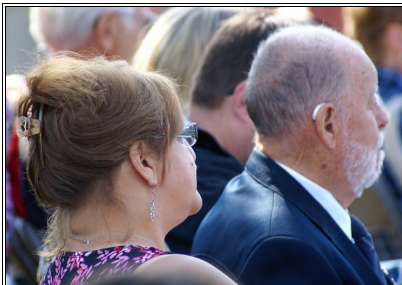
The Fly-In was named for the late Joe English, a Nanton Lancaster pilot who had a vision to host a fly-in in the area. He worked with the Bomber Command Museum of Canada and the AJ Flying Ranch to see his dream become a reality.

Seventy years after, Jones was still flying his Tiger Moth CIX, one of the same models he used to train pilots on during the war.

Today, Jones' Tiger Moth aircraft, which he had used to soar through the clouds, will be a resident of the Nanton Bomber

Command Museum.

Other Photos



783 Wing Members at the Peacekeepers Parade

RECIPE SWAP

Pumpkin Quesadillas

The Great Pumpkin goes Mexican!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups canned pure pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 8 8 inch flour tortillas
- 4 oz. goat cheese, crumbled
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil



DIRECTIONS

- In a bowl, stir pumpkin and cumin; season.
- Spread over 4 tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese and nuts.
- Top with remaining tortillas.
- In large skillet, heat 1 tbsp. oil over medium-low.
- Cook quesadillas 1 at a time, turning once and adding more oil between batches, until browned, 3 minutes.
- Cut into wedges.

Makes 4 servings.

Courtesy of RachaelRayMag.com

COMEDY CORNER

A Question of Nonsense

- Q. Did you hear what happened to the Energizer Bunny?
A. He got arrested for Battery.
- Q. What is the difference between a school teacher and a train?
A. The teacher says "spit your gum out" and the train says "chew, chew, chew".
- Q. How do crazy people go through the forest?
A. They take the psycho path.
- Q. How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
A. With a pumpkin patch
- Q. What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter?
A. Pumpkin Pi
- Q. What's worse than Ants in your Pants?
A. Uncles!

Why Old Men Don't Get Hired

Job interview:

HR Manager: "What is your greatest weakness?"

Old man: "Honesty."

HR Manager: "I don't think honesty is a weakness."

Old Man: "I don't really give a sh** what you think."

Deep Thoughts

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." *Groucho Marx*

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night." *Steve Martin*

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." *Mark Twain*

"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by." *Douglas Adams*

"If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself." *Albert Einstein*

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain." *Bob Marley*

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." *Charles M. Schulz*

"The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it." *Terry Pratchett*

"Life's hard. It's even harder when you're stupid." *John Wayne*

"Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight." *Phyllis Diller*

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." *Maya Angelou*

Letter from the Editor

Greetings to all.

Summer behind us, the balance of the year is all about decorating, celebrating and eating. And let us not forget all of those who cannot share these events with us but made it all possible.

November is a very busy month. Remembrance Day, Casino, Christmas and a Rosebud Tour to boot! Get your sleep while you can because December is usually worse...

Cheers, Thom Gordon

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