

# ***ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION***



***783 (CALGARY) WING***

**December 2014 NEWSLETTER**

***Next Meeting – Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7 pm***

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

President	Pat Sulek	403-238-7311	<a href="mailto:psulek@shaw.ca">psulek@shaw.ca</a>
First Vice-President	Randy Fisher	403-474-4136	<a href="mailto:randyfisher@shaw.ca">randyfisher@shaw.ca</a>
Second Vice-President	Ron Howard	403-983-5796	<a href="mailto:jph-rbh@shaw.ca">jph-rbh@shaw.ca</a>
Treasurer	Kenn Nixon	403-238-7311	<a href="mailto:kbnixon@shaw.ca">kbnixon@shaw.ca</a>
Secretary	Joanna Howard	403-983-5796	<a href="mailto:jph-rbh@shaw.ca">jph-rbh@shaw.ca</a>
Membership	Anna Lewis	403-730-8969	<a href="mailto:bandalewis@shaw.ca">bandalewis@shaw.ca</a>
<sup>N</sup> Immediate Past President	Dave Watson	403-249-5764	<a href="mailto:daveandbettyw@shaw.ca">daveandbettyw@shaw.ca</a>
<sup>N</sup> Honorary President	Col. (Ret'd) Don Matthews	403-288-5526	<a href="mailto:crosswind@shaw.ca">crosswind@shaw.ca</a>
<sup>N</sup> Past Presidents Chair	Bev Spielman	403-253-6297	<a href="mailto:bspelman@telus.net">bspelman@telus.net</a>

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Sergeant at Arms	Art Hill	403-289-0062	
Newsletter Editor	Thom Gordon	403-668-8886	<a href="mailto:tgordon@iterstar.ca">tgordon@iterstar.ca</a>
Casino Chair	Peggy McAllister	403-295-2855	<a href="mailto:peggy.mcallister@shaw.ca">peggy.mcallister@shaw.ca</a>
Sick and Welfare	Edith McMinn	403-242-2417	<a href="mailto:EdithMcM@shaw.ca">EdithMcM@shaw.ca</a>
Air Cadet Liaison	Brian Lewis	403-730-8969	<a href="mailto:bandalewis@shaw.ca">bandalewis@shaw.ca</a>
Public Relations	Brian Lewis	403-730-8969	<a href="mailto:bandalewis@shaw.ca">bandalewis@shaw.ca</a>
Entertainment	Lorne Fleming	403-932-5106	<a href="mailto:lornefleming10@hotmail.com">lornefleming10@hotmail.com</a>
285 Legion Liaison	Lorne Fleming	403-932-5106	<a href="mailto:lornefleming10@hotmail.com">lornefleming10@hotmail.com</a>

*Non-elected positions are signified by prefix (eg. <sup>N</sup> Past Presidents Chair)*

## Newsletter Index

• Extracts from Wing Reports and Presentations	Page 3
• Main Reports	Page 3
• Committee Reports	Page 3
• Other Business	Page 4
• Calendar of Events	Page 5
• Notices	Page 5
• Awards, Events and Photos	Page 6
• The Last Post	Page 7
• Comedy Corner	Page 9
• Recipe Swap	Page 11
• Letter from the Editor	Page 11

## EXTRACTS FROM WING REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

*From November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Wing Meeting at Horton Road Legion*

### Main Reports

#### ***President's Report***

Pat Sulek highlighted the Nov 1st Kick Off for the Poppy Campaign in Chinook Centre, Nov 11th services at Mewata Armouries, our Christmas Party Nov 14, 2014 at the Hotel Blackfoot, and the fact that both she and Kenn Nixon were able to present a cheque to the 285 Legion (which was much appreciated).

#### ***Correspondence***

Betty Watson read letters from #264 Kensington Legion, Calgary Health Trust and Alberta Cancer Foundation.

#### ***Treasurer's Report***

Kenn Nixon presented the current Treasurer Reports.

### Committee Reports

#### ***Membership***

Anna Lewis reported 124 members +7 Life members = 131 members. She also mentioned that James Nicholson had passed away (see The Last Post).

**Past President's**

Bev Spielman re-iterated the need for input with regard to Wing awards, and also that Group is looking for nominations for Group executive positions.

**Sick and Welfare**

Edith McMinn reported that she'd sent 14 birthday cards, and also gave an update on Dot Deines who is home and doing well.

**AFMSA - Military Museum**

Grant Whitson reported that there was a sneak peek at the F-104 and F-18 on November 11th and many folks are excited for the exhibit to be open full-time.

**Other Business****Old Business**

Pat Sulek presented Randy's impression of his 1<sup>st</sup> RCAFA Annual General Meeting. Some resolutions which were presented were:

1. To have a resolution committee at Wing levels.
2. Wing resolution sent to Group Committee to vet, make sure it will involve ALL wings across Canada, (not just at Wing level).
3. Group to send off resolutions in a timely fashion.
4. NEC to go over resolution prior to the AGM to make sure it is appropriate and applies to the RCAFA as a whole.

There have been a few resolutions in the past that did not pass the NEC as they are pertaining to specific Wings and not the Association as a whole...and also resolutions have been sent in way past the due date and NEC is unable to go over it prior to the AGM.

**New Business**

Randy Fisher proposed a contribution toward cost of repairs for the Warrants and Sergeants Mess at the Mewata Armoury. They are in a dire need of repair. Projected costs to date \$35,000. Since this facility is used by many cadet units and they support our Remembrance Day Services, a donation was approved subject to an Approved Plan being provided to us for the repairs needed.

Bob Clark indicated that our contingency letter must be corrected before National AGM Bylaws can be passed. National AGM Bylaws have 2 years to submit.

Peggy McAllister will arrange to have the ribbons on the Wreaths used for November 11<sup>th</sup> ceremonies changed to read Royal Canadian Air Force Association.

Pat Sulek asked members regarding interest in 75th Anniversary Coin for the Battle of Britain at \$13 each. Tabled for discussion at January meeting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**General Wing Meetings are 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 1815 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.

**January 24, 2015**

**Honorary Robbie Burns Dinner and Dance**

Kicking off at 5:00 pm at the Horton Road Legion.  
Highland Outfit, Mess Dress or Equivalent. \$40 per person.  
Call Dusty at 403-615-3991 before Jan 21 for tickets.

**January 26, 2015**

**783 Calgary Wing Monthly Meeting**

Starts at 7:00 pm at the Horton Road Legion

**February 23, 2015**

**783 Calgary Wing Monthly Meeting**

Starts at 7:00 pm at the Horton Road Legion

**March 23, 2015**

**783 Calgary Wing Monthly Meeting**

Starts at 7:00 pm at the Horton Road Legion

**May 20, 2015**

**AeroSpace Museum Dinner**

No details yet available

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

## 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 bring or mail any used stamps to Marion for donation to the Alberta Cancer Society.

Attn: Marion Mascaro, #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 (783 Wing Membership)  
271-78 Ave NE, Calgary, AB T2K 0R5

Phone: (403) 730-8969  
Email: [bandalewis@shaw.ca](mailto:bandalewis@shaw.ca)

### ***Volunteers needed***

#### **Air Force Museum Society of Alberta**

The Museum needs Tour Guides. Consider volunteering. Contact Kenn Nixon or [airforce.museum.ab@gmail.com](mailto:airforce.museum.ab@gmail.com) for more information. Website is <http://rcaf.museum/>

## AWARDS, EVENTS AND PHOTOS

### ***Special Awards from National for 783 Wing Members***



Once again, the Air Force Association of Canada have recognized the outstanding contributions of 783 Wing members in their service to the association.

Specifically, Grant Whitson for his Long and Faithful Service and Kenn Nixon for his Meritorious Service.

In addition, Art Hill has achieved his 50 year mark with the Association.

Congratulations, Gentlemen.



### ***Remembrance Day – November 11, 2014***

2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the Armistice that began Remembrance day. The events this year were all very well attended this year. The recent attacks in Ottawa and Montreal . The murders of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Cpl. Nathan Cirillo on Canadian soil have highlighted the cost of peace for many.

For many civilians, this will be a year to remember like never before

The dedications and speeches at Mewata Armouries were extremely moving this year. . The increased security did nothing to keep crowds away. In fact, there were more than ever.



*Remembrance Pillow – Photo by Irénée Rutema*

### ***Horton Road Legion – November 20, 2014***

Pat Sulek and Kenn Nixon presented a donation to 285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on behalf of 783 Wing (Calgary).

We all owe thanks and appreciation to the Horton Road Legion for all the support they have provided over the years to 783 Wing as well as the many veterans who live in and visit the Calgary area.



### **Wing Christmas Party – November 14, 2014**

Another prize-winning 783 Wing Christmas Party. For once, the weather cooperated and fun was had by all.

The highlight of the evening was the “Leg-Match” game. Eight brave souls bared their ankles and calves to challenge us all to recognize them from the ground up. The ladies were delighted. There were a few surprises and even a wife or two got it wrong!

The food, as usual was spectacular and no-one went away the least bit hungry. Gifts and prizes were plentiful and everyone left with some booty. Many thanks, once again to our relentless organizers for a job well done.



### **Rosebud Theatre Trip – November 29, 2014**

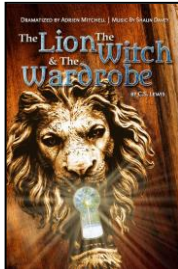


36 brave souls came out on a very frosty day to join us on our tour to Rosebud Theatre. It was quite a beautiful day... clear skies, but very cold, and the roads were in terrible condition from the snow storm the night before. Terry was our driver (and a very experienced one at that) and we all arrived safely at our destination.



We had a yummy buffet brunch, went shopping (of course), and then off to the play. And what a play it was!!!! We all agree that it was the best play we have seen at Rosebud. We all got back on the bus for Calgary, well fed and well entertained, and looking forward to another trip to Rosebud same time next year.

*Courtesy of Pat Sulek*



## **THE LAST POST**

### **James Alfred NICHOLSON**

James Alfred NICHOLSON passed away peacefully at the Foothills Hospital on October 27, 2014 at the age of 80. James was predeceased by his parents William and Bella Nicholson as well as his son Mike Nicholson. James is survived by his loving wife Rosalina and his two children Cathy Reschke and Dave Nicholson. He was predeceased by his parents James W. and Bella L. Nicholson as well as siblings Mary Coffin and Joe Nicholson. James was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1933. He led an active life including time spent as a Navigator in the Air Force in France where he flew the CF-100. James eventually settled in Calgary where he worked at Canadian Occidental. His work took him all over the world including postings in the Netherlands and Yemen.





## Marjorie ROE

*from RJ (Robert) Roe*

To my extended family of the Air Force Association:

It is with much sorrow that I announce the passing of Marjorie, the love of my life. Marj, passed away at 6 am on Tuesday, Nov 25, after 8 days on Life support in Lougheed Hospital. This was the 3rd hospital admittance since 01 Sep.



Marj was confined at home at the end of Sep. on Oxygen 24-7 and had to sleep in a lazy boy as she could not breathe well in the inclined or horizontal position. Her demise was due to terminal cancer (diagnosed at the end of Jan. of this year). The Cancer had progressed to her Liver. The stress on her organ functions brought about congestive heart failure.

Marj was never a Member of the Association, although she had made many friends within the Association through social activities combined with my near 50 years of activities in the Association at Wings, Groups and National functions from coast to coast of Canada. Hence, I refer to all of you as our **extended family!**

There will not be a Funeral service and her body will be cremated on Friday. Our girls are planning to have a family memorial service at the top of Mount Revelstoke in the spring, and release her ashes. Marj grew up in Revelstoke on the family farm which is now a subdivided part of the City known as Big Eddy, between the River and the railroad tracks, on the west side of the City. Marj spent many hours in her youth, visiting and playing on Mount Revelstoke and the girls thought that would be a fine tribute to mother, in her memory.

We appreciate the thoughts and prayers from our extended family (RCAFA) closer to home that have been more familiar with the decline in Marj's health condition. She mentioned to me just the other day, quoting one of our favourite celebrities:

**Thanks for the memories!**

*(the late Bob Hope)*

## John "Sam" MCGEE

JOHN "SAM" MCGEE, beloved husband of the late Elsie McGee, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 15, 2014 at the age of 95, having lived a good long life.

John was born in Scotland on August 20, 1919. At the age of 10, his family moved to Canada, and settled in Hamilton, Ontario. John joined the RCAF in 1942 and arrived in England in 1943. He flew with the RAF until the end of WWII.



After the war, he became one of the first helicopter pilots in the RCAF, flying helicopters and bush planes on Search and Rescue duties in the Yukon. During that time, he married May Docherty, and together they had three sons. He retired from the RCAF in 1964, and moved his family to Lethbridge. John worked for Canada Post as a letter carrier in Lethbridge for many years. He met and married Elsie Litle in 1972.

After retiring, John and Elsie spent several years camping, travelling and enjoying family and friends. John is survived by his sons Michael, Kevin (Norma) and Daniel (Kiyomi) and their children and grandchildren. He also leaves behind the large extended family of the Litle clan from Fort MacLeod, as well as many nephews and nieces. John was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Jane, his 10 siblings, his first wife, May Docherty in 1960, and his second wife, Elsie Litle, in 2001.

In lieu of flowers, take your loved ones out for dinner, and share a few corny jokes. That is what Sam would have wanted.



## COMEDY CORNER

### ***Salesmanship***

A young man from North Dakota moved to Florida and went to a big "everything under one roof" department store looking for a job.

The Manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?"

The kid says "Yeah, I was a vacuum salesman back in North Dakota."

Well, the boss was unsure, but liked the kid and figured he'd give him a shot. "You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close to see how you did."

His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down to the sales floor. "How many customers bought something from you today?" he asked.

The kid frowned and looking at the floor muttered, "One."

The boss exclaimed, "Just One?!? Our sales people average sales to 20 or 30 customers a day. That will have to change and soon, if you'd like to continue your employment here. We have very strict standards for our sales force here in Florida. One sale a day might have been acceptable in North Dakota, but you're not on the farm anymore, son."

The kid took his beating, but continued to look at his shoes, so the boss felt kinda bad for chewing him out on the first day. He asked (semi-sarcastically), "So, how much was your one sale for?"

The kid looked up and the boss and said, "\$101,237.65."

The boss gasped, "\$101 thousand dollars! What the heck did you sell?"

The kid said, "Well, first, I sold him some new fish hooks. Then I sold him a new fishing rod to go with his new hooks. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat. We went down to the boat department and I sold him a twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition."

The boss said, "A guy came in here to buy fishing hooks and you sold him a boat and TRUCK!?"

"No," said the kid, "He came in to buy tampons for his wife, and I said, 'Dude, your weekend's shot, you should go fishin'."

### ***Air Traffic Control Exchange***

**Tower:** "TWA 2341, for noise reduction, turn right 45 Degrees"

**TWA 2341:** "Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"

**Tower:** "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

### ***Breakfast Time***

She was standing in the kitchen, preparing our usual soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, wearing only the T-Shirt that she normally slept in. As I walked in, almost awake, she turned to me and said softly, "You've got to make love to me this very moment"

My eyes lit up as I thought, "I am either still dreaming or this is going to be my lucky day"

Not wanting to lose the moment, I embraced her and then gave it my all; right there on the kitchen table.

Afterwards she said, "Thanks," and returned to the stove, her T-shirt still around her neck.

Happy, but a little puzzled, I asked, "What was that about?"

She explained, "The EGG TIMER'S broken"

## **A True Love Story**

An 89 year old woman was arrested for shoplifting.

When she went before the judge in Cincinnati, he asked her, "What did you steal?"

She replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can and she replied, "6."

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something on his wife's behalf. The judge asked, "What is it?"

The husband glanced at his wife and then said, "She also stole a can of peas."

## **A Little Common Sense from an Old Cowboy ...**

*(courtesy of Michael Traveler)*

- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
- Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
- Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.
- Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

## **Artistic Value**

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings on display at that time.

"I have good news and bad news," the owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman asked about your work and wondered if it would go up in value after your death. When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings."

"That's wonderful," the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?"

The gallery owner replied, "He was your doctor."

## RECIPE SWAP

### Soft Beer Pretzels

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 bottle (12 ounces) amber beer **or nonalcoholic beer**
- 1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 4 to 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 10 cups water
- 2/3 cup baking soda

#### TOPPING:

- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tablespoon water
- Coarse salt



#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a small saucepan, heat beer to 110°-115°; remove from heat. Stir in yeast until dissolved. In a large bowl, combine butter, sugar, 1-1/2 teaspoons salt, yeast mixture and 3 cups flour; beat on medium speed until smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky).
2. Turn dough onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.
3. Preheat oven to 425°. Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide and shape into eight balls. Roll each into a 24-in. rope. Curve ends of each rope to form a circle; twist ends once and lay over opposite side of circle, pinching ends to seal.
4. In a Dutch oven, bring water and baking soda to a boil. Drop pretzels, two at a time, into boiling water. Cook 30 seconds. Remove with a slotted spoon; drain well on paper towels.
5. Place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. In a small bowl, whisk egg yolk and water; brush over pretzels. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to a wire rack to cool. Yield: 8 pretzels.

## Letter from the Editor

Greetings to all.

Good grief time flies, whether you are having fun or not! I hoped to have this out more than a month ago but was waiting on the November minutes to launch into action. They got lost in the Email!

I certainly hope that Christmas has been good to everyone. As usual, I consumed too much and was busy visiting friends, family and partying down! It seems we all took turns being sick this past month.

Lorie and I finally completed our 8-year renovation project and put our house on the market. The acreages market is VERY slow so not much has been happening. It could take a year or two, based on others in the area. Meanwhile, we are biding our time. No concrete plans as Lorie is still working and I am still looking. Unfortunately there are not many companies hiring these days. Fingers crossed.

Happy New Year to all and, for goodness sake, stay healthy. *Per Ardua Ad Astra, Thom Gordon*