

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



***783 (CALGARY) WING***

**December 2015 NEWSLETTER**

***First Meeting in 2016 –January 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Wing Meets every fourth Monday at 285 Legion – Horton Road 7PM***



<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Pat Sulek
<b>HONOURARY PRESIDENT</b>	Col. (Ret'd) Don Matthews
<b>IMM PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Dave Watson
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Keith Mann
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Bernie Gibbons
<b>TREASURER</b>	Kenn Nixon
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Joanna Howard
<b>PAST PRESIDENTS CHAIR</b>	Bev Spielman
<b>CASINO MANAGER</b>	Peggy McAllister
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>	Pat Sulek
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Anna Lewis
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>	Bev Spielman
<b>SICK &amp; WELFARE</b>	Edith McMinn
<b>SERGEANT AT ARMS</b>	Art Hill
<b>AIR CADET LIAISON</b>	Doug Eaglesham
<b>285 LEGION LIAISON</b>	Kenn Nixon
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Bob Wade

### **NEWSLETTER**

Welcome everyone to the first edition of the newsletter being written by two new editors. We thank Thom Gordon for all his hard work and expertise in creating such a wonderful bulletin in the past. His will be pretty big shoes (pun intended) for Sue and I to fill. However, off we go.

Since volunteering to take on this position, the Wing has been very busy providing us with lots of material to report on. There has been a flurry of activity over the summer, starting with our Stampede Breakfast. It was well attended, everyone enjoyed good food and good fellowship. We were pleased to have Vice President South Ray Elphick and his wife Suzanne, along with 703 Wing President Al Low and wife Marion join us.

The Peace Keepers Parade saw Moe Hanberg and Kenn Nixon carry the colours while other members watched President Pat Sulek lay a wreath in remembrance. A march followed to Buffalo Park where Moe Hanberg also laid a wreath.

The Wing's first meeting was held in September and the new executive got right down to business. With Pat Sulek in the chair, Keith Mann backing her up as first vice and Gerry Gibbons as second vice, we are well underway.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well hello everyone, and welcome back to our newsletter. A huge thank you to Bev Spielman and Sue Clarke, for taking on the task of providing the Wing Newsletter.

The Wing has been very busy since our start-up in September. Between the Battle of Britain, Remembrance Day, Christmas Party and the Rosebud trip there has been lots for Wing members to partake in. My thanks to all the organizers of the committees for their expertise in making sure all of these events were carried out with a minimum of effort (so it looks like) but truly takes a lot of time, effort and plain hard work to achieve the professional results. I would like to mention all of them, but we don't have enough space, so just let me say to the committee chairs, Steve MacDonnell (Battle of Britain) Kenn Nixon, Anna Lewis, Doug Eaglesham (Remembrance Day), Bev and Sue (Christmas Party) and for the Special Event coordinator (who would that be) for Rosebud Tour.

As we move forward into the new year, I must mention, that as I look around our meeting each month, we are in need of new members to continue our legacy at 783 Wing. Most of our active members have held many different director/executive positions over the years, and we need some younger people to carry on. So I am asking each of you to look around, and see if there are people you feel would enjoy joining our band of "merry men and women" so that our great heritage can continue. I know there are many younger people out there that are not aware they can join our organization. It is up to us to encourage and foster their interest. All they need is an interest in the Air element, and want to be part of such a great, active Wing. Think about it and tell your friends, family etc. what a wonderful group they can belong to.

I am wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,  
Pat Sulek – President.

### Poppy Fund Presentation

Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup> President Pat went to the Poppy Fund office to make a presentation to Joey Bleviss on behalf of the Wing, of two scooters for the use of needy veterans. These scooters will assist those with mobility issues to get around easier. In return we received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of Support.



Anna and Brian Lewis are very proud of son Brandon (Wing member) who was accepted into the Regular Force, where he took his basic training at St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. He had the honor of being the flag party commander at the graduation. Brandon also received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal from Prince Edward. According to Brian, Brandon had the shiniest boots on parade. Since then, Brandon has received his warning orders and will be assisting in the humanitarian effort for Syria. We all wish him a successful deployment and a safe return home.



Next on the agenda, Battle of Britain. Again, this was a most memorable service and is done with much dignity. There was a very large turnout for the parade and the veterans' flight marched proudly, supported by cadets from 538, 604, 781, 83 with the Cadet band. This is a very moving ceremony and is vital to teach the younger generation about the history of the RCAF. Thanks to the Committee headed by Steve MacDonnell, for a fine show.

The Remembrance Day ceremony which is held in the Mewata Armouries on November 11 is an event that no one should miss. Because of the dedication of the committee, it runs like clockwork. It was estimated there was close to One Thousand in attendance, which included members, cadets, officers, invited guests and the general public. Well done to all who had a part in this.



Very poignant moment with Capt. Randy Fisher, being accompanied by WO1 Mark Fisher, laying a wreath.

The Wing Christmas party was well attended, and even though Santa was a no-show, he made sure he left presents and prize for everyone. Steve and Jane MacDonell brought their two daughters Heather and Alyssa to entertain us with Highland Dancing.



Again the Blackfoot Inn provided us with a fantastic venue, great service and wonderful food.

As it was announced at the party, the two elves (Bev and Sue) are hanging up their workshop tools and passing the torch to new organizers. We have done this party for close to 18 years, even though we hate to give up, new ideas and new people will make sure the event carries on.



**Canada's forgotten Cold Warriors - Article by former CDS Paul Manson  
Contributed to The Globe and Mail - Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015**

The federal election campaign, coupled with recent compelling reporting in The Globe and Mail about Canada's military veterans, has stimulated welcome – and much-needed – discussion about our veterans and the ways in which they are treated.

But references in two recent and otherwise thoughtful articles follow a disturbing pattern. One article, which included tallies from Veterans Affairs Canada, referred to “685,300 Canadian veterans: 75,900 from the Second World War, 9,100 from the Korean War, and 600,300 from subsequent peacekeeping missions and conflicts, including at least 40,000 younger Afghanistan war vets.” Another opinion article took up the same theme, referring to Canadian casualties in the First and Second World Wars, Korea, Afghanistan, and “numerous United Nations peacekeeping assignments.”

Stunningly absent from both accounts is even the slightest mention of what was by far Canada's most important military activity since 1945: Our contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) in the Cold War, from 1950 to 1990. It was a massive commitment. Several hundred thousand Canadian military members served in the vital cause of deterring Soviet aggression, thereby joining Canada's allies in preventing the outbreak of a third world war and the nuclear holocaust that would have ensued.

And our Canadian soldiers, sailors, and air officers were good. At one point, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, an American, told me, “You Canadians set the standard in NATO.” We were well-trained, well-equipped, and superbly motivated. In spite of unique organizational challenges, we earned great respect from our allies. Our small but powerful mechanized brigade in West Germany was an elite force, given the toughest assignments. Our air force, both in NORAD and in Europe, won numerous competitions, especially with the Canadian-built and -powered F-86 Sabre, considered the world's best fighter in the 1950s. At sea, our navy showed that it was a quality force. On several occasions, a Canadian was chosen to command NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

Canada and Canadians paid a heavy price for all this. To put it concisely, our Cold War operations resulted in more fatalities due to military service than in the Korean War, the Balkan conflicts, the Gulf Wars, Afghanistan, and peacekeeping – combined. For aircrew deaths alone, the number was 926.

Why has this been forgotten, to the extent that Cold War veterans apparently don't seem to deserve even a passing mention these days?

Some possible reasons come to mind. Much of this happened a relatively long time ago, much of it far from home – in the north, at sea, in Europe. And news media coverage was much less intensive in the days before real-time TV reporting and embedded journalists. For example, whenever a Canadian airman was killed in Europe (as more than 100 were), he was invariably buried in a small military cemetery in Choley-Ménillot, France; no ramp ceremony, no funerary procession along the Highway of Heroes, no headlines.

Then there is the mythology that has arisen to the effect that peacekeeping has been the principal occupation of Canada's military since the Second World War. Our Blue Beret peacekeepers did wonderful work back when there were real opportunities for keeping conflicting armies apart, but the reason they were so effective is that they had the skills and credibility that come from having been trained for modern heavy warfare.

Another explanation for the public silence regarding Canada's NATO and NORAD veterans is that there has emerged a troubling tendency on the part of some in this country to look upon those who did not fight in a shooting war as second-class veterans.

My entire career was encompassed by the Cold War years, including 10 years with my family in France and Germany. The Cold War, however, was not a shooting war. I have told Canadians on many occasions that my greatest pride in having served is that, from the end of the Korean War until I retired 37 years later, not a single shot was fired in combat by the Canadian military.

Our job was deterrence, and deterrence worked. We trained for war so that we wouldn't have to fight a war. It's a shame that the story has been largely forgotten. On this Remembrance Day, my earnest hope is that Canadians, when they pause to commemorate the many sacrifices that our veterans have made through the years, will give a moment to those whose service as Cold Warriors, although unheralded, really made a difference. Lest we forget.



LAST POST In the last couple of months we have lost very valuable members in the persons of John Fox and in November Eric Steffanson. 702 Wing lost longtime member Norm Bullied also in November. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The Rosebud Tour a great success again this year. As usual, tour director Pat and sidekick Kenn had everything under control and everyone who has signed up, had an interesting day.



Enjoying good food with friends followed by the show. An enthusiastic group that enjoyed Rosebud Theatre with good weather in picturesque Rosebud."

**Members are encouraged to send us "stuff", pictures, jokes, recipes and comments (nice ones only) and we will do our best to make sure these are included.**

An Air Force cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland. They were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank. The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out. When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded: "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"

Q: Where do rabbits learn how to fly?

A: In the hare force



Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me again, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time. "Like sitting around the pool and drinking wine is not a good thing?" I

asked. Talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favorite topic of conversation.

She was "only thinking of me", she said, and suggested that I go down to the Senior Center and hang out with the guys.

I did this and when I got home last night, I decided to play a prank on her. I e-mailed her and told her that I had joined a "Parachute Club."

She replied, "Are you nuts? You are 78 years old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I told her that I even got a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her.

She immediately telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Mom, where are your glasses?! This is a membership to a **Prostitute Club**, not a Parachute Club."

"Oh man, I'm in trouble again, I said, I really don't know what to do. I signed up for five jumps a week!!"

The line went quiet and her friend picked up the phone and said that my daughter had fainted.

Life as a Senior Citizen is not getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun!!

Submitted by Vernon McKeague

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To everyone who has a birthday or anniversary in November and December, WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

### **Birthdays in November and December**

MARION	MASCARO	RUTH		8-Nov
BETTY	WONNACOTT			9-Nov
GORDON	HILL	M		11-Nov
WALTER	WAKULA			15-Nov
DONALD	WARD	E		18-Nov
STEPHEN	MACDONNELL	KENNETH		20-Nov
DONALD	MATTHEWS			24-Nov
DOUGLAS	EAGLESHAM			26-Nov
LORNE	FLEMING			27-Nov
CYNTHIA	GUIDINGER			27-Nov
MIKE	RICKETTS	J		28-Nov
EUGENE	KUSHNIR			2-Dec
KENNETH	NIXON	B		3-Dec
DAVID	LEGGO			5-Dec
CHARLIE- MAE	WILSON			5-Dec
MIKE	TER KUILE			6-Dec
THOM	GORDON			9-Dec
KENNETH	CARLIN			10-Dec
PATRICIA	MACLEAN			13-Dec
JOHN	TER KUILE	G		19-Dec
ARTHUR	HILL	C		23-Dec
ARLINE	CHARTIER	M		31-Dec



## Recipes

### Egg-Nog Cheesecake

- ☒ 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ☒ 2 tablespoons white sugar
- ☒ 3 tablespoons melted butter
- ☒ 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- ☒ 1 cup white sugar
- ☒ 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ☒ 3/4 cup eggnog
- ☒ 2 eggs
- ☒ 2 tablespoons rum

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
2. In a medium bowl combine graham cracker crumbs, 2 tablespoons sugar and butter. Press into the bottom of a 9 inch spring form pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool.
4. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
5. In a food processor combine cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, flour and eggnog; process until smooth. Blend in eggs, rum and nutmeg. Pour mixture into cooled crust.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 250 and bake for 45 minutes, or until center of cake is barely firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and immediately loosen cake from rim. Let cake cool completely before removing the rim.

**MAY YOU ALL HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS, A GREAT NEW YEAR and may we all look forward to good times at the Wing.**

Editors – Bev Spielman and Sue Clarke.

November/2015

