

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



783 (CALGARY) WING JAN/MAR 2017—NEWSLETTER

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



MEET THE TEAM

PRESIDENT	Pat Sulek
HONOURARY PRESIDENT	Col. (Ret.d) Don Matthews
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT	Bon Clarke
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Keith Mann
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Adriano Fisico (Interim)
TREASURER	Kenn Nixon
SECRETARY	Charlene Mclean
PAST PRESIDENT CHAIR	Bev Spielman
CASINO CHAIRMAN	Lorie Gordon
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MEMBERSHIP	Anna Lewis
NEWSLETTER	Bev Spielman
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	Edith McMinn
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Art Hill
SOCIAL COORDINATOR	Muriel Mymko/Lois Maxwell
PUBLIC	Bob Wade/Adriano Fisico
285 LEGION LIASON	Kenn Nixon
MILITARY MUSEUM LIASON	Mike Ricketts
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR	Sue Clarke





PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President's Report February 2017

Well Spring is around the corner (I hope) so hopefully we can dig out of the Winter snow.

I would like to thank all Wing members who attended the Air Cadet Scholarship Board in Red Deer Feb 11. We had a great turn out this year again and I know the Air Cadet League always appreciates our assistance. It was a great day.

The Air Cadet Provincial Effective Speaking will be held April 1 in Red Deer so I hope that some of you can come up and enjoy the terrific speeches by these young people. They are truly amazing to listen to.

Some of our members have also assisted 52 Squadron with their Casino and again I know that they appreciate our help. I have always mentioned that our Wing not only financially supports Air Cadets, but we are also willing to assist in many other ways such as providing Guest Speakers for Mess dinners, Reviewing Officers for their ACRs along with assisting with Scholarship Boards and Effective Speaking Competition and Workshops. I am so very proud to be a member of such an enthusiastic hard working Wing.

As a reminder our AGM is coming in June and there are a lot of positions on the Executive that are open, so please think about coming on board. Bob Clarke will have the slate at our next meeting so you will know what positions are still open.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Sulek
President 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA



NATIONAL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Steve MacDonnell

There is new format at NEC where we are now holding electronic meetings every 6-8 weeks instead of trying to run this organization on two per year. This helps with the continuity of discussions and is proving to be very cost effective. The NEC is functioning well and many new people are coming forward with progressive ideas and energy and promoting the Association country wide. We are increasing our participation in adding our voice to the advocacy of the military and we are being heard.

Of course the change in my status as Group President to National President will necessitate a shift for the Alberta Group Executive and this will be reflected at the Alberta Group AGM in Cold Lake at the end of April. Alberta remains one of the strongest groups in the RCAFA and other groups are starting to get some enthusiasm and looking to the future. The new ideas for recruitment are being looked at and other inducements for participation are being reviewed. We hope to bring these to the attention of all members soon.

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

From Former Air Force Commanders

Dear Prime Minister,

As former commanders of Canada's air force, we respectfully but urgently ask that your government not proceed with the plan to purchase a fleet of Super Hornet aircraft as an interim measure pending the eventual replacement of our venerable CF-18 fighters. It is our firm belief that the interim strategy is ill-advised, costly and unnecessary. Most important, it would significantly impair the Royal Canadian Air Force for years to come and ultimately damage the nation's defence posture. The situation is complex, but our call for dropping the Super Hornet buy is based on some compelling facts, which we offer for your consideration.

First, we have serious misgivings about the use of a "capability gap" as the basis for your interim plan. Your government's newly created policy calling for the Royal Canadian Air Force to meet its NATO and NORAD treaty obligations concurrently does not reflect a real and sudden change in the strategic situation. In our experience, it has been decades since Canada had sufficient fighter aircraft to meet all our commitments simultaneously. Over the years the air force, by judiciously balancing strategic risks and available resources, has managed its operational contributions reasonably well. We certainly welcome any initiative that promises to close the longstanding capability gap, but purchasing eighteen Super Hornet aircraft would in fact exacerbate the gap in the near to mid-term by imposing a heavy burden on the RCAF's existing resources without producing a meaningful increase in fighter availability.

Although the Super Hornet does have some commonality with our current CF-18s, it is a different airplane, requiring its own training system for pilots and technicians, as well as new flight simulators, logistic support and maintenance organizations specific to the Super Hornet. The air force would have to draw personnel from the existing CF-18 fighter fleet (usually its most experienced people) to help bring into service a new and more complex fleet of fighter aircraft. But that would not be enough. It would be necessary to recruit, train and qualify several hundred new technicians and dozens of pilots. Recent experience indicates that the RCAF would face difficulty in achieving this; it can take four to five years from recruitment to produce fully trained, operationally ready pilots and specialists for advanced fighter aircraft. We foresee that bringing in an interim fleet would create serious practical problems of this kind.

Quite apart from such technical issues, we are aware that buying, operating and supporting an interim fleet of Super Hornets would be an expensive proposition, with cost estimates ranging from \$5-\$7 billion. We therefore ask that your government seek a better way of keeping the RCAF operationally effective until its fleet of CF-18s is replaced with a modern fighter.

To this end, we respectfully recommend that three important initiatives be undertaken.

What's going on at the Air Force Museum of Alberta

The Air Force Museum remains a very busy place. Most recently we had 952 Air Cadet Squadron with us for a day of learning and cleaning. The cadets spent 5 hours with us and left the jets nice and shiny and they learned a lot about the RCAF's history.

We had over 500 guests on Family Day keeping our guides busy showing people around and answering questions. A good day!!

In the main building a new display on Search and Rescue just went up and will be followed later in March with new displays on the Air Cadets and Test and Evaluation in the RCAF. Stay tuned for an announcement about timings. As well, we are moving the CF 18 targeting pod and Sparrow drone engine and propeller out of the Cold War Exhibit into the main building. The Cold War Exhibit will also undergo some significant upgrades later this spring: a memorial to those who lost their lives serving in the Cold War and a renewed emphasis on NORAD.

We are providing some air stories as part of The Military Museums display on the great Canadian battles of 1917- Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele. This will open in April. As well in April we will work with Valour Canada on two of their student workshops.

Looking ahead even more we have our Casino on the 18th and 19th of June and our golf tournament on 9 August. That's all for now

One final note. We have 46 folks who volunteer in the Museum as guides in the main building or in the Cold War Exhibit. We can always use more so if you are interested give Jennifer a call at 403 410 2340 ext 2614 and tell her you would like to work with the Air Force. She will take care of the rest

Don Matthews

Air Cadet Updates

Effective Speaking Competition Local — March 18, 2017 at 285 Legion. Members are welcome to attend and listen to these fine young people give their presentations. The Provincial competition will be held in Red Deer on April 1, 2017 at the Salvation Army Church.

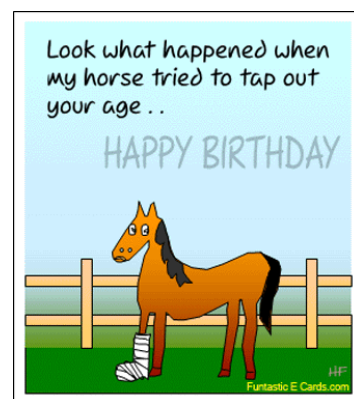
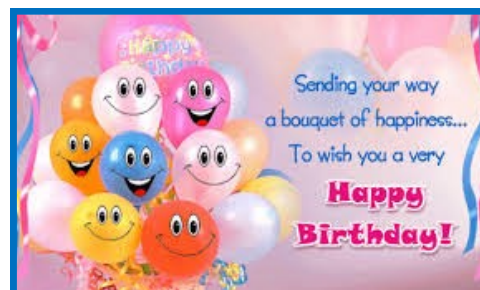
The scholarship boards were held in Red Deer on February 18 and there were over 220 cadets applying for scholarships and it was very successful.

Captain Randy Fisher gave a short review on the status of cadets in Alberta and all elements are doing well. There are new units and corps being formed and they are very successful, which encourages young people in various locations to join this fantastic program.

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.



MARGARET	McALLISTER	E	J	2-Jan
TERENCE	THOMPSON	R		6-Jan
GERALD	GIBBONS	S		7-Jan
ANGELE	MULLINS			11-Jan
MYRA	EMPEY			16-Jan
KENDRA	FISHER			19-Jan
GORDON	TODD			20-Jan
BRUCE	MORAN			25-Jan
BRANDON	LEWIS			30-Jan
GLENN	TRAUB			3-Feb
EDITH	MCMINN			4-Feb
JOHN	STANFORD			6-Feb
HERB	SPEAR	H		15-Feb
DAPHNE	TER KUILE			19-Feb
ANNA	LEWIS			22-Feb
SUSAN	CLARKE			23-Feb
Biff	BALCOM	M		3-Mar
RON	SPIELMAN			4-Mar
BRYNDIS	WHITSON			6-Mar
KEITH	MANN			8-Mar
SYLVIA	PULTZ			8-Mar
MURIEL	MYMKO			10-Mar
SCOTT	DEEDERLY			10-Mar
KENT	ANDERSON			13-Mar
GRACE	THIRD	H		22-Mar
ALLAN	COLLINS	ROBERT		27-Mar





I have noticed recently that we have **not** been notified by the family of several of our members who have passed away. We now can provide a ceremony with in the funeral service to honour our fellow member. I would like to make sure that each of our members is aware of what we provide if the family and member wishes.

Pat Sulek



EXPLANATION OF WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE TO FAMILIES FOR FUNERALS

Honour Guard/Flag party for the service and at the grave side.*

Provide a Poppy Pillow and poppies*

Provide the Air Force Tartan large and small for the poppy pillow table/coffin.

Hand out poppies to all attending the service.

Provide and read the "Act Of Remembrance" *

Any other duties as requested by the family.

* We provide an Honour Guard/Flag Party as our way of showing respect and honour for our fallen member, as our final act, to protect them and guard them as they have done for our Country and fellow members.

*The poppy pinning ceremony is provided by 783 Wing RCAFA to honour our fellow member and to say good-bye to a valued friend. Anyone wishing to join us will be invited to come and place the poppy on the poppy pillow prior to the end of the service.

*The Act of Remembrance is said at every meeting, and Remembrance Day Service.

A member of the Wing will read this Act of Remembrance, if the family wishes.

Any other duties as requested by the family.

We can also provide a contact number for a Piper.



The Wing will be establishing a "Remembrance Plaque" in our showcase in the main auditorium of the Legion. This will commemorate all the Wing members who have passed away. This will be a permanent fixture. President Pat has initiated a remembrance pillow for the families of any of our members

CAULIFLOWER MELTS

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- Medium head of cauliflower, cut into 1/2-inch-thick slabs, possibly halved to make a total of 8 slabs
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1/4 cup white wine (optional)
- 1/4 cup shelled pistachios
- 8 1/2-inch-thick slices sourdough bread
- 4 ounces Comte or Manchego cheese, cut into 8 slices
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley



PREPARATION

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the oil, garlic, salt, and pepper. Add the cauliflower slabs and toss to coat.
3. Arrange the cauliflower on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 25 minutes, flip the slabs, and bake another 10 to 20 minutes, until softened and roasty. Set aside to cool but keep the oven on.
4. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, soak the raisins in wine or water for 10 minutes. Drain.
5. In a small pan over medium-high heat, toast the pistachios, dry or with a little oil. Let cool on a paper towel, then chop coarsely.
6. Lay the bread on the baking sheet and arrange the cauliflower on the bread, cutting it to fit as needed. Sprinkle with pistachios and raisins and top with the cheese.
7. Bake until the cheese melts, 7 to 10 minutes.
8. Top the toasts with chopped parsley and serve immediately.

Triple-Chocolate Layer Pie



- 1-1/2 cups Oreo Baking Crumbs
- 1/4 cup non-hydrogenated margarine, melted
- 2 pkg. (4-serving size each) *Jell-O* Chocolate Instant Pudding
- 2 cups cold milk
- 2 cups thawed *Cool Whip* Whipped Topping, divided
- 18 Mini Oreo Cookies, chopped

Mix baking crumbs and margarine in 9-inch pie plate; press onto bottom and up side of pie plate. Beat pudding mixes and milk in medium bowl with whisk 2 min.; pour half into crust. Stir 1 cup *Cool Whip* into remaining pudding; spread over pudding layer in crust. Stir chopped cookies into remaining *Cool Whip*; spread over pie. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm.

Winter updates and odds and ends from your Wing!

Charter Tea— Happy Birthday Canada — April 9th

1:00 4:00

Haysboro Community

89 Avenus 12 Street SW

Refreshments - Entertainment and of course PRIZES

May will be the last regular meeting

May 31, June 1st -Wing Casino –Contact Lori Gordon for further info.

Marion Mascaro is still collecting used stamps and would appreciate any you wish to donate bring them to the meeting.

Save all your pop can tabs for **Helen Hill**, they go towards the purchase of handicap wheel chairs for children.

If you know of anyone who is ill in the hospital or confined at home. Please let Edith McMinn Health and Wellness Chair know, so she can send a card on the Wings behalf.

Alberta Group AGM is to held in Cold Lake Alberta April 29. Delegates have been chosen to represent 783 Wing. Hotel accommodations are at the Holiday Inn in Cold Lake—registration is \$75 to attend and for more information contact Pat Sulek.

Contributions to this page are greatly appreciated. We have lots of odds just need ends.

Notes of 285 Legion

Buffet every Friday



A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR



Subject: Fwd: 'What's the nail for?' Penny a blonde city girl, marries a Yorkshire dairy farmer.

One morning, on his way out to check on the cows, farmer John says to Penny, 'The insemination man is coming over to impregnate one of our cows today. I drove a nail into the rail above the cow's stall in the barn. You show him where the cow is when he gets here, OK?'

So then the farmer leaves for the fields.

After a while, the insemination man arrives and knocks on the front door. Penny takes him down to the barn. They walk along the row of cows and when she sees the nail, she tells him, 'This is the one...right here.'

Terribly impressed by what he seemed to think just might be another dizzy blonde, the man asks, 'Tell me lady, how did you know this is the cow to be bred?'

'That's simple; by the nail over its stall', Penny explains very confidently.

Then the man asks, 'What's the nail for?'

She turns and starts to walk away and with complete confidence, says over her shoulder, 'I assume it's to hang your trousers on.'

QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME!

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Editors – Bev Spielman and Sue Clarke