

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



783 (CALGARY) WING July/August NEWSLETTER

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



MEET THE TEAM

PRESIDENT	Keith Mann
HONOURARY PRESIDENT	Col. (Ret.d) Don Matthews
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT	Pat Sulek
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Randy Fisher
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Adriano Fisico
TREASURER	Kenn Nixon
SECRETARY	Kendall Spielman
PAST PRESIDENT CHAIR	Bev Spielman
CASINO CHAIRMAN	Lorie Gordon
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Pat Sulek
MEMBERSHIP	Anna Lewis
NEWSLETTER	Bev Spielman
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	Edith McMinn
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Art Hill
SOCIAL COORDINATOR	Muriel Mymko/Lois Maxwell
PUBLICITY	Bob Wade/Adriano Fisico
285 LEGION LIASON	Kenn Nixon
MILITARY MUSEUM LIASON	Mike Ricketts
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR	Sue Clarke
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Brian Lewis and Joan Embleton





PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello everyone! I would like to say a sincere thank you to the membership for electing me as your new President. I will hold this position with pride and Honour especially when representing 783 Wing when asked to do so.

Thank you once again to Bev for hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast, to Pat and Kenn for doing the cooking and to any of our members who helped set up and take down tables, decorations etc. Another very successful event for the Wing once again. I know that many of you have enjoyed, as I have, various other Pancake Breakfasts in conjunction with the Stampede even in this heat, but I guess that is better than the drowning we experienced last year. Through Pat, a few of the members attended the Chuck-wagons / Grandstand Show on Monday night for the Honoring our Heroes night, even though the night was cut short when the rain clouds opened up.

Congratulations again to the newly elected Executive, I look forward to working with you in the very near future. Thank you to those who stepped off the Executive this year for a job very well done and your contributions and dedication to the Wing. I know that my contact information is in the Membership list, but I have included it in my signature at the bottom of the email.

With our Summer shut down, things are quiet right now except for ongoing work being done by the 2018 Convention Committee. Our next event will be the Peacekeepers Day on August 13th at Peacekeepers Park, then the Battle of Britain at the Museum. Details for both will be in the newsletter.

Best wishes to all for a relaxing summer and safe travels where ever your plans may take you. See you in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Mann

President

783 Calgary Wing, RCAFA

403-975-5942

keithmann@shaw.ca.



National President – 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.

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.

OBITUARIES



MERRICK, Robert William (Bob)

June 12, 1923 – July 9, 2017

Robert William Merrick, beloved husband of Alma (deceased) of Calgary, passed away on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at the age of 94 years. Bob was born in Hodgeville, Saskatchewan being the eldest of nine children. Bob proudly served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during [World War II](#) as a radio operator stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland. It was at a dance in St. John's that he met Alma Matthews and they enjoyed sixty-five wonderful years of marriage before her passing in 2008. Together they raised a family starting in St. John's, Newfoundland to Eganville, Ontario and settling in Calgary, Alberta in 1967. Dad believed soundly in living a healthy and active life evidencing this by still skating into his 94th year. Over the years he participated in skating, baseball, hockey, curling and golf and led his children in that direction by teaching and coaching. Dad actively volunteered in the community as a Sunday school teacher, superintendent and various other positions within the church. In Eganville he was a proud member of the [Rotary Club](#). Along with many friends in Calgary he and Mom enjoy camping in the Rockies and the interior of B.C. Bob is survived by his children Carol (Wayne) Dixon, Bob (Karyn) Merrick, Lynn (Craig) Sampsel, Gail (Jerry) Hilton and Donna Davies. He leaves behind his great legacy of grandchildren, David (Pam), Ian (Marilyn), Trina (Trevor), Dan (Keri), Kari (Sean), Rob (Natalie), Alison (Travis), April, Steven (Marnie), Katie and Mallory and his great-grandchildren Sarah (Matt), Rachel, Ben, Emily, Lauren, Mollie, Matthew, Donovan, Calvin, Sam, Andie, Aiden, Avery and Ellie and Alison and Travis will extend this list in October with a little girl. Bob would have been ecstatic to include a fifth generation great- great-grandchild in February 2018 by parents Sarah and Matt. Funeral services will be held at St. Matthews United Church (2035 – 26A Street SW) on July 15, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Veteran's Food Bank. At this time the family would like to thank the amazing Calgary Health South Campus for their outstanding help in making their Dad comfortable during his stay. Condolences may be forwarded to the family by visiting www.edenbrookcemetery.ca. Arrangements entrusted to EDEN BROOK FUNERAL HOME AND RECEPTION CENTRE, 24223 Twp Rd 242, Calgary, AB, T3Z 3K2.

We Will Remember Them

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.



Pat Sulek presenting Cheque to
52 Squadron



Pat Sulek presenting the Wing coin to
Legion President Dusty Rhodes



Awards and Presentations



New Executive being sworn in by
National President Steve MacDonnell



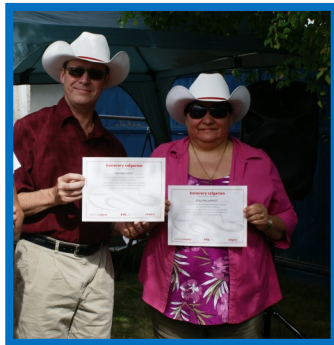
Edith McMinn receiving The Peter Allen Award



YAHOO



Walter Den Hoed and Keith



Mike Roy and Eve LaPratt



YAHOO



YAHOO



Chaplain James Buenting

YAHOO





The Best Stampede Breakfast in the West

Good Food, Good Company,
Great weather, New friends, Old
friends and some wonderful
Guests



Robert Belcher was born on April 23, 1849 at London England and was the son of Robert Tovey Belcher. In 1868 and at the age of 19, he joined the 9th Lancers (Queen's Royal) which was a cavalry regiment in the British Army and was assigned the rank of Trooper. He remained with the 9th Lancers until he departed Canada and joined the new North-West Mounted Police.



to

JOINS THE FORCE

On November 3, 1873 at Lower Fort Garry, he was sworn into the ranks of the North-West Mounted Police and assigned the rank of a Corporal.

The skills and abilities that he acquired with the 9th Lancers became quite evident and resulted in his promotion to Sergeant on May 16, 1874. When the Force commenced the March West on July 8, 1874, Robert Belcher was in "A" Troop and was commanded by Inspector William Jarvis, Sub-Inspector Severe Gagnon and Chief Constable Sam Steele. Within two days of commencing the March West, Robert Belcher was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

In these early years in the Force, the friendship between Sam Steele and Robert Belcher grew and persisted. On November 3, 1882 at Fort Saskatchewan, Robert Belcher decided not to re-engage in the Force. Instead, he applied for and received a Land Grant of 150 acres in the Fort Saskatchewan area. Obviously being a settler was not as glamorous as being in the Force. Consequently, he re-engaged on June 1, 1884.

At the time of the North-west Rebellion, he was stationed in Regina and held the rank of a Sergeant Major. However, he was deployed to Fort Battleford under the command of Inspector W.D. Antrobus. During his time at Fort Battleford in 1885, Robert Belcher "*was commended for his service.*"^[3] Unfortunately, he did not act. On November 1, 1917 – Robert Belcher returned to Canada and stationed with Military Hospital Commission Command and on December 13, 1918 was posted to the OIC Information Bureau District No. 13.

On February 1919 at Calgary Alberta, Robert Belcher passed away from heart failure. At his funeral, he was buried with full military honours at Edmonton. Members of the burial firing party were members of his original military regiment – the Lord Strathcona Horse.

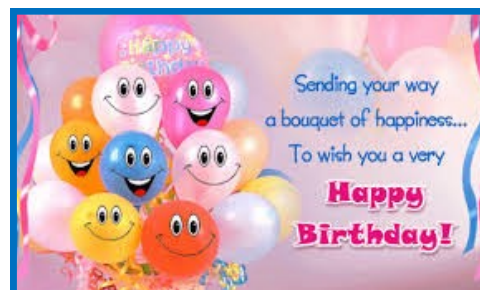
In tribute to the service he provided to his community and country, the military hospital in Calgary was named after him and would thereafter be known as the **Colonel Belcher Hospital**..



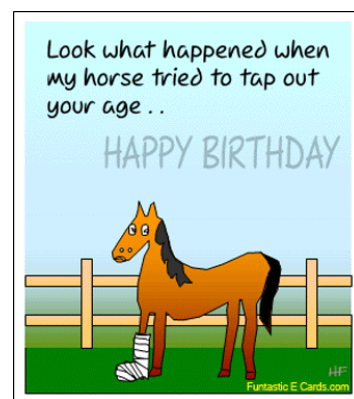
Photograph of the Lord Strathcona Horse Regiment Officers and Sergeant Majors for each of the five Troops. Individual circled is that of Robert Belcher. (Source of photograph "Pictorial History of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police" by S.W. Horrell.)

Check out on Google
Inspector Robert Belcher
for more about this
interesting mans life

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.



ARTHUR	HUTCHINGS	W		2-Jul
BARBARA	MANN			2-Jul
DOROTHY	ALLISON			4-Jul
ROB	CASWELL			7-Jul
CHARLES	WEEKS	W		9-Jul
ROBERT	WALKER			12-Jul
KENNETH	LETT	C		13-Jul
NORMA	KELLER			14-Jul
R	KELSO	GORDON		17-Jul
WALTER	EMPEY	A		27-Jul
LORIE	GORDON			27-Jul
BARRY	McDONALD	J		29-Jul
JOANNA	HOWARD			1-Aug
DOROTHY	DEINES			8-Aug
NADYA	VANDERLEE			9-Aug
SHIRLEY	SPIELMAN			12-Aug
ROBERT	LILJA			14-Aug
GRANT	WHITSON	G		17-Aug
PEGGY	MATTHEWS			19-Aug
ROBERT	CLARKE	B		21-Aug
VERNON	McKEAGUE	S		23-Aug
JAMES	THIRD	T		25-Aug
CARL	GUSTAFSON			30-Aug



JOANNA HOWARD (Calgary)

"My favourite memory of meeting/seeing the Queen and family was when we were very young. It was a great treat after church at St. Mary's Knighton in Leicester to pile into the car and drive to Sandringham, to the small church on the grounds (I think) and wait for them to come out of church. We (my two brothers, Mom and Dad) would be thrilled to watch them and Prince Charles and Princess Anne leave the area. There were never very many people there so the Royal Family were always very gracious and spoke to all of us. I was about 10 and Prince Charles about six and Princess Anne about four.

"It's a memory I treasure ... wish I'd had a camera, could've got a 'selfie' with them!"

After 50+ years of service to Canada the CH124 Sea King will be retired in December 2018. Considering the thousands of maintainers and aircrew that have served on Sea King Squadrons over the years could we prevail on you to publish this notice in your publication to help us get the word out..

Sea King Retirement

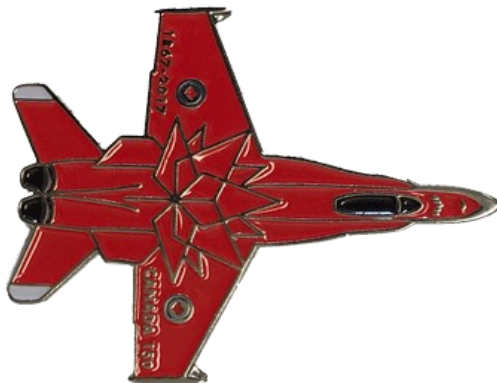
After 50+ years of service the Sea King will be retired December 2018 at 443MH Victoria. Advance planning is underway. Visit www.skr18.ca for updates.

2017 Demonstration Hornet Lapel Pins - Commemorate Canada's 150th Birthday

The RCAF Association has 200 lapel pins, featuring this year's Canada 150th-themed CF-18 Air Demonstration Fighter lapel pin. While quantities last, pins may be purchased in the following quantities, for the costs shown below, to help communities, Wings and organizations either raise funds for important events, or offer pins to their (Wing) members in gratitude:

1 - 9 ... \$4 ea; 10 to 30 ... \$3.75 ea; 31 to 50 ... \$3.25 ea; and 50 or more ... \$2.75 ea.

Call 1-866-351-2322 or write to kitshop@airforce.ca



Peace Keepers Parade August 13th 10:30/11:00



Battle of Britain



Military Museums, Crowchild Trail

September 17th



'It was shoot or be shot



**Never was so much owed
by so many to so few**

1 lb. (450 g) extra-lean round beef
1 lb. (450 g) extra-lean ground beef

Italian Beef Pot Pie

1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms
1 cup chopped green peppers
1 onion, chopped
2 Tbsp. *Kraft* Extra Virgin Olive Oil Tuscan Italian Dressing
1-1/2 cups tomato sauce
1 cup *Cracker Barrel* Shredded 4 Cheese Italiano Cheese



- Heat oven to 400°F.
- Brown meat with vegetables in dressing in large skillet. Add tomato sauce; cook and stir 5 min. or until slightly thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese.
- Spoon into 9-inch square baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Cover with pie crust; trim excess crust, then flute edges. Cut several slits in crust to permit steam to escape.
- Bake 20 min. or until golden brown. Let stand 5 min. before serving.

Butterscotch White Chocolate Brownie

1/3 cup unsalted butter, cut into pieces
6 oz white chocolate, chopped
2 eggs at room temperature
1/2 cup light browned sugar, packed
1/3 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup + 2 Tbsp all purpose flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
cup Skor toffee bits



1. Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 9-x-13-inch pan and line with parchment paper so that it hangs over the sides of the pan.
2. Over a pot of barely simmering water melt butter for 1 minute, then add chocolate and stir gently until melted. Remove chocolate from heat to cool for 5 minutes.
3. Whip eggs with sugars and vanilla using electric beaters until thick and frothy. By hand, stir in melted chocolate.
4. In a separate bowl, stir flour, baking powder and salt, then gently stir into chocolate mixture.
5. Stir in Skor bits and spoon batter into prepared pan.
6. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until a rich golden colour. Cool to room temperature before removing from pan.



They Say Canadians Don't Brag.. (Not fact checked.)

So, What do we Canadians Have to be Proud of? Particularly on this our 150th Birthday!

1. Smarties, which unlike Reese's Pieces melt in your mouth + not in your hand (not sold in the USA)
 2. Crispy Crunch and Coffee Crisp (not sold in the USA)
 3. The size of our football fields, one less down, and bigger balls.
 4. Baseball is Canadian - 1st game June 4, 1838 - Ingersoll, ON
 5. Lacrosse is Canadian
 6. Hockey is Canadian
 7. Basketball is Canadian
 8. Apple pie is Canadian
 9. Mr. Dress-up beats Mr. Rogers
 10. Tim Hortons beats Dunkin' Donuts
 11. In the war of 1812, started by America , Canadians pushed the Americans back past their White House. Then we burned it, and most of Washington ... We got bored because they ran away. Then, we came home and partied.... Go figure.
 12. Canada has the largest French population that never surrendered to Germany .
 13. We have the largest English population that never surrendered or withdrew during any war to anyone, anywhere. EVER! (We got clobbered in the odd battle but prevailed in ALL the wars)
 - 14.. Our civil war was fought in a bar and lasted a little over an hour.
 15. The only person who was arrested in our civil war was an American mercenary, he slept in and missed the whole thing. He showed up just in time to get caught.
 16. A Canadian invented Standard Time.
 17. The Hudsons Bay Company (while Canadian owned + operated) once owned over 10% of the earth's surface and is still around as the world's oldest company.
 18. The average dog sled team can kill and devour a full grown human in under 3 minutes. (That's more information than I need!)
 - 19.. We know what to do with the parts of a buffalo.
 - 20.. We don't marry our kin-folk...
 21. We invented ski-doo's, jet-skis, Velcro, zippers, insulin, penicillin and the telephone. Also short wave radios which save countless lives each year.
 - 22.. We have ALL frozen our tongues to something metal and lived to tell about it.
 23. A Canadian invented Superman.
 24. We have coloured money.
 25. Our beer advertisements kick ass (Incidentally... so does our beer) BUT MOST IMPORTANT, the handles on our beer cases are big enough to fit your hands in with mitts on.
- OOOoohhhhh..... Canada !!





Raymond & Charlie, two mechanical engineers, were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said Raymond, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman said, "Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox." She loosened a few bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from their toolbox, took a measurement, and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches," and walked away.

Raymond shook his head and laughed.

"Ain't that just like a Miss know-it-all woman! We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Charlie and Ray are still working for the government, one in Ottawa and the other in Alberta.



Updates and odds and ends from your Wing!

Rosebud Theater November.

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.

Next Wing Meeting—September 25th



Editors – Bev Spielman and Sue Clarke