

# **SPIRIT**

The Newsletter

**783 (CALGARY) WING**

**ROYAL CANADIAN  
AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION**



Jan/Feb/Mar 2019



***Wing Meets every  
4th Monday at 7pm  
285 Legion Horton Road***



## MEET THE TEAM

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





Keith Mann has given up the reins to  
Randy Fisher  
As of the meeting of January 26th 2019 as  
President of the Wing.



Thank you Keith for your past service as Wing President.. On behalf of the Wing we wish you  
all the best for the future.. See you at the Wing.

Welcome on board Randy the new Wing President. We look forward to working with you.

#### News from the Museum

Look for the new exhibit in the the Cold War Section. It is a scaled-down model of the  
Avro Arrow.



A larger scale version is being worked on at Springbank





## SHOWCASE OF OUR MEMBERS

On Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Government House in Edmonton, Michael J. Ricketts, a member of 783 (Calgary) Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association was presented with a Lasting Impact Certificate for his work with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Canada. The Lasting Impact Certificate, is signed by His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne presented the Certificate on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Award in appreciation of, and recognition for, meritorious service, dedication and the help Mike has given to the youth of Canada.

In 1982, Major (Retired) Mike Ricketts, M.M.M., C.D. was challenged by the Alberta Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada to take on the task of turning around 538 (Buffalo) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron whose charter was about to be revoked for having fewer than 30 cadets on strength. To help in this endeavour, he introduced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program. In 1996, Mike was appointed as a Member of the Divisional Council of the Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. He served as President from 2000-2002 and continued to serve as a Past-President until he stepped down from Council in 2018.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a self-development program available to all young people ages 14-24 equipping them with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world. To date, over 500,000 young people from Canada and ten million youth in 143 countries have been motivated to undertaking a variety of voluntary and challenging activities in the areas of service, skill development, physical recreation and completing an adventurous journey. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award was founded by, HRH, The Prince Phillip in 1956 in the United Kingdom and began in Canada in 1963.

Mike has been a Member of the RCAFA since 1993. His contribution to 783 Wing has been recognized with the Alberta Group "Side Hill Gouger" Award and subsequent Bar. Service with distinction to the association was acknowledged nationally with the Air Force Association of Canada



The attached photograph shows Mike being congratulated by, left-to-right: Lou Gizzarelli, National President of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Canada; HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne; Division Chairperson, Her Honour, Lois E. Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; His Honour, Honourary Colonel Douglas Mitchell; and, The Honourable Margaret M. Thom, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

### CONGRATULATIONS



Randy presenting a check to  
The Foothills Search and Rescue



Steve MacDonnell receiving  
His 40 year pin from Randy



RJ receiving his Golden Lobster Award  
From Atlantic Group



Randy presenting a Check to 285 Legion President

## ***Rosebud***



Rosebud Theatre was well attended. Our members agreed it was a lot of fun.

## **HOW WE CAME TO BE 783 WING.**

For the newer members of 783 Wing, you might like to know how we became to be. In 1949 (yes, that long ago) ex members of the Air Force came together to form a wing (701) in Calgary, the second one in Alberta, with Edmonton becoming the first .

The group started meeting at the 403 Squadron at Base Calgary, then slowly migrated to Royal Canadian Legion Headquarters on 20 Ave and 15 St. NW. AS the membership grew, they leased the Alexander School, in Inglewood for quite a few years. When the city decided to take the school back for community use, 701 went looking again. During this time, 767 Wing had formed and they had purchased the old Lone Pine Supper Club . Both wings were operating separately until 1974, when it was found to be of mutual benefit for both wings to amalgamate. 701 Wing had money, and 767 had the building. For a period of time, the wing operated as 701/767, but found there was still a division of members. In order to eliminate the problem, the wing reformed and got a new number- 783. There are hundreds of pictures of the old facilities and functions which Helen Hill has faithfully kept that are brought out at various times for members to peruse and enjoy. Brian Lewis has captured many more and Kenn Nixon has created "rolling pictorials" which highlight different activities.

Eventually it became too costly to keep the location so the building was sold, and the wing was fortunate enough to be able to use the RCLs recreation hall at the top of Center St. on 6 Ave. A committee was struck to look for a permanent home, and we finally settled in on Fisher Street SE. We spent quite a few happy years there but again, the costs of running the facility became too much. On the hunt again, we found space by the airport on 11 St. As the membership started sliding, it was felt we needed to find other ways to meet that would not tax our resources. Again, the RCL came to the fore and we started having our meetings at 285 Horton Road. This has been a satisfactory solution and we are able to meet and help support the Legion.

The wing has over many years, produced several National Presidents starting with Fred Way in 1973(Wing president 1960-1962) Wally Gryba 1973-1976 (fore-runner to the Jack Bennett Effective Speaking Scholarship), John Melbourne 2007-2008 and lastly our own Steve MacDonnell 2017 to present. We also had National Directors Allen Spielman and Grant Whitson.

At Group level we have produced many presidents, including electing the first female Group President in 1988-1990, namely Bev Spielman. We have one of the most active Past President Flight in all of Canada with nine members. This group advises the wing executive frequently and shares the expertise of many years . We are so fortunate to have People like Grant Whitson, Gordon Hill, Vern McKeague, Art Hill, Don Matthews and Gerry Morrison to impart their own history and accomplishments to members so that we can all appreciate the service these men have given us. There are the ladies too, Edith McMinn, Muriel Mymko, Lois Maxwell, Glenys Goossens, Barb Clifford and Marion Mascaro who have done their part for their country.

The wing continues to support and advocate for Air Cadets (assisting with funding, staff, speakers, judges etc.) for the History of the RCAF (museum docents, board members ) community events (Battle of Britain, Remembrance Day, Anzac ) and other charitable groups that require physical, or financial aid.

We do not neglect our members either as we fund friendship trips (Rosebud for one) hold a Christmas Party, Charter Tea and other functions that are either funded or subsidized by the Wing so we may include as many members as possible.

With the talented people we have, we support the RCAFA Group and National initiatives and have the distinction of hosting three National AGM/BGM very successfully. Every time it is 783s turn to host Group (every five years) we set the bar very high.

We also have members who have been recipients of the most prestigious awards in the Association. The National member of the year has gone to Vern McKeague, Grant Whitson, Life memberships to eight members so far, DSAs and MSAs, the Christine Handler to Helen Hill and Sue Clarke and the newly created Order of Excellence to Grant Whitson. With the number of newer members joining we can look forward to more these awards coming our way. This is a little bit of who we have been, now we will see how far we can go.

**PER ARDUA AD ASTRA**



## MERRY CHRISTMAS







We will remember them





HART Ceremony in Lethbridge  
 Congratulation to 702 Wing  
 For a job well done



- 1 pound (4 cups) chopped walnuts
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 package (16 ounces, 14x9-inch sheets)
- frozen phyllo dough, thawed
- 1 cup butter, melted

### Baklava Squares



- Preheat oven to 350°. Coat a 13x9-in. baking dish with cooking spray. Combine walnuts and cinnamon.
- Unroll phyllo dough. Layer two sheets of phyllo in prepared pan; brush with butter. Repeat with six more sheets of phyllo, brushing every other one with butter. (Keep remaining phyllo covered with a damp towel to prevent it from drying out.)
- Sprinkle 1/2 cup nut mixture in pan; drizzle with 2 tablespoons honey. Add two more phyllo sheets, brushing with butter; sprinkle another 1/2 cup nut mixture and 2 tablespoons honey over phyllo. Repeat layers six times. Top with remaining phyllo sheets, brushing every other one with butter.
- Using a sharp knife, score surface to make 24 squares. Bake until golden brown and crisp, 25-30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour or before serving.

- 1 1/2 cup (180 g) of all purpose flour
  - 1 scant teaspoon Kosher salt
  - Pinch of freshly ground black pepper
  - 3 eggs, beaten
  - 1 1/2 cup (350 ml) milk
  - 2 Tbsp melted butter
  - 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 lb (450 g) of bangers (an English sausage made with pork and

Toad in the hole



**1 Make batter:** In a large bowl, whisk together the flour with the salt and a pinch of pepper. Make a well in the center of the flour. Pour in the eggs, milk, and melted butter into the well and whisk into the flour until smooth. Cover and let stand 30 minutes.

**2 Pre-heat baking dish:** Coat the bottom and sides of an 8x12 or 9x9 ceramic or metal casserole dish with vegetable oil (we use high smoke point rice bran oil or canola oil). Place a rack in the bottom third of the oven. Put the empty dish on the rack. Preheat the oven with the dish in it to 425°F(220°C).

**3 Brown the sausages:** While the oven is coming to temperature, heat a tablespoon of vegetable oil in a skillet on medium high. Add the sausages and brown them on at least a couple sides.

**4 Pour batter over sausages:** When the sausages have browned, and the dish in the oven hot, pull the oven rack out a bit, put the sausages in the casserole dish, and pour the batter over the sausages.

**5 Bake:** Bake at 425°F(220°C) for about 20-30 minutes or until the batter is risen and golden.

Serve at once.



## **Why I Like Retirement !**

**Question:** How many days in a week?

**Answer:** 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

**Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?

**Answer:** Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

**Question:** How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Only one, but it might take all day.

**Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer:** There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

**Answer:** The term comes with a 10% discount.

**Question:** Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?

**Answer:** Tied shoes.

**Question:** Why do retirees count pennies?

**Answer:** They are the only ones who have the time.

**Question:** What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

**Answer:** NUTS!

**Question:** Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

**Answer:** They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

**Question:** What do retirees call a long lunch?

**Answer:** Normal.

**Question:** What is the best way to describe retirement?

**Answer:** The never ending Coffee Break.

**Question:** What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

**Answer:** If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

**Question:** Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

**Answer:** He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

And, my very favorite....

**QUESTION:** What do you do all week?

**Answer:** Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday & Sunday, I rest.



## **Vagaries of English Language! Enjoy!!! 😊😊😊**

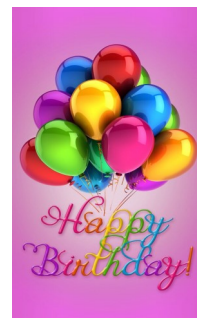
- Wonder why the word funeral starts with FUN?
- Why isn't a Fireman called a Water-man?
- How come Lipstick doesn't do what it says?
- If money doesn't grow on trees, how come Banks have Branches?
- If a Vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a Humanitarian eat?
- How do you get off a non-stop Flight?
- Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO and those sent by truck SHIPMENT?
- Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the Cupboard?
- Why do doctors 'practice' medicine? Are they having practice at the cost of the patients?
- Why is it called 'Rush Hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?
- How come Noses run and Feet smell?
- Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one?
- What are you vacating when you go on a vacation?

**We can never find the answers, can we? So just enjoy the pun and fun of the English language!**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



EMPEY, MYRA	16-Jan
FISHER, KENDRA	19-Jan
LEWIS, BRANDON	30-Jan
McALLISTER, E MARGARET J	2-Jan
MORAN, BRUCE	25-Jan
MULLINS, ANGELE	11-Jan
TODD, GORDON	20-Jan
RUSCOFF, Christina	4-Jan
CLARKE, SUSAN	23-Feb
LEWIS, ANNA	22-Feb
MCMINN, EDITH	4-Feb
STANFORD, JOHN	6-Feb
TER KUILE, DAPHNE	19-Feb
FISICO, FRANCESCA	9-Feb
TRAUB, GLENN	3-Feb
ANDERSON, KENT	13-Mar
COLLINS, ALLAN ROBERT	27-Mar
MANN, KEITH	8-Mar
MYMKO, MURIEL	10-Mar
SPIELMAN, RON	4-Mar
WHITSON, BRYNDIS	6-Mar
DEEDERLY, SCOTT	10-Mar
WELSH, Jeramie	5-Mar



Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday Dear Member  
Happy Birthday to you



**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.

**Provincial Effective Speaking Contest is in Red deer April 6th**

**Air Cadets Annual Review to be determined.**

Next Wing Meeting—February 25th

Your Editors Bev Spielman and Sue Clarke

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.