

# **SPIRIT**

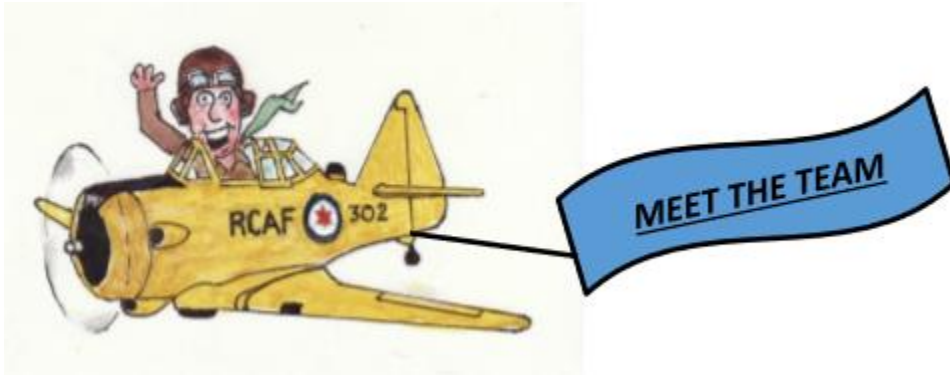
*783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter*

**ROYAL CANADIAN  
AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION**



*March-June, 2020*

***Meetings are on hold at the  
moment due to COVID-19  
285 Legion Horton Road***



Chairperson	Randy Fisher
Honorary Chairperson	Col (Retd) Don Matthews
Immediate Past Chairperson	Pat Sulek
First Vice Chairperson	Adriano Fisico
Second Vice Chairperson	Rob Caswell
Treasurer	Kenn Nixon
Secretary	Michele Henderson
Past President Chairperson	Pat Sulek
Casino Chairperson	Lorie Gordon
Special Projects	Pat Sulek
Membership	Anna Lewis
Newsletter	Bev Spielman/Michelle Gerwing
Health and Wellness	Edith McMinn
Sergeant at Arms	Art Hill
Social Coordinator	Muriel Mymko/Lois Maxwell
Publicity	Bob Wade/Adriano Fisico
Military Museum Liaison	Mike Ricketts
Directors at Large	Brian Lewis
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight



## ***Message from the Chairperson***

It never ceases to amaze me what a difference a few months can make. When we last left off, we were diligently planning for so many wonderful events. We were engaging many of our volunteers and Wing members that it seemed we would be in for a fantastic spring program. But alas, "the best-laid plans of mice and men...".

I'd also like to offer our sympathies to those impacted by the tragic accidents involving members of the RCAF, recently in the news. Let us pause to take a few minutes to remember

those to whom of the RCAF, who, in recent months, have lost their lives in service to our country. I know our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives in these tragic accidents. Our new reality is one filled with social distancing, personal protective measures and disinfectants and hand sanitizers. We are forced to make fashionable choices such as what type of mask should I wear, or should I wear a mask at all? A trip to the grocery store for the simple necessities is very much like a massive game of "Tag," where everyone moves about the store, hoping the next person they run into is not "it." For many of our members, this current situation can be a real challenge. Never have we been faced with issues such as massive self-isolation, not being able to connect with those nearest to us as we usually would.

Given the current situation, the Wing Executive has chosen to meet virtually. The goal is to keep planning for the Wing's future, look after the welfare and safety of our members, and to find a way to stay connected with each other. Over the next few months, we will endeavour to do just that.

Like so many other great organizations, the Wing Directors and executive members have agreed to continue to act on behalf of our members until a proper Annual General Meeting can be held. In the meantime, we will continue to ensure that our Wing remains viable and engaged. We will continue to act on your behalf to conduct the day to day business of the Wing, look for opportunities that focus on our membership, create opportunities to engage members, seek new ways to revitalize our online presence and continue to plan for the future.

Until we can meet again, stay safe, healthy and connected.

Randy Fisher  
Chairman  
783 (Calgary) Wing  
Royal Canadian Air Force Association

## ***Stories from the past of 701- 701/767- 783***

*by Bev Spielman*

Allen and I joined 701 Wing (he with the wing, me with the Ladies Aux.) in 1970. The wing met at the Alexandria School on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE at that time. We worked the Bingo's which were held weekly, and Art Hill was doing the calling. He was famous for his "Legs 11" and "66 clickety click" plus other numbers that he invented.

The first Alberta Group AGM we went to was in Banff. Members from 700 Wing, 702 Wing, 703 Wing, 705 Wing, 701 Wing and 767 Wing attended. The Friday meet and greet was rather raucous and the next morning, the host committee would go to everyone's room at 7:00 AM to dispense a glass of orange juice and champagne. This did not always wake you up, but simply refueled you for the day.

The hotel pool cleaning service had hoses all over the hallways, and Helen Hill had met Allen coming out of our room, and looked down to where he was straddling one of the hoses. Looking him in the eye, she asked "Is that all yours?" He went beet red and took off as we all stood there laughing. Irene Witcher had entered the morning breakfast room, put her purse on the end of a table and watched in horror as the whole table collapsed sending everything (glasses, juice, food) onto the floor.

The person from 702 Wing Lethbridge gave the Toast to the Ladies which actually turned out to be 1000 insults to women. He was booed and asked to leave the banquet. As I remember, that was the last AGM held in Banff.

The Wing held monthly dances and other events and after each party, we would close the doors (after God Save the Queen) and proceed to empty all the heels of liquor that was left. Then we would reset the room for the bingos. Stick handled home when the sun was coming up.

At that time there was a rule (enforced by Charlie Witcher) that if you damaged any wing property, you would have to replace it. Well one evening, Allen had worked the afternoon shift at Spy Hill Jail and came to the wing dance right after, getting there at midnight. However, because the clocks were to be turned back, it was decided we could keep the wing open for an extra hour. Allen went to change the clock (which was 15 feet up, this was a school gym) back the one hour. Instead of getting the ladder from the storage, he climbed onto a chair, which was on top of a table to do this. Needless to say, the clock fell, just missing Barb Barron walking by and smashed on the ground. Allen was still standing on top of everything and I was wielding the broom threatening him with it. Everyone was watching Charlie to see what would happen. For the first time since I had met him, he actually roared with laughter and the tension was gone. For the record, Allen did replace the clock and we kept the remnants of the old one in our bar for years.

Another successful evening at the Wing.

**Happy Birthday to you!!**



<i>James Malcolm Bristowe</i>	<i>5 Apr</i>
<i>David Downs</i>	<i>23 Apr</i>
<i>Randy Fisher</i>	<i>17 Apr</i>
<i>Helen Hill</i>	<i>12 Apr</i>
<i>Brian Lewis</i>	<i>7 Apr</i>
<i>Robert Ross</i>	<i>6 Apr</i>
<i>Gerry Morrison</i>	<i>11 Apr</i>
<i>Victor Keller</i>	<i>19 Apr</i>
<i>Maurice Balych</i>	<i>1 Apr</i>
<i>Norman Harvey</i>	<i>1 Apr</i>
<i>Jacilyn Spenard</i>	<i>25 May</i>
<i>Glenys Goossens</i>	<i>31 May</i>
<i>Ron Guidinger</i>	<i>23 May</i>
<i>Carney Henderson</i>	<i>28 May</i>
<i>Bruce Millar</i>	<i>28 May</i>
<i>Faye Morgan</i>	<i>20 May</i>
<i>Barb Gibson</i>	<i>23 May</i>
<i>Ron Williamson</i>	<i>23 May</i>
<i>Don Norrie</i>	<i>25 May</i>
<i>Ernie Anastasiou</i>	<i>20 Jun</i>
<i>Doug Caston</i>	<i>23 Jun</i>
<i>William Cook</i>	<i>8 Jun</i>
<i>Pat Sulek</i>	<i>19 Jun</i>
<i>Philip Ricard</i>	<i>26 Jun</i>
<i>Bev Spielman</i>	<i>29 Jun</i>
<i>Robert Vanderlee</i>	<i>23 Jun</i>
<i>Craig Henderson</i>	<i>29 Jun</i>
<i>Valerie Levesque</i>	<i>25 Jun</i>
<i>Kevin Knight</i>	<i>24 Jun</i>
<i>Arie Pothof</i>	<i>12 Jun</i>
<i>Jorden Brugma-Lattery</i>	<i>28 Jun</i>



From the Richmond Sentinel 22 May, 2020

## *To shut down Snowbirds team after deadly crash would be 'tragic:' commander*

By [The Canadian Press](#)

Published 10:29 PDT, Fri May 22, 2020

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Lt.-Col. Mike French and Capt. Jennifer Casey were soaring through the air, trying to bring hope to an anxious and fearful country with each dip and dive of their airplane.

French, commander of the Snowbirds — the official aerobatic team of the Royal Canadian Air Force — says he and Casey belted out Tragically Hip songs as they flew through the air, performing well-practised manoeuvres with the tight-knit team just last week.

Casey was an integral part of creating the team's Operation Inspiration tour for a country otherwise gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic, French says. And he still can't believe it ended with her death.

"It's been extremely difficult for everyone on the team," French told The Canadian Press. "You want to go into a period of seclusion and self-reflection."

Casey, a 35-year-old military public affairs officer, died Sunday after ejecting from a Snowbirds jet before it went down in a residential area of Kamloops, B.C. The pilot, Capt. Richard MacDougall, survived.

It was the eighth fatal crash in the 50-year history of the Snowbirds. The last was in 2008. In 2019, a Snowbirds jet crashed in the United States but the pilot safely ejected.

A team of military investigators is trying to determine the cause of Sunday's crash but it has left many questioning whether it's time to ground the team and its aging fleet.

"For me, to imagine a Canada Day without the Snowbirds flying over the Peace Tower is just not possible," French says.

"I've grown up with the Snowbirds my whole life. And for me to picture them not being around would be tragic."

The home base of the Snowbirds is in Moose Jaw, Sask., where one of the team's retired planes floats on a pedestal next to a giant statue of the city's mascot, Mac the Moose.

The site has become a makeshift memorial to Casey, where people have left flowers. Residents are also organizing upcoming events to honour the team.

The reputation of the Snowbirds has grown through performances at air shows across North America. The red, white and blue planes swirl through the sky in stunning formations, appearing unbelievably close to each other.

Flying above stadiums before Grey Cup games, racing through the sky during national ceremonies and stopping at local air shows from coast to coast has made the team a national symbol.

The Canadair CT-114 Tutor has a unique mix of engine control, balance and stability that gives it exceptional manoeuvrability, and is "pure bliss," French says.

The plane, which was used by the Forces as a jet trainer until 2000, is largely out of use in the aviation world. The jets were to be retired in 2010, but that was later extended to 2020.

French says it's hard to explain the impact the Snowbirds have on Canada.

The team is in a way an inspiration program, he says, encouraging children who see the planes rip through the sky to chase their own dreams.

French was one of those kids who rushed to see air shows in Abbotsford, B.C., and waited around to get autographs from pilots. It led him into the military, where he became a F-18 fighter pilot and a Snowbirds trainer.

He's in his third year as commanding officer of the Snowbirds. Every member is a highly-trained Forces member who competed for their position, French says.

Most of the year, team members spend all their time together practising routines, then touring across the country. They are more than colleagues, French says. They are family.

It also takes a very dedicated person who truly believes in the team's mission to become a Snowbird, French says. And Casey fit in immediately.

The former journalist joined the military as a direct entry officer in 2014. She worked with the CF-18 demo team before joining the Snowbirds in 2018.

French says the first time Casey went up in the air with the Snowbirds, it was clear she was the right fit for the team.

She was always three steps ahead of what anybody needed. She was creative, kind and hardworking. "She was one of those people that you just love working with. She raised everybody's game," French says.

"Casey was one of the main reasons that Operation Inspiration was being perceived so well by Canadians. It was her drive and her determination to get us out there."

— Kelly Geraldine Malone, The Canadian Press

## ***Recipes: it's barbeque season!***

### **Beef Shish Kebabs**

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 1/2 tsp ground green cardamom
- 1 tsp allspice
- 1 tsp paprika
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper more for later
- 3 lb Top sirloin steak OR beef tenderloin fillet cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 large red onion cut into pieces roughly the width of the meat
- 2 green bell peppers cut into pieces roughly the width of the meat
- 2 red bell or orange bell peppers

#### **For the marinade**

- 1 large red onion thinly sliced
- 2 lemons juice of
- 1 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 cup dry red wine

#### **Instructions**

- Prepare up to 20 skewers. If using bamboo or wooden skewers, be sure to soak them in water for at least one hour before use.
- **Mix the spices:** In a bowl, mix together the spices to make a spice rub for the cubed meat.
- Season the meat cubes with the spices and combine well so that the meat is evenly covered.
- **Prepare the marinade and add the seasoned meat cubes.** In a large and deep dish, combine the marinade ingredients of red onions, lemon juice, olive oil and red wine. Add the seasoned meat to the marinade, and work the meat into the marinade well with your hands.
- Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes (preferably 2 to 4 hours or overnight depending on the kind of meat you are using).
- Remove the meat from the fridge one hour before grilling.
- Lightly oil the grates of a gas grill and heat for 10 minutes on high.
- **Thread the meat and vegetables on skewers.** Thread the meat, onions, green peppers and red peppers onto the prepared skewers, alternating until you run out of meat (about 4 pieces of meat per skewer with the vegetables nestled in between).
- Season with more freshly ground black pepper. (Do not discard the marinade yet)
- **Grill.** Place the shish kabobs on the grill. Cook for 8 to 10 minutes, depending on how hot your grill is and how well-cooked you like your meat, turning occasionally. While the



kabobs are grilling, paint the meat with some of the marinade a couple of times as you turn the skewers around.

- **Rest before serving.** Remove from the heat and transfer to a serving platter. Allow 5 minutes for the kabobs to rest before serving. Enjoy!

### A few more grilling tips

- **Use bamboo skewers to avoid over-cooking.** I used metal skewers in this post but have found that because metal transfers heat well, it can tend to overcook the meat. If you're new to cooking beef kebabs, bamboo/wooden skewers will give you more control here, just make sure you soak wooden skewers in water for at least 1 hour before using them.
- **Use double skewers** if you need more control to help you turn the kabobs over the grill.
- **Keep some space between the meat pieces on the skewer**, this will help them cook more evenly.
- **Paint the kabobs with more of the marinade as they cook.** Don't discard the marinade so fast, use it to paint the kabobs as they're cooking for more flavor.

## Watermelon lemonade

### Ingredients

- 250ml lemon juice (from a bottle or squeeze your own)
- 100g golden caster sugar
- 1l bottle soda water
- 1 lime
- small handful mint
- crushed ice

### Method

• Cut the top off the watermelon and hollow it out using a large spoon, fishing out any pips along the way. Mash the flesh through a sieve into a bowl. Put the flesh in a blender (or use a tall jug and hand blender) with the lemon juice and sugar, whizz to a purée, then stir in the soda.

- Heap some ice into the hollowed-out watermelon and fill it with the lemonade mixture.

Serve the rest in a jug with the lime slices and mint. Have a bowl of extra crushed ice on the side so people can help themselves.

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One day, the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said: "What a cute little plane. Did you make it yourself?" Our hero the Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like that and I'll have enough parts for another one."

Apparently the controllers were getting really annoyed with the Air Canada pilots who regularly flew into Winnipeg. It would seem that the source of the irritation was the tone of voice that these guys were using. They would come on the frequency with the deepest voices you could imagine, saying things like 'This is Air Canada 345 heavy by the Whiskey for runway 18'.

**One of the controllers finally had had enough of this sort of affectation and decided to get even one day. He went out and bought a bunch of helium filled balloons... Sure enough, the first Air Canada flight to arrive in the airspace checked in with the big deep pilot voice. The controller took a huge honk of the helium and cleared the flight to land in a voice akin to Donald Duck wearing very tight shorts!**

**No one seemed sure how the pilots reacted, but it gave the controllers one heck of a high!**

A pilot has engine trouble and lands in a field. As he walks around the plane to check out the problem, he hears a voice behind him say, "You have a clogged fuel line." Looking around, he sees no one, except a cow. Startled out of his wits, he runs across the field to the farmer's house and pounds on the door. When the farmer appears at the door, the out-of-breath pilot stammers that his cow has just talked--and even tried to explain what was wrong with the airplane. The farmer drawled, "Was it a brown cow?" "Yes." "Did it have a white patch on its forehead?" "Yes, yes, that's the one." "OK, that's Flossie. Don't pay no attention to her. She doesn't know nothin' about airplanes."

## *Mark your calendars....*

These are unique times, with COVID-19, self-isolation, social distancing, masking, etc. We did want you to know that the Wing is still functioning and that we are thinking of you. If any of your contact details have changed or are changing, please let Pat Sulek know. Stay safe, stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you again. In the meantime, you can mark your calendars for:

- ❖ Possible Christmas party Nov 20, place to be determined
- ❖ Battle of Britain celebration will be virtual
- ❖ Remembrance Day celebration will be virtual
- ❖ Stampede Breakfast has been cancelled as the Stampede will not be happening this year
- ❖ The Rosebud Theatre trip will be postponed till possibly next spring
- ❖ Air Cadet Squadron cheque presentations will occur in person, but not until safe for all involved

