

SPIRIT

783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter

**ROYAL CANADIAN
AIR FORCE
ASSOCIATION**



*Wing Meets every
4th Monday at 7pm
285 Legion Horton Road
(on hold due to COVID)*



MEET THE TEAM

Chairperson	Randy Fisher
Honorary Chairperson	Col (Retd) Don Matthews
Immediate Past Chairperson	Keith Mann
First Vice Chairperson	Rob Caswell
Second Vice Chairperson	Michelle Gerwing
Treasurer	Kenn Nixon
Secretary	Cecilia Brugma
Past Chairs Advisory Council	Pat Sulek
Casino Chairperson	Lorie Gordon
Friends of Col Belcher	Pat Sulek
Membership	Anna Lewis
Newsletter	Bev Spielman/Michelle Gerwing
Health and Wellness	Edith McMinn/Michele Henderson
Sergeant at Arms	Art Hill
Entertainment Chair	Muriel Mymko
Public Relations	Bob Wade
Military Museum Liaison	Mike Ricketts
Director at Large	Brian Lewis
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight
Advocacy	Scott Deederly
Historian	Grant Whitson
Webmaster/Social Media	Kent Anderson





Message from the Chairperson



Spring has sprung! (I hope!) And along with the roll out of the spring season comes an eagerness to once again get outdoors, visit and socialize. However once again, we find ourselves faced with more stringent public health measures that restrict our ability to connect with one another.

What I am grateful for is the fact that our wing continues to be creative in terms of its programming and its ability to meet. It has embraced new technology by incorporating virtual meeting platforms, enhancing our web site and working on its social media presence to get the RCAFA message out to everyone.

I am particularly pleased that a lot of our community programming, while slightly scaled back, continues to meet and serve our members, our community and the Association. The teamwork, commitment and dedication required to do so much in a time when so little is permitted is a true testament to our membership.

I encourage you all to consider getting vaccinated, as I believe it will help us to move closer to the end goal of once again reconnecting as a wing. I have said to many people, that with each passing day, we are one step closer to once again meeting, each day is a day behind us, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with everyone when the time comes.

Enjoy this month's newsletter, take time to pick up the phone and connect with someone, and most importantly, **STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE!**

Per Ardua Ad Astra

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



Happy Birthday to you (May/Jun)

Raymond Wetmore	6 May
Teri Lang	17 May
Faye Morgan	20 May
Barb Gibson	23 May
Ron Guidinger	23 May
Don Norrie	25 May
Jacilyn Spenard	25 May
Carney Henderson	28 May
Bruce Millar	28 May
Glenys Gooseens	31 May
William Cook	8 Jun
Pat Sulek	19 Jun
Ernie Anastasiou	20 Jun
Douglas Caston	23 Jun
Robert Vanderlee	23 Jun
Kevin Knight	24 Jun
Mervin Pinkerton	24 Jun
Valerie Levesque	25 Jun
Philip Ricard	26 Jun
Jorden Brugma-Lattery	28 Jun
Craig Henderson	29 Jun
Bev Spielman	29 Jun

Flight Safety Investigation Report for Kamloops Snowbirds Accident

The Royal Canadian Air Force's Directorate of Flight Safety, as the Airworthiness Investigative Authority for the Canadian Armed Forces, has concluded its investigation into an accident involving a CT-114 Tutor aircraft of 431 (Air Demonstration) Squadron on May 17, 2020 in the vicinity of Kamloops, British Columbia that claimed the life of Captain Jenn Casey and injured Captain Richard MacDougall.

The complete findings of the investigation and recommended preventative measures are publicly accessible in the *CT114161 Flight Safety Investigation Report*.

The investigation found that ingestion of a single, small bird into the engine of the aircraft 'Snowbird 11' following take-off resulted in a compressor stall and a loss of thrust. Upon loss of power, the pilot initiated a climb straight ahead and then a turn back towards the airport. During this manoeuvre, the aircraft entered into an aerodynamic stall and the pilot gave the order to abandon the aircraft.

The pilot and passenger ejected from the aircraft at low altitude and in conditions that were outside safe ejection seat operation parameters. Neither the pilot nor the passenger had the requisite time for their parachutes to function as designed.

Recommendations in the report identified the need to conduct additional training for CT-114 aircrew to better prepare them for an engine failure after take-off in a low-level environment, clarify the command to 'eject', publish a directive to clarify how aircrew should prioritize an ejection-scenario near or over a populated area, and research potential options to stabilize the ejection seat from any tendency to pitch, roll, or yaw.

Quotes

"Snowbird 11's power loss could not have come at a worse time – low altitude, low airspeed, proximity to another aircraft, and in the vicinity of a built-up area. This tragic accident reinforces the importance of continuous, situation-specific training to minimize reaction time in an emergency and the importance of a timely decision to eject."

Colonel John Alexander, Director of Flight Safety, Royal Canadian Air Force

“The Royal Canadian Air Force prides itself on operational flight safety; however, we recognize the inherent risk with military flying, despite the tireless work of our team of professionals to safely operate and maintain our aircraft. In emergency situations, pilots must make split-second decisions after quickly processing a lot of information, while at the same time dealing with high levels of stress, g-forces, and other challenging environmental factors in the cockpit.

We are dedicated to learning from this accident and welcome the flight safety recommendations to minimize the chance of a repeat occurrence.

I wish to thank the people of Kamloops, the members of the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, Kúkpi7 First Nation, Skeetchestn First Nation, and all supporters in Canada and abroad for their outpouring of support to 431 (Air Demonstration) Squadron during this very difficult time.”

Brigadier-General Denis O’Reilly, Commander 2 Canadian Air Division, Royal Canadian Air Force

Quick Facts

- The epilogue to the report can be found on the *Flight Safety Investigation Reports* webpage at the link below. For a copy of the full report, media are asked to contact Media Relations at the Department of National Defence.
- The report makes five preventative and safety-focused recommendations, three of which are focused on operations and two on the aircraft and its systems, with the aim of minimizing the potential for a similar accident to occur in the future.
- The 431 (Air Demonstration) Squadron is currently training at 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Sask., for the 2021 Show Season. Safety focused operational restrictions will continue to be in place for flying and maintenance activities.
- The Tutor Life Extension Project was recently approved to modernize the Tutor aircraft and enable it to continue flying for the Royal Canadian Air Force until 2030. This project is forecasted to reach an initial operational capability by October 2022 and will upgrade aircraft with new avionics and instrumentation, to include a glass cockpit, to ensure compliancy with Federal and Canadian Air Regulations. In parallel, a separate project is underway to improve the aircraft escape system through upgrades to the current parachute and harness design.

Flight Safety Investigation Report for Kamloops Snowbirds Accident. 29 March, 2021. Royal Canadian Air Force. Retrieved 28 April, 2021, from [News Article | Flight Safety Investigation Report for Kamloops Snowbirds accident \(forces.gc.ca\)](#)

Member Profile—Mike Ricketts

Air Cadet

1959 – 1963

Mike was an air cadet in 52 (City of Calgary) RCACS. He graduated from the Senior Leaders Course at Camp Borden in 1962. Mike held all cadet ranks including WO1 for 15 (Calgary) Wing.

Regular Force

1963 – 1980

In 1963, Mike enrolled in ROTP with the RCAF and studied engineering at the University of Alberta. Following graduation in 1967, his first posting as an aeronautical engineer was to No.1 (Fighter) Wing in Lahr, Germany. As Line Servicing Officer, Mike was responsible for providing 36 CF-104 Starfighters to 439 (Sabre-toothed Tiger) and 441 (Silver Fox) squadrons flying in the photo-reconnaissance role. He then spent a year as Engine Repair Officer supervising first and second-line repairs to the J-79 engines of the CF-104. His next job was providing maintenance support to 430 (Silver Falcon) Squadron, flying in a nuclear, strike-attack role..

For the 1969 Tiger Meet, an annual assembly of NATO squadrons having large cats in their squadron badges, Mike oversaw a 439 CF-104 aircraft being painted with black and yellow, “tiger stripes”. Fifty years later, painting aircraft with a tiger paint scheme remains an integral part of Tiger Meets.

In 1970, Mike was posted to CFB Winnipeg to serve as a RSO (Regular Support Officer) working with 402 (City of Winnipeg) Air Reserve Squadron flying single-engined Otters.

Working on his own time and dime, Mike completed an MBA in Quantitative Analysis. This resulted in him being seconded to the Defence Research Board (DRB) as a Defence Scientist (a boffin). From 1973-1975 he pioneered in the use of computers in the Canadian Forces Training Command in Winnipeg.

In 1976, Mike was posted to Ottawa where he developed a computer system to enable the aircraft trades to input and view information at their work sites. A first system was trialled at CFB Trenton with information being sent electronically to Ottawa. In 1979, it was acknowledged to be the most advanced MIS system in the world.

In recognition of his pioneering work with computers, Mike was appointed a Member of the Order of Military Merit.

Volunteer

1982 – Present

In 1980, Mike left the regular force and started work at Dome Petroleum in Calgary. Well known to the members of the RCAF Association, he was soon “encouraged” to get involved. To date, some of this involvement has included:

Commanding Officer of 538 (Buffalo) RCACS from 1982 to 1986

Commanding Officer of 604 (Moose) RCACS from 1989 to 1993

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award – Leader and Board Executive from 1982 to 2018

The RCAF Association – Member since 1993

The Air Force Museum Society of Alberta – Member since 2007, Director since 2012

The Royal Alberta United Services Institute – Member since 2008





We will remember them



Elizabeth (Elsie) Lilja

July 12, 1925 - March 6, 2021

With heartfelt sadness we regretfully announce that Elizabeth (Elsie) Lilja, beloved wife of Robert (Bob), passed away peacefully with her family by her side. Elsie grew up on her family farm near Limerick, SK moving to Calgary in 1948 where, except for brief periods in Montreal and Regina, she resided all her life. Bob and Elsie met in 1950 and their love story was an inspiration to all, with their 67th Wedding Anniversary celebrated February 26, 2021. Mom's amazing spirit will be forever missed and forever mourned.

Elsie will be greatly missed by her loving husband Robert (Bob), four children: Robert (Marie) of Stockholm, Sweden, Carla (Don), Bruce (Penney) and Catherine all of Calgary; five beloved grandchildren: Johan, Josefin, Mark, Curtis and Robbie, and Diane McCoey who held a special place in Elsie's heart. She is survived by two sisters, Faye and Olga as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Elsie was predeceased by grandson Joel and son-in-law Kim and eleven siblings. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family by visiting Leydens.com.



Your laugh for the day...

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (*Sir Winston Churchill loved them*).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you... but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, *"In case of an emergency, notify..." (I answered) a doctor."*
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me.





Gardening Tips for Spring



In Canada our late springs are not easy for starting gardens, especially vegetable gardens. While our American friends, and fellow Canadians in Vancouver and Victoria, are busy in their gardens the rest of the country still has a ways to go before setting foot on the soil. Fear not, Mother Nature has a way of catching up so that the northern parts will get a growing season. So why not put on some rubber boots and try to speed things up? Well, for one thing, tromping around a wet garden just compresses the soil and makes your boots dirty. You can also do a number on the inside of your home if any of the wet clumps of earth get inside. There's no need to push the rites of spring in the big garden when you can get other things in order that are just as important.

Compost Treatment

Most ardent gardeners have a compost bins or piles by the shed, or other out-of-the-way places that holds leaves, decaying vegetation and kitchen compost. This mixture has been sitting all winter long and now it is time to turn it over and get some oxygen into the mix to speed up the decomposition. Garden compost is vital to the health of the whole yard and not just the garden. Besides the fertilizing component compost provides great mulches and other soil improvements for a great price: free. By preparing the organic compost before your garden is ready to plant you can provide great soil conditioners and nutrients. And instead of buying mulch it will be right there to keep the soil loose for water retention and aeration of the roots.

One of the most disheartening sounds in the spring is the sputtering of garden power tools such as aerators and tillers, machines that won't start. Add lawn mowers and weed whackers to the list of lawn and garden tools and the average homeowner may have an orchestra of worn out sounds. Well before the yard is ready begin to get your power tools into shape in the order that they are needed. If something doesn't work there is plenty of time to get it fixed. This includes getting blades sharpened and scraping off rust flakes and coating bare steel with rust paint.

Clean Out the Garage and/or Shed

Many people begin to think about their gardening tools and other garden necessities on the day they want to begin. After a long winter the storage area, whether it's a shed or garage, may not be a pretty site and April is not the time to start getting things together. While the snow is on the ground take a few hours every weekend to get your tools in shape and make a list of supplies that you will need. If the fall clean-up wasn't enough to get rid of the clutter make the spring cleaning especially thorough. Then, when the ground is dry, you are ready to jump in.

Seeds and Plants

When it comes to tomatoes and other plants many Canadians begin with seeds in late February. The small plants are allowed to grow on warm sunny days behind the safety of glass either in a war greenhouse or living room area. On warm, spring days these plants are taken outside to test the weather on their own. When the weather dictates that planting is ready to go the plants are over a foot tall and have been allowed to adapt to their new weather patterns. For some type of plants and flowers it is a good time to order them so that the landscaping establishment will have them on hand when the warm weather brings out a flood of buyers.

Pruning

In Canada any time from late February on is a good time for pruning trees and shrubs. This is only for those trees and shrubs that are not spring blooming otherwise the beauty of the blossoming will be missed. During this time the thinned out bushes can be cleaned of debris that was not easy to reach during the fall.

Yard Clean-Up

After pruning the rest of the yard can be cleaned of debris that has accumulated over the winter or things that were missed in the fall. This includes spruce bough and leaves that were spread out to protect the flowerbeds in the winter. In addition burlap covers for shrubs and trees can be taken off. Be sure to spread these out and dry them in the sun before storage or any dampness might lead to mold growth. Remember, everything that is put away now should be itemized in preparation for taking out and putting in place in the fall.

Mulching

When the weather begins to get hot and the ground dries then the garden work can begin. Also remember that the soil should not be allowed to get too dry or the roots will burn. This is where compost and garden mulch will come in handy.





- The 783 Wing Annual General Meeting, including elections, will be held by Zoom on the 28 June.
- Anyone wishing to chair/assist with the Battle of Britain event is to contact Kenn Nixon
- If anyone is interested in letting their name stand as a director in the upcoming June elections, please let Keith Mann know before the May meeting

