

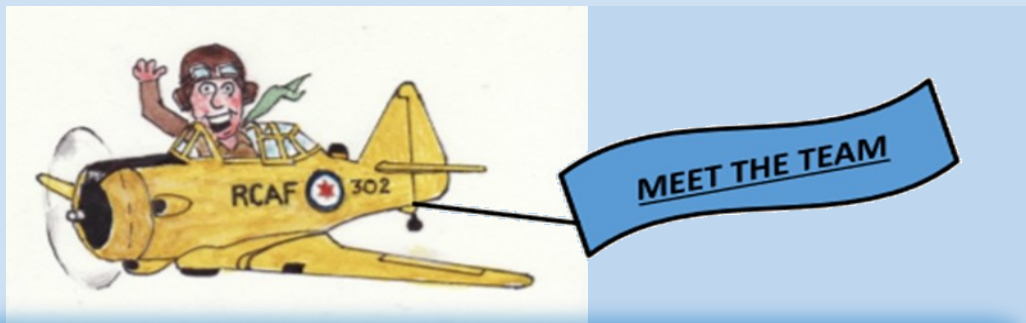
SPIRIT

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)***



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





Message from the Chairperson



As I sit down to write this article, it suddenly dawned on me this may be the last time I write to you as the Chair of this amazing organization. Since 2018, I have worked alongside some amazing people. Together we delivered on the goals of our Wing and the Association. Through it all, we have planned, organized, delivered on so many things. Armed with a committed team of volunteers and a lot of support, we did it. Along the way, we celebrated, paraded, volunteered, organized and best of all, connected one another. While the past sixteen months have not been typical, they have not been wasted. When faced with a pandemic, the Wing masked up, slathered on the hand sanitizer and marched forward, albeit virtually. As we learned to incorporate the technology into how we conducted the Wing business, we could engage with members we hadn't seen at our regular meeting. We even garnered a few new members along the way. Even when we couldn't connect virtually, the great team of volunteers we have tried to connect via phone calls and cards. Wing communications were also made better with this awesome newsletter and social media.

As we look forward to the future with a renewed sense of optimism with vaccinations increasing, case counts decreasing, and restrictions are lifting. It is a great time to hand over the Wing to a new executive to lead us out of the pandemic and future. With our Wing, AGM approaching a solid slate of people will step into many new roles, and I am confident that the Wing is in good shape and well prepared for the future.

I am grateful for the opportunity to shepherd the Wing over these past few years. I know that our Wing will continue to be a vibrant organization delivering on the Association's aims. I want to thank the members of the Wing's executive, past and present, for their continuous guidance and ongoing support during my time as Chair. Each of you has been a source of inspiration and pride. None of what we have accomplished would have been possible without your time, efforts and energy.

As we move towards our AGM and the Wing will be under new leadership, I am confident they will continue to build on the lessons we have learned and past success. They will continue to engage our community, foster support for RCAF Heritage and traditions, support the cadets, and advocate for a stronger, better equipped Air Force.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Randy Fisher

Chairman

783 (Calgary) Wing



Happy Birthday to you (Jul/Aug)

Barbara Mann	2 Jul
Bob White	2 Jul
Dorothy Allison	4 Jul
Rob Caswell	7 Jul
Robert Walker	13 Jul
Norma Keller	14 Jul
Lesley Myles	14 Jul
Gordon Kelso	17 Jul
Walter Empey	27 Jul
Lorie Gordon	27 Jul
Barry McDonald	29 Jul
Joanna Howard	1 Aug
Dorothy Deines	8 Aug
Karen Spielman	12 Aug
Cecelia Brugma	14 Aug
Jim Laroche	14 Aug
Robert Lilja	14 Aug
Grant Whitson	17 Aug
Charles Swainey	18 Aug
Robert Clarke	21 Aug

Links to interesting presentations

Scott Deederly has kindly provided a number of links for those who wish to watch presentations that may interest you. They are:

Historian Ted Barris was on [WW2 TV](#) Youtube Channel with Paul Woodage talking about the Canadian experience of the Great Escape. Go to link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwyojZGGfz4> to watch it.

[WW2 TV](#) host Paul Woodage will be interviewing family members of Stalag Luft III P.O.W.s including our very own Barry Davidson Jr. talking about his Father, Calgary's own Pilot Officer Barry Davidson who was shot down over France July 6, 1940 and became Stalag Luft III's famous 'scrounger' later played by James Garner in the 1963 film The Great Escape. (<https://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/chronicles/p-o-barry-davidson-p-o-w/>)

To watch Barry Davidson's interview go to link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQrILAjTcKE>

To follow on our guest speaker's presentation at our last meeting, this link will take you to the Great Canadian Fighter Jet Debate that 700 Wing Edmonton hosted on 13 Mar, 2021. To watch the debate, please follow this link: <https://youtu.be/baaXwVgXvT8>

Bob Wade provided information on the following presentation: Crestwood High School in Ontario have been conducting video interviews with veterans for several years now. They recently completed a Zoom interview with Maj Gen (Rtd) Ken Lett in five segments including his pre war memories, training and deployment overseas, his first combat missions, dog fights and ground targets and his end of war experiences. The video is exceptional in content with some great film footage and pictures. The video may be seen by clicking on the following URL: <https://www.crestwood.on.ca/ohp/lett-ken/>

Member Profile

Douglas Eaglesham

Doug Eaglesham was raised on a farm near Cayley, AB, and has lived all but 5 years in the Cayley area. He attended school in Cayley and High River, then completed the Agricultural Mechanics course at Olds College, Olds , AB. He then enrolled in the Automotive Technician apprenticeship program, obtaining his Journeyman licence. His interest in aviation eventually led him to becoming an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer for the last few years of his working career.

His interest in aviation began on one specific day at a young age, around 8 years old, when he watched the RCAF Golden Hawks practicing their air demonstration routine over the farm. With that seed firmly planted, Doug joined 187 High River Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron as soon as he was eligible, maybe even a bit before his 14th birthday, which was the minimum joining age at the time. He spent 5 memorable years with 187 until aging out. Within a few years of turning in his cadet uniform, Doug signed up as a CIC officer and spent the next 40 years in that uniform.

While attending Olds College, Doug met someone who would turn out to be the most important person in his life. Marlene and Doug married soon after graduating, and over the next few years became the proud parents of two great sons.

Doug has always recognized the value of supporting his community and development of youth. He has been involved in a number of areas which allow him to support those interests, which is primarily responsible for his induction into the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2013.

Since his “official” retirement, Doug began volunteering as a director with the Bomber Command Museum of Canada in Nanton, and has joined the Air Cadet League of Alberta, currently assisting as the League representative to 903 RCACS.

Long Service Pins

Long Service Pins have been distributed. Unfortunately, due to the continuing COVID restrictions, the pins were mailed out instead of presented at a meeting. Below is the letter that accompanied the pins.

For those of our members who hit a milestone with the RCAFA (on the next page), congratulations! Your continuing participation is greatly appreciated.



783 Calgary Wing
Royal Canadian Air
Force Association

June 2, 2021

Dear 783 Wing Member,

Service is a special thing in that it can take many forms, from the simple act of supporting an activity, event or attending a meeting. It might also be in the simplest of gestures, such as showing support through a paid-up membership.

Enclosed with this brief note is your long service pin for the 783 Calgary Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association. I hope you find a small measure of pride in wearing it. By wearing it and displaying it proudly, you once again are serving the wing.

On behalf of all our wing members, congratulations on your many years of service. We thank you for your continued and ongoing support to our wing and our Association.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy M. Fisher".

Randy M. Fisher,
Chairman

ADVOCACY

HERITAGE

YOUTH

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Years with RCAFA</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Years with RCAFA</i>
Ernie Anastasiou	5	Beverley Burke	20
James Bristowe	5	Kenneth Clark	20
Adriano Fisico	5	Dorothy Deines	20
Francesca Fasico	5	Walter Empey	20
Mark Levesque	5	Kendra Fisher	20
Brandon Lewis	5	Glenys Goossens	20
Karen Spielman	5	Neil Holmen	20
Mike Ter Kuile	5	Barbara Mann	20
Daphne Ter Kuile	5	Keith Mann	20
Bob Walker	5	Don Matthews	20
William Cook	10	Kenn Nixon	20
Norma Cooke	10	Pat Sulek	20
Myra Empey	10	Robert Ross	20
Bridget Given	10	John Ter Keuile	20
Lorie Gordon	10	James Third	20
Ian Morgan	10	Gord Todd	20
John Stanford	10	Bob White	20
Charlie-Mae Wilson	10	Arline Chartier	25
Bryndis Whitson	10	Kirby Haines	25
Scott Deederly	10	Bernard Hayden	25
Betty Wonnacott	10	Bruce Millar	25
Susan Clarke	15	Mike Ricketts	25
Cynthia Guidinger	15	Charles Weeks	25
Ron Guidinger	15	Gordon Kelso	40
David Leggo	15	Gerry Morrison	40
Jane MacDonnell	15	Ruth Mascaro	45
Don Norrie	15	Glenn Traub	45
Robert Vanderlee	15		



We will remember them



MERVIN CHARLES PINKERTON (Jun 24, 1933 to Jun 10, 2021)

Mervin Charles Pinkerton was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend who lived his best life. He left this world on June 10, 2021 at the Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary at the age of 87 years.

Mervin was born to Catherine and Frederic Pinkerton in Lethbridge on June 24, 1933, the first of three children. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Betty Lou; his son Timothy Pinkerton; his mother and father; and his brother Robert Pinkerton. Mervin's fabulous life will be forever cherished by his daughter and son-in-law, Tracey Pinkerton and Ernesto Ferreira; his grandchildren Shawna (Cameron) Bains of Calgary, Samantha Yanke of Calgary, David Ferreira and Michelle Ferreira, both of Toronto; and his great-granddaughter, Claire Bains. Mervin also leaves behind his sister, Maureen Jackson, of St. Albert, Alberta; his sisters-in-law, Biddy (Bob) Jacobs and Liz Patey; his daughter-in-law, Leanne Pinkerton; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends. His "family" at the Lake Bonavista Village Senior's Community was very important to him, both staff and residents. Helping people out, whether long-time residents, new "family" members or staff, gave him purpose, and his passing has left a void for everyone there.

Mervin enjoyed a rich life with Betty Lou. They travelled to many countries, on all but one continent, and loved time spent at the cabin at Shuswap Lake. As a young man, he was one of the youngest Air Cadets to earn his wings in Lethbridge at 16 years old. He was the former partner-owner of Forman's Men's Wear, and an active member of Kinsmen (and later K-40).

Mervin will be honoured at a small family tribute at the lake. In lieu of flowers, Merv would have preferred that a donation be made to Air Cadets (<https://aircadetleague.com/donate/>).

Thank you to the staff at Rockyview General Hospital, particularly on Unit 61. His stay there was brief, but their kindness and care were appreciated by both him and his daughter.





We will remember them



CASTON, DOUGLAS MARMADUKE (June 23, 1940 to May 17, 2021)

We are heartbroken to announce the sudden passing of our beloved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, brother and uncle. Douglas M. Caston passed away suddenly on May 17, 2021 at the age of 80. Douglas was a kind and thoughtful gentleman, who was beloved by all who knew him, most especially his wife of 35 years, Sonja. We are proud of Douglas and we are grateful for the joys which he contributed to our lives. Douglas grew up in Edson, Alberta. Douglas earned his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta and his MBA from the University of Saskatchewan. Douglas attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force (Captain). Douglas was the National Manager for the Investment Dealers Association until 1975. He then served as a trade commissioner and sector officer for the Government of Canada within the Department of Industry Trade and Commerce, with postings in Regina, Washington, D.C., Edmonton, and Calgary. Douglas shared his extensive knowledge of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures to assist other businesspersons accomplish their oil and gas services, technology and transportation related business objectives. He spoke English, French and Russian.

In his retirement, Douglas loved barbequing and visiting Maui's beaches. He and Sonja made many friends in Hawaii each winter, with whom they shared home-cooked turkey dinners and celebrations together on the lanai at sunset for over 20 years. Douglas was an excellent cook. He enjoyed reading military history and mystery novels, as well as studying aeronautics, medical science and biology.

Douglas is survived by his loving wife, Sonja; his children, Sheila (Brent) and Douglas; his stepchildren, Shirley, Holly and Andrew; his grandchildren, Sydney and Avery; his brothers, Tom (Jill) and Richard; his sisters, Patricia (Tony), BettyLou (Phil) and Brenda (Bob); and his cousins, nieces and nephews. Douglas was predeceased by his father, Douglas; his mother, Violet; and his sister, Kathleen.

Douglas is missed tremendously. A Celebration of Douglas' Life will be held in Edson, Alberta later this Fall 2021 when gathering restrictions are lifted. To view and share your photos, condolences and stories of Douglas, please visit his memory page at www.choicememorial.com. If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made in Douglas' name directly to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta or the charity of one's choice. Douglas served as a volunteer firefighter in Sturgeon County, so in living memory of Douglas M. Caston, we will plant trees this summer to restore Alberta's forests impacted by wildfires.



Your laugh for the day...

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. 'Careful,' he said, 'CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my gosh! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my gosh! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK! Careful. CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!'

The wife stared at him. 'What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?' The husband calmly replied, 'I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving.'

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond.

Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch. The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"



Hero Shots

Impressing drunk chicks since 1903

Board Opportunities available at Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada announced on June 23 , 2021 that they are looking for new members to join one of their six Ministerial Advisory Groups. They are looking for Veterans, Canadians and stakeholders from all regions of the country with diverse knowledge, expertise and experience who want to make a contribution by sharing their perspectives and advice on issues relevant to Veterans and their families. Veterans Affairs are looking for new members for each of the following six advisory groups:

- **Policy Advisory Group:** Provides advice on priority issues associated with policy aspects of existing programs and services, as well as new initiatives and emerging priorities.
- **Service Excellence and Transition Advisory Group:** Provides advice on priority issues associated with transition from military to civilian life, the service delivery aspects of programs, as well as the services and benefits currently in place that support the health and well-being of Veterans and their families.
- **Mental Health Advisory Group:** Provides advice on priority issues related to mental health among Veterans, notably, operational stress injuries (OSI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide prevention.
- **Care and Support Advisory Group:** Provides advice on priority issues related to the special health needs and continuity of care for Veterans of all ages.
- **Advisory Group on Families:** Provides advice on priority issues related to Veterans' families and support systems.
- **Commemoration Advisory Group:** Provides advice on priority issues related to the delivery of departmental commemoration activities, commemoration of recent conflicts and education.

Ministerial advisory groups at Veterans Affairs Canada are an opportunity to share knowledge, expertise, and experiences with the Minister to help guide change and improve services for Veterans and their families.

The following experience factors will be considered during the selection process:

- Experience as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP;
- Experience in dealing with the Canadian Armed Forces military culture;
- Experience as a family member of a Veteran or Canadian Armed Forces member;
- Experience working with Veterans, including RCMP Veterans or current involvement with the Veteran community;
- Experience working with other Veteran-centric community or volunteer organizations.

Advisory group members do not receive a salary but will be reimbursed for reasonable and pre-approved expenses related to the work of the advisory groups. Members will serve at the discretion of the Minister and during the tenure of the Minister. Members must be available for meetings to be held approximately four times per year (quarterly) both in person and/or virtual.

To apply, please submit the following via email to engagement@veterans.gc.ca:

A completed [application form](#);

- An up-to-date resume; and
- A cover letter highlighting your relevant experience (two pages maximum, approximately 1000 words).

If you have any difficulties filling out the application form, contact at engagement@veterans.gc.ca

To learn more visit [ministerial advisory groups](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/what-we-do/public-engagement/advisory-groups/apply) (at <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/what-we-do/public-engagement/advisory-groups/apply>). Please forward and share this information with interested persons. Deadline to apply is 21 July ,2021.

Letter of Appreciation

The Air Force Museum of Alberta would like to thank 783 Wing members for their very generous donation of \$1000 in lieu of participation in our annual golf tournament which was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Our usual sources of revenue, such as the golf tournament and casinos, have been cancelled for the past year and one half and yet, operating expenses



for heat and electricity etc. are still accrued. Your donation goes a long way towards enabling us to continue operations. We have continued to develop and expand displays during this period and the Cold War Exhibit expansion project is progressing nicely. It is anticipated we may be able to start construction by next summer enabling us to have three more fighter/ training aircraft on display. Thank you once again for your generous support. We look forward to reopening to the public on the 1st of July.

Bob Wade

Director of Exhibits and Displays

Air Force Museum of Alberta



The Annual General Meeting will be held Monday, 28 June at 7:00pm on zoom. Our guest speaker will be Laurie Hawn speaking on the next generation of fighter aircraft.



The museum is open Thursday through Monday, 10-4 pm. There are special days upcoming on 24 July, 28 August and 18 September which will be highlighted with Lancaster engine runs throughout the day. The museum website has a new addition, a virtual tour of the displays. Please check it out at <https://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/>.