

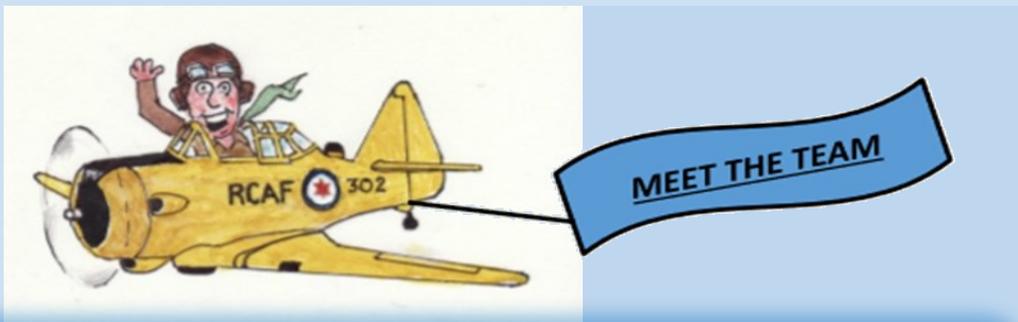
# **SPIRIT**

*783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter*

**ROYAL CANADIAN  
AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION**



***Wing Meets the last Tuesday  
of each month at 7pm  
285 Legion Horton Road  
(virtual version also available)***



Chairperson	Michelle Gerwing
Honorary Chairperson	Col (Retd) Don Matthews
Immediate Past Chairperson	Rob Caswell
First Vice Chairperson	Scott Deederly
Second Vice Chairperson	Adriano Fisco
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	Michele Henderson
Sergeant at Arms	Kevin Knight
Entertainment Chair	Muriel Mymko
Public Relations	Bob Wade
Military Museum Liaison	Bob Wade
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight
Advocacy	Scott Deederly
Webmaster/Social Media	Kent Anderson







## *Message from the Chairperson*

Wow, it is hard to imagine it is 2024. It seems like yesterday when we were celebrating the big change of millennium (I am starting to sound like my Dad did). This is a big year for us with the Air Force centenary. There is lots to celebrate and our committee is working hard to ensure we do! We will continue to keep you informed of the events planned at our monthly meetings. Let the fun begin!

Since our last newsletter, we have celebrated Remembrance Day and held our Christmas party. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in making these a huge success.

In addition, thanks to everyone who could join us for Jeremy Hansen's interesting presentation. There were so many good questions and I feel we learned what to expect on his adventures in space.

There is much going on in the Canadian Forces. The announcement of the remotely piloted aircraft purchase was exciting news. I have added more in later in the newsletter for you to read about it.

A friend of mine is working at NORAD and he and his family worked in the Santa Tracker command post. Now that would be fun! I will try to engage him later in the year to speak with us about time in Colorado Springs.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Michelle Gerwing

Chairman

783 (Calgary) Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association

## Cheque Presentations



Pat presented the cheque to the Friends of Col Belcher



Scott presents the cheque to the Veterans Food Bank



Scott presents the cheque to the Magic of Christmas

## ***Member Profile***

### ***My Life in the Royal Canadian Air Force by Glenys M. Goossens***

I was very proud to serve in the RCAF in the early 1950s, and my strong interest in military affairs has continued to this day.

I was born in Bangor, Saskatchewan. I remember listening to the radio in 1942 in my rural Saskatchewan home, and being extremely interested in the news about WWII. Two years later, my older twin sisters joined the army. They were 19 years old. I wanted to join as well, but I couldn't as I was too young at the time. When the RCAF resumed the recruitment of women in April of 1951, after pausing recruitment between 1945-1951, my chance to serve became a reality. I started the paperwork process in May, and on July 5th, 1951, I was sworn in as a member of the RCAF. Later in the summer, I boarded a train in Regina for the long trip to St. Jean, Quebec, to begin basic training. The train picked up more women along the route to Montreal. We were driven to St. Jean in a truck, and I was assigned to a room in the barracks. There were about 50 women all about the same age there. I was placed in Course #8.

Near the end of basic training, I met with a counsellor to choose my preferred trade in the Air Force. Since I had experience working in an office, administration was suggested, but I wanted to learn something new. I chose to be a radio operator. I graduated from basic training in mid-October, and was sent to Clinton, Ontario, to begin my vocation.

Radio operator training lasted from October 1951 to April 1952, and it was very stressful at times. Learning to receive and send Morse code was like learning a new language. In fact, it was a new language, and until I was able to think in code, it was very challenging.

Sending was easier than receiving. At times students would just get up and walk out of the room for a few minutes, it was so overwhelming. Our brains needed a rest! When I graduated I was able to read Morse code at 22 words per minute and send at 25 words per minute. May I say it is something I'm still proud of even after all these years.

At the end of radio operator training, I was very happy to be posted to Sea Island in BC. When I arrived, I discovered my service records had gone AWOL so I had no money. No records, no pay. They gave me a small advance until everything was sorted out.

After about 6 months, we were posted to Comox. We were 9 women on the entire base! Since they didn't have barracks slated for "women only", they billeted us on the first floor of the single officers' barracks. Although we were not supposed to fraternize with the men, this provided us with a lot of fun, because we used to communicate with the guys upstairs via Morse code by tapping on the pipes! This improved our sending and receiving skills immensely!

Comox was a Maritime Patrol Base, and Lancasters were the main aircraft used. It was because of this experience that I grew to love the sound and look of a Lancaster bomber, especially the sound.

My time at Comox is filled with both happy and sad memories. Two Lancasters crashed while I was there. In the first crash, the pilot and co-pilot were thrown clear, while 8 passengers perished. I knew some of those passengers. The second crash took the lives of our close friends "Brownie" and "Bergie". Their names are on the wall in the Cold War Museum in Calgary.

Gerry Goossens (Flight Lieutenant, later Captain) and I were married in July of 1954, and since married women were not employed by the Federal government at that time, I was released from the RCAF in September of 1954. We were transferred to Greenwood, Nova Scotia in October of 1954. After that came postings to Biloxi, Mississippi; St. Hubert, QC; RAF North Cotes, England, and North Bay, ON.

My years in the RCAF were very special, and I am still active in military-associated activities. They include #285 Legion, 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA, and the Ex-Service Women's group. Age and osteoarthritis have slowed me down, but I still enjoy life.





## *We will remember them*



**Ian Morgan 27 Oct, 2035—12 Nov, 2023**

Ian was born on October 27, 1935 in London, England to Frank and Vera Morgan. Ian is survived by his brother Galt, sister-in-law Shirley Morgan, his niece, Sonia, her husband Matt Linnell and their two sons Owen and Wesley. Other relatives include a cousin in England, Mary Spencer, her children and various other relatives in England, New Zealand and Australia. He was predeceased by his wife Faye, his parents Frank & Vera Morgan and a close aunt Margery Scotland.

Ian grew up in Tottenham, England until he was evacuated by sea, with his mother, to Canada during World War Two. Ian's father was serving in the Royal Air Force at the time and was posted to Canada to train pilots for the RAF. During his school years, Ian lived through an emigration to Canada, a return to England after the war and emigration back to Canada shortly thereafter.

After completing High School in Canada Ian enrolled in the Royal Roads Naval Academy but left before completing the program. He subsequently became an Articled Chartered Accountant Student under John Bowles, FCA at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co in Calgary successfully becoming a Chartered Accountant. Ian later relocated to Vancouver with Peat, Marwick. Before moving to Vancouver, Ian developed a passion for Sports Car Rallying and Sky Diving. He enjoyed sports car rallying with the CSCC (Calgary Sports Car Club). He was Rally Master for a number of their rally's and helped Introduce "Loop Cups" that were similar to the trophies presented in European rallies. Ian also participated in the Trans-Canada Rally, a 4,000 mile (6,400 km) Canada wide rally.

Ian met and on July 22, 1967 married Elaine Faye Taitinger at Christ Church (Anglican) in Invermere, British Columbia close to the Morgan's summer home on Lake Windermere.

Ian later moved to Ontario and Quebec serving in various financial and management positions. He served in the Naval Reserve rising to the rank of Lt. Commander. Ian was invested into the Ottawa Commandery of the Order of Saint Lazarus in 1978 and served as the Vice-Chancellor Finance of the Order from 1984 to 1986. Ian remained a member of both organizations until his death.

Ian and Faye relocated from Ottawa to Okotoks, Alberta where they retired. Ian remained active in the Naval Reserve and the Calgary Commandery of The Order of Saint Lazarus and was an active volunteer in local community events and functions.

Following Faye's death from cancer in 2021, Ian's Parkinson's Disease progressed and he was temporarily hospitalized, finally settling in the Silverado Creek Seniors Community in Calgary until his recent death on November 12.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by South Calgary Funeral Centre. A Memorial Service will be held at a future date in Victoria, B.C.



## *We will remember them*



### **Myra Veronika Empey Jan 16, 1937— 25 Nov, 2023**

Our dear mother Myra Veronica Empey, sadly passed away on Saturday, November 25th, 2023 while a resident of Tudor Manor in Okotoks at the age of 86. She is now with our Dad. She left behind her sons Walter jr and Christopher (Cory). Her grandsons Tyler, Derek and Clayton Empey and their wives, as well as her brothers Guzzy and Monty and their spouses. She had served in the R.C.A.F as a Medical Aid in the 50's. She also had many friends and was a well-loved member of the Cimarron condo community in Okotoks, Alberta.



## News Release

December 19, 2023 – Ottawa, Ontario, Department of National Defence

Through Canada's defence policy, Strong, Secure, Engaged, the Government of Canada is acquiring modern military equipment to keep Canadians safe and protected, and to support the security of our international allies and partners.

Today, Marie-France Lalonde, Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of National Defence, and Kody Blois, Member of Parliament for Kings—Hants, announced a major investment in the Royal Canadian Air Force on behalf of the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

Madame Lalonde and Mr. Blois announced that the Government of Canada will invest \$2.49 billion to acquire a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) capability. The acquisition will be completed through a direct commercial sale contract with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc, with some specific components acquired through a Foreign Military Sale with the United States government.

The Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) will provide the CAF with a large and sophisticated remotely piloted aircraft, roughly the size of a fighter jet. Unlike small drones, these Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems will be designed and certified to the rigid airworthiness standards applicable to crewed aircraft.

This acquisition includes:

- eleven remotely piloted aircraft;
- six ground control stations;
- a new ground control centre;
- two new aircraft hangars;
- initial weapons;
- sustainment services;
- a training solution that includes training devices, mission crew and technician courseware;
- supporting information management and technology; and
- associated work and equipment.

The first delivery is anticipated in 2028 and the full operational capability by 2033.

At home, the RPAS capability will allow the CAF to monitor Canada's large territory and long coastline. It will support civilian aid operations such as responding to forest fires and floods.

In deployed operations, an RPAS will provide commanders an overview of operational situations with near real-time information. The system will be capable of detecting, recognizing, identifying, tracking, and engaging targets in complex environments. It will also enable Canada to optimally fulfill its North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) and NATO missions while

increasing interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces. On top of enhancing these capabilities, the system will reduce the risk to personnel involved in combat operations on the ground, as well as aircrew. There is no risk to aircrew life if a remotely piloted aircraft is lost or damaged because of an incident or enemy attack.

This investment marks yet another significant milestone for the Royal Canadian Air Force, as we approach its 100th anniversary in 2024. Since 2022 alone, the Government of Canada has finalized the procurement or upgrade of approximately 140 new aircraft for the Royal Canadian Air Force, including:

- 88 new F-35 fighter jets,
- 9 new CC-330 Husky strategic tanker and transport aircraft,
- up to 16 new P-8A Poseidon multi-mission aircraft,
- 16 new or upgraded Cormorant helicopters (as the project will upgrade our fleet to provide Canada with the most advanced version of the helicopter); and
- 11 remotely piloted aircraft announced today.

These acquisitions demonstrate our commitment to recapitalizing the Royal Canadian Air Force, so that it can protect Canada for generations to come.

As part of this project, General Atomics will provide meaningful business activities and targeted investments to Canadian industry to support the growth of the aerospace and defence sector, including the remotely piloted systems and autonomous technologies industry. General Atomics' economic benefits commitments to Canada as part of the acquisition contract have the potential to contribute close to 700 jobs annually for Canadian industry and value chain partners, and input \$97 million annually to Canada's gross domestic product over a nine-year period.

The RPAS aircraft will be stationed at 14 Wing Greenwood, NS, and 19 Wing Comox, BC. They will also be operated from a Forward Operating Location when supporting missions in northern Canada. The ground control centre, which will house the aircraft cockpits, will be located in Ottawa. New infrastructure will be built in Ottawa to house the ground control centre and will also be required to support RPAS operations at 14 Wing Greenwood, and 19 Wing Comox. Infrastructure costs are included in the overall project budget.

We expect that approximately 55 CAF and DND personnel will be stationed at 14 Wing Greenwood, 25 personnel at 19 Wing Comox, and 160 personnel at the ground control centre in Ottawa. Personnel will also be deployed to one of our Forward Operating Locations to support operations in Northern Canada, as required.

*Retrieved from : [Canada acquiring Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for the Canadian Armed Forces - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-of-national-defence/news/2023/12/canada-acquiring-remotely-piloted-aircraft-systems-for-the-canadian-armed-forces.html) on 29 Dec, 2023*

As you plan your New Year's resolutions, here are a few that may fit into your plans:

- Order every drink on the Starbucks Menu.
- Flamingo a friend's yard for their birthday or an anniversary.
- Perfect your charcuterie board skills.
- Celebrate Hallmark's Countdown to Christmas, in July!
- Exercise...your right to Taco Tuesday!
- Wind down the day with a glass of vino...oh, wait, you've already perfected that resolution.
- Treat your car to regular disco carwashes.
- Perfect your favorite celebrity impression.
- Spend a night ending each and every sip of your drink with an enthusiastic, "Ahhhhh, baby!"
- See how many times you can watch your favorite series back to back, in one year, without getting bored of it.
- Join a "buy nothing" group on Facebook and trade up to see how big of an item you can get.
- Keep gum or mints in your purse and be the friend that always has them to offer after meals.
- Start a meme account.
- Work "Time will tell" into conversation at least once a week.
- Stay in more interesting Airbnb's (treehouses, teepees, Airstreams, etc.)
- Drink your coffee while it's hot
- Got a little "junk in the trunk?" Find out what's in there...literally: see what treasures are hiding out in your car's trunk.
- Throw a penny in the mall wishing well, every time you go (and get rid of all those pennies in the process).
- Host a Sunday Supper for your friends at least once a month.
- Learn the "Thriller" dance by Halloween
- Rearrange your kitchen...yet again.
- Live my best life and only buy pants with no buttons or zippers.
- Stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables — and eat them before they turn into green mystery goop in the back of the fridge.
- Sign up for a marathon but I will not actually run.
- Pick movies on Netflix swiftly and decisively so that, you know, I actually hit play before falling asleep.
- Carefully read all of the directions on a box of food before throwing it away so that I don't have to go garbage diving midway through making Hamburger Helper.



# REMINDER

***From your Membership Director:***

*Please contact Anna Lewis, our Director of Membership, if you change any contact info at [bandalewis@shaw.ca](mailto:bandalewis@shaw.ca)*



***From your Health and Wellness Director***

*All Wing members already receive birthday cards. Do you know of anyone in our membership who would appreciate receiving a card of congratulations, or perhaps a card to raise their spirits? Greetings could be sent for many reasons, such as:*

- *a “milestone” birthday*
- *best wishes for someone in hospital or convalescing at home*
- *bereavement on the passing of a Wing member*
- *retirement*
- *graduation*
- *marriage*
- *a special wedding anniversary*
- *receiving recognition and/or winning an award*