

SPIRIT

783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter

***ROYAL CANADIAN
AIR FORCE
ASSOCIATION***



***The Wing meets the last
Tuesday of the month at
7pm in 285 Legion Horton
Road (virtually as well)***



MEET THE TEAM

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/Darlene Laroche
Public Relations	Bob Wade
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight
Advocacy	Scott Deederly
Webmaster/Social Media	Kent Anderson





Message from the Chairperson

We have finished our planned RCAF 100th anniversary events and each one was a success! Thanks so much to our organizing committee for all the work you expended to make this such an event-packed celebration. I was able to attend most events and was astounded by all the work that went into each one.

We will be moving on to our Remembrance Day service soon, closely followed by our Christmas Dinner. I am looking forward to both of those as well.

I am not sure about you, but this year is just whizzing by. I feel the clock of my life has turned into a fan! I cannot believe we are about to head into our pre-holiday season in a couple of week (holiday music will start on the radio soon and Costco has had gift ideas in for about a month). I do hope you take the time to celebrate the season with you and yours and that you have some time to relax (for those who are not retired or retired and involved in more activities than ever). For our retirees, continue to relax and enjoy the festivities.

For those that receive disability pensions from VAC, please note:

Later this year, Class Members who currently receive disability pensions directly from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will automatically receive settlement payments from VAC by direct deposit or cheque.

Estates, family members of deceased Class Members and other Class Members who do not currently receive disability pensions directly from VAC will be required to submit a Claim by March 19, 2025. Claims can be submitted at the administrator's website:

veteranspensionsettlement.kpmg.ca

If this applies to you, please submit a claim. The process is easy and I can assist if need be. You will need a witness to the online form

I have also included the letter sent to all of you from the Chairman of the RCAFA via the Director on 31 Oct. We had a bit of discussion regarding this at our last meeting and will further discuss it at our Nov meeting when we should have more information. Stay tuned.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Michelle Gerwing

Chairman

783 (Calgary) Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association



Happy Birthday to you (Nov/Dec)

Garry Mellor	2 Nov
Ruth Mascaro	8 Nov
Betty Wonnacott	9 Nov
Kearra Peterson	13 Nov
Walter Wakula	15 Nov
Andrea Chant	16 Nov
Donald Ward	18 Nov
Dylaney Thompson	22 Nov
Nadine Spielman	22 Nov
Don Matthews	24 Nov
Doug Eaglesham	26 Nov
Lorne Fleming	27 Nov
Cindy Guidinger	27 Nov
Fran McCarthy	27 Nov
Mike Ricketts	28 Nov
Joan Embleton	30 Nov
Eugene Kushnir	2 Dec
Kenn Nixon	3 Dec
Adriano Fisico	4 Dec
Carla Lilja-Wilson	
David Leggo	5 Dec
Charlie-Mae Wilson	5 Dec
Mike Ter Kuile	6 Dec
Thom Gordon	9 Dec
Michele Henderson	13 Dec
Keith Spielman Jr	16 Dec
Art hill	23 Dec
Arline Chartier	31 Dec



From our Chairman of the National Board of Directors:



RCAF Association Board of Directors
PO Box 2460 Station "D"
Ottawa, ON K1P 5W6

29 October 2024

RCAF Association Key Stakeholders incl Wing Delegates/Leaders

STATUS OF THE RCAF ASSOCIATION

Dear Members,

The long-term viability of our association has been the subject of discussion for some time now. With membership continuing to decline, annual revenues have now reached a point where it is necessary to either reduce programs and services or significantly increase revenues. This has been compounded by the fact that both the Executive Director and Office/Retail Manager have tendered their resignations with effect from 31 January 2025 and it is unlikely these positions can be filled with the appropriate professionals by Jan. 31, 2025. **The future of the RCAF Association is in serious doubt and requires your immediate attention.**

Important decisions on the future of the RCAF Association will be on the agenda for the upcoming Board of Directors meeting on 1 November 2024 at 11:00 AM ET, and for the on-line (Zoom) General Meeting of the Association on 24 November 2024 at 1:00 PM ET. Barring a significant adjustment to planned programs and services and / or a significant increase in revenues in 2025, as well as a functioning staff to administer the Association, we will have no real options left other than to move towards dissolution of the Association. The current staff have agreed to remain in place until 30 June 2025 to assist with that dissolution should that be the way forward.

Wings are advised that the dissolution of the RCAF Association will cease all permissions to use copyright-protected word- and trademarks that belong to the government of Canada. All references to the RCAF, the association, and all "marks" will have to be taken down, removed or ceased. In short there will be NO RCAF Association should it be dissolved. In addition, the dissolution of the Association will mean that the RCAF Trust will need to also be dissolved with decisions taken as to how that dissolution occurs.

It is my sincere hope and belief that the collective membership of the RCAF Association can chart a way forward to ensure its long-term viability. I encourage the participation of Wing delegates and other key stakeholders in the (on-line) General Meeting 24 November (1:00 PM ET), at which time the Board will lead a discussion on options moving forward, and together I am certain that we can rise to the challenge in the best traditions of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Per Ardua Ad Astra,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Lovallo'.

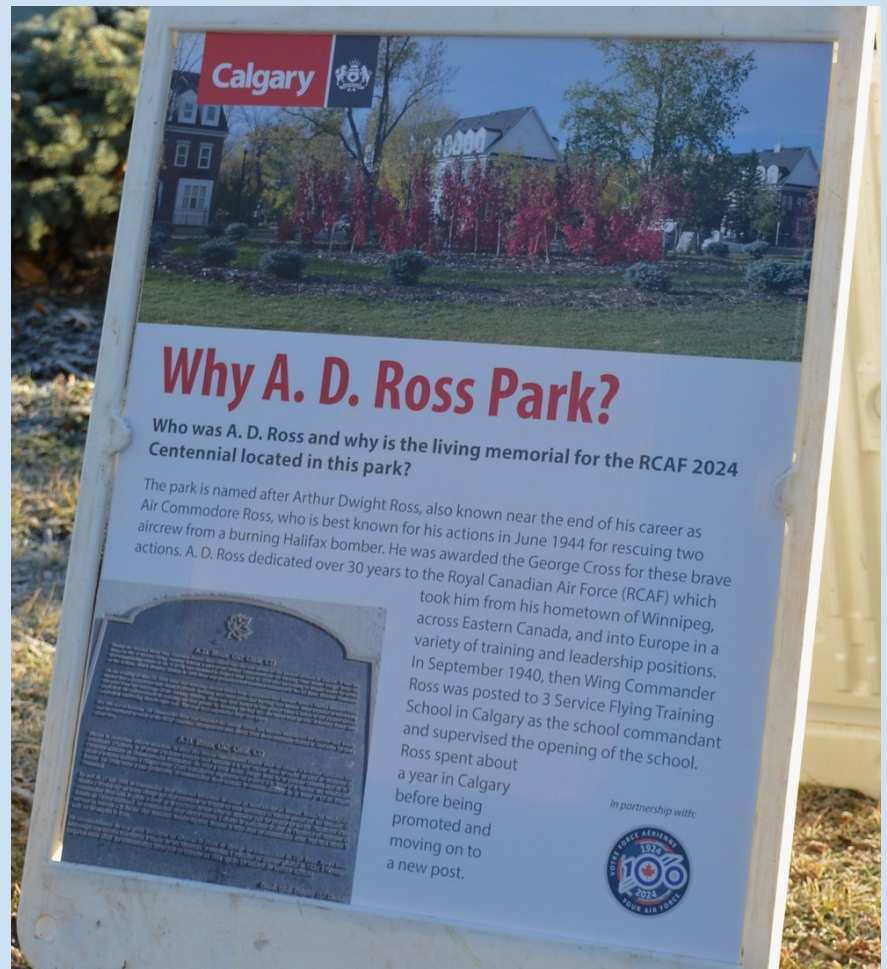
Charles "Chuck" Lovallo
Chairman,

Royal Canadian Air Force Association de l'Aviation royale canadienne

#405 – 222 Somerset Street, West, Ottawa, ON, K2P 2G3
Website - <http://rcfassociation.ca> E-mail – contact@airforce.ca
613-232-2303 or toll-free 866-351-2322

Trees for Heroes, dedication of trees planted

At A.D. Ross Park



Battle of Britain



Padre Lemmon with a Prayer of Remembrance

Some of the cadets present



Our flypast

Our Mixed Dining In 19 Oct

A piece of lumber from one of the hangars at CFB Borden, the first home of the RCAF, presented by LCol Durand and MWO of 1AMS. This piece of wood will reside in the Air Force Museum





We will remember them



TERI LYNN LANG 1967-2024

Teri was born in Brockville, ON, on May 17, 1967, to the late Dale Gerard Gibson and Jacqueline Iris Greenhorn (nee Scott).

Teri led a remarkable life, having undergone a twelve-hour operation at one day old. She endured all the usual diseases of childhood while living with cystic fibrosis, which led to a double lung transplant, lymphoma, diabetes, and both kidney and lung failure until she simply wore out.

She went through life with a smile and positively touched dozens of lives as she went. At various times, Teri fulfilled all the roles of the Stampede City Kinettes, helping to raise thousands of dollars for research into cystic fibrosis, the disease which ultimately caught up to her.

Teri worked at the Southern Alberta Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Canada as an office manager for several years and was one of the organizers for the annual “Walk to Make Cystic Fibrosis History”, and the many golf tournaments which raised money for cystic fibrosis.

She was an active member of the 783 Wing Royal Canadian Air Force Association. During her long Kinettes career, Teri was awarded many honours, including the Hal Rogers Member Achievement Award, a Kinettes Life Membership, and the prestigious Cystic Fibrosis Canada Summerhayes Award—an award which is given only when a deserving candidate has been discovered.



We will remember them



The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the doctors and nurses of the Organ Transplant Team at the University of Alberta Hospital, who performed her transplant on Christmas Day in 2001. They also extend their thanks to the doctors, nurses, and coordinators of the Lung Transplant Clinic of the Peter Lougheed Centre, as well as the doctors and nurses of the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic of the Foothills Medical Centre. Their superb care, support, and friendship over nearly 38 years meant the world to her. Additionally, they appreciate the staff of Unit 61 at the Foothills Medical Center, who made her final days as comfortable as possible.

Finally, we can't forget Eddie, a rescue Jack Russell who was Teri's constant companion for the last twelve years, who had the opportunity to say goodbye in the hospital on September 11.

She is survived by her mother Jacqueline Greenhorn, her stepfather Bob Greenhorn, her stepmother Linda Gibson, and several half-siblings, Alison Farmer (Brian), Mary Gibson, Andy Gibson, Chris Greenhorn (Cynthia), and Scott Greenhorn. She is also survived by her former husband, Bob Lang, with whom she remained close, two nieces, Sylvana Farmer and Whitney Greenhorn, as well as several cousins and lifelong friends.





From your Membership Director:

Please contact Anna Lewis, our Director of Membership, if you change any contact info at 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*