

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)***



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



Happy Birthday to you (Jan/Feb)



Margaret McAllister	2 Jan
Kris Vanapeldorn	2 Jan
Marie Harvey	9 Jan
Angele Mullins	11 Jan
Gary Gibson	14 Jan
Michael Mullane	18 Jan
Kendra Fisher	19 Jan
Charles Hamel	19 Jan
Gordon Todd	20 Jan
Keith Spielman	24 Jan
Brandon Lewis	30 Jan
Glenn Traub	3 Feb
Edith McMinn	4 Feb
John Stanford	6 Feb
Francesca Fisico	9 Feb
Andrew Spielman	10 Feb
Stuart Craig	13 Feb
Daphne Ter Kuile	19 Feb
Anna Lewis	22 Feb
Susan Clarke	23 Feb



Message from the Chairperson

Happy New Year!! Although the birthday goes until 31 Mar, we are officially finished our planned events for the centenary of the RCAF. Our committee is breathing a sigh of relief as they had a lot of work in the first 8 months of the celebration.

Remembrance Service was very well attended. We may have to plan for more seating next year! The Cadets were in fine form as were all the members who were able to attend. Thanks for continuing to make this such a success! Our speaker, Maria Quinn, provided a good reminder of what service means.

The Christmas party was a combination of great food, great company and lots of fun. There were gifts and door prizes galore once again. Everyone looked so spiffy!. My thanks to the organizing committee of both Remembrance Day and the party for a job well done yet again!

The fate of the RCAFA seems to be positive at the moment. I have included the email I received from National later in the newsletter for you. More to follow in Jan.

Our Nov meeting held a few surprises: we heard a presentation by the Cadet who won the National Speaking Contest for the Air Cadets, FCpl Kamea Lafontaine . This was an outstanding presentation! Secondly, all the Air Cadet Sqns were present to receive their cheques! Great job to our Liaison. We will now have a break till the end of Jan. Till then, happy holidays and all the best in 2025.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Michelle Gerwing
Chairman
783 (Calgary) Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Cheque Presentations to the Air Cadet Squadrons





Miscellaneous photos



Left: Francesca Ficsico receives her 5-year pin

Right: FCpl Kamea Lafontaine provides his winning presentation from the National Effective Speaking Contest



Right: Scott presents our \$1000 cheque to The Magic Of Christmas

Below: the Christmas gift wrappers supporting Cystic Fibrosis at Southcentre Mall



Message from the Director of the RCAFA dated 21 Nov, 2024:

The (on-line) meeting of RCAF Association leaders intended for 24 November and to which 18 delegates had already registered themselves, has been cancelled.

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: 1) to provide the leadership with an update of the ongoing strategic alignment and change management deliberations that began in the Fall of 2023 but in earnest back in February 2024; and, 2) to hold a formal Annual General Meeting mindful of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) mandatory requirements for members to approve the annual audit/review engagements, budget report and proposal and to hold annual elections if and where necessary. There are currently eight (8) elected directors and two (2) appointed directors on the board, with one elected vacancy and one appointed vacancy, possibly for consideration at the Board's and the Association's earliest opportunity.

All of these mandates will need to be addressed, when the meeting is scheduled in the New Year.

The meeting is now postponed until after 31 January 2025, at which time the Board of Directors will be pleased to provide a strategic management update and to possibly include introduction of a new Executive Director and new office staff.

Following the meeting of the Strategic Alignment Committee on 4 October 2024, Wendy Song and Dean Black announced their intentions to officially retire with effect from 31 January 2025. Dean has been serving as Executive Director since 16 October 2006, and Wendy since 7 February 2007. This 4-month advance notice of their retirements has provided the association time to begin the search for successors, and a formal handover process may begin soon after 1 January 2025. The naming of a successor to the Executive Director billet may be the subject of a formal announcement early in December, pending the RCAF Association's Board-level ratification of the results of the hiring effort.

Meanwhile, the former Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Colonel (Ret) Terry Chester, CD, has again assumed the role of Chairman, following Mr. Charles Lovallo's late-October decision to vacate the Chairmanship. "Chuck" is now moving his family back to Winnipeg, from Victoria, BC and I join all the RCAF Association members in offering sincere gratitude to him for his devotion and service to the RCAF Association over the past year, and wish him a safe journey to Canada's "centre-of-gravity" aka "WinterPeg!" LOL. We should anticipate more information to follow from Terry on all these matters and more, over the next several weeks.



We will remember them



Helen Hill 12 Apr, 1933 –6 Dec, 2024



Helen passed away peacefully at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alberta on Friday, December 6, 2024 at the age of 91 years.

Helen was a loving wife and mother who was happiest around family and friends. She was a very social woman who participated in many groups and activities including crib, darts and bowling. She enjoyed doing crafts but crocheting was her favourite.

Helen was an active volunteer and gave countless hours to the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, 783 Wing and the Rebekah Lodge of the Independent Odd Fellows.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband of 65 years, Art; her children Laura, Brad (Callei) and Darrell; her granddaughter Michelle (Steve); and her brother Jake (Kerry), as well as many nieces and nephews.

Helen is predeceased by her parents Jacob and Katyryna.

A Celebration of Helen's Life will be held at Limericks Traditional Public House (7304 Macleod Trail, Calgary, AB) on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made directly to Hillhurst Rebekah Lodge - #1 2820 Centre Ave NE, Calgary, AB, T2A 7P5

'Twas a Fright Before Christmas (Stuart Craig, Christmas 2023)

*'Twas four days before Christmas, now one year past,
Locked out of house, somewhat aghast.
For inside the home, comfy and warm,
Lay my keys, safe from outside's storm.
It was a ring at the front gate, that it all began,
To which I shouted, 'with you, fast as I can'.
'A delivery for you' the courier did say,
Standing, shivering, on our coldest day.
Winter solstice, what have you brought?
Such cruelty, great Scott!
Courier turned and gone,
Gate closed, back on front steps I stood upon.
The things we take for granted are fickle,
Now finding myself in somewhat of a pickle!
Despite my best efforts with deep woe I felt,
How best to manage the hand I had been dealt?
So, what was this situation purported so dire?
An explanation you most surely require!
For there I stood in housecoat and little more,
Shy perhaps underwear and the shoes I wore.
The cold winds at my bare skin did blow,
With windchill, near a record -39C low.
Fiddle, twiddle and try as I might,
That dreaded door remained locked tight.
Effort and best hope brought little success,
That blasted handle allowed no ingress!
Three minutes by my watch had passed,
Fingers and ears were numbing fast.
With words too harsh to herein repeat,
I scuffled seeking shelter tout de suite!*

New state of the art radar arrives at 12 Radar Squadron

On November 7, 2024, 12 Radar Squadron (RS), 3 Wing Bagotville received their state-of-the-art TPS-77 Tactical Control Radar system, the latest-generation mobile long-range radar. This radar is part of a broader plan to modernize the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and is the same system that 42 RS, 4 Wing Cold Lake received a year ago.

The integration of this modern system into the operations of 3 Wing puts the necessary tools in the hands of our personnel to accomplish the mission and marks a significant advancement in the RCAF's ability to monitor and protect the airspace in which we operate. The radar, featuring cutting-edge technology, has been designed to improve the detection and tracking of aircraft, even in challenging weather conditions, at high altitudes, and at high speeds.

With its advanced capabilities, this radar will enhance the RCAF's responsiveness to potential threats and optimize surveillance missions. Major Sébastien Gagnon, Commanding Officer of 12 RS, expressed his enthusiasm about the integration of this improved capability, "The arrival of this new radar is a turning point for our squadron. It will not only improve our operational efficiency, but also ensure the safety and surveillance of our airspace with unmatched precision." Our operational advantage stems from a force that is mission-ready, combat-efficient, and capable of delivering precise kinetic and non-kinetic effects.



The "Foxes" of 12 RS continue to carry out their missions with the professionalism and commitment that defines Canada's Air Force. Ongoing training is taking place for our personnel to ensure that every member of the squadron fully masters this essential tool.

This new radar is just one of many advancements within the RCAF, demonstrating our determination to stay at the cutting edge of military technology, improve our lethality, and enhance our capabilities to deter, detect, defend, and defeat an adversary before that adversary is capable of the same.

Downloaded from [New state of the art radar arrives at 12 Radar Squadron - Canada.ca](#) 12 Dec, 2024



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*

If so, please contact Michele at michlorr@shaw.ca