

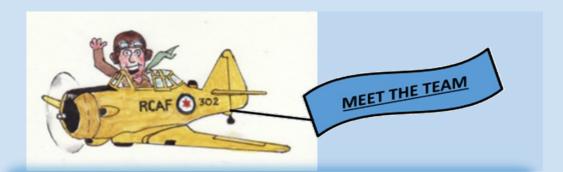
783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter

ROYAL CANADIAN
AIR FORCE
ASSOCIATION





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



Chairperson Scott Deederly

Honorary Chairperson Col (Retd) Don Matthews

Immediate Past Chairperson Michelle Gerwing

First Vice Chairperson Vacant

Second Vice Chairperson Adriano Fisico

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 Charlee MacLean





Message from the Chairperson

Dear 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA,

The end of September and October have been another busy month for the Wing. At our first Fall meeting of the year in September we welcomed and swore in a new member, Stephen Higgins, and shared updates on the cairns around Calgary from the Summer. We approved our annual donations to the Air Cadet Squadrons in Calgary and at our October meeting, all the Air Cadet squadrons sent representatives from 952 (West Jet), 918 (Griffon), 781 (McCall Field), 604 (Moose), 538 (Buffalo) 83 (Juno Beach), and 52 squadron and received their cheques. Also, Flight Corporal Obehi Aikhomou of 918 Squadron, the 3rd place winner of the National Effective Speaking Competition, came and gave 783 Wing a rendition of her award winning speech. I am proud that our Wing supported so strongly the Air Cadet movement and that we helped support Flight Corporal Aikhomou and her family in making the journey to Ottawa in the Spring so they could attend the Air Cadet competition. Also, on Wednesday, October 15, 26 members of the Wing had a great evening out attending Jubilations Dinner Theater's Top Gunn 2: A Supersonic Spoof an Air Force themed musical. Darlene La Roche presented a number of possible social events and outings at our October meeting. Please email her at larochej@telus.net if you are interested in attending A Christmas Carol by Theater Calgary in early December. I look forward to the rest of the year where we will come together and meet up at more events.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Scott Deederly
Chairman
783 (Calgary) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association



Happy Birthday to you (Nov/Dec)

Cormand	2 Nev	
Garry M	2 Nov	
Ruth M	8 Nov	
Kearra P	13 Nov	
Walter W	15 Nov	
Andrea C	16 Nov	
Donald W	18 Nov	
Dylaney T	22 Nov	
Nadine S	22 Nov	
Don M	24 Nov	
Doug E	26 Nov	
Lorne F	27 Nov	
Cindy G	27 Nov	
Fran M	27 Nov	
Mike R	28 Nov	
Joan E	30 Nov	
Kenn N	3 Dec	
Adriano F	4 Dec	
Carla LW	4 Dec	
David L	5 Dec	
Charlie-M	5 Dec	\
Mike TK	6 Dec	
Thom G	9 Dec	
Michele H	13 Dec	
Keith S	16 Dec	
Kent G	17 Dec	
Ed H	21 Dec	7
Art H	23 Dec	
Arline C	31 Dec	

Battle of Britain 2025







Coming Events

Remembrance Day - Our next event is our 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA Remembrance Day Service starting at 10:45 AM on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 in the Feature Gym of the Genesis Centre. After the conclusion of the Service and the march past by the Cadets, there will be a reception with coffee and sandwiches. I hope everyone can join us.

Christmas Party - My apologies for the error in the last newsletter. Our annual Christmas party will be taking place at the Blackfoot Inn on **Friday, November 21, 2025 starting at 5:30 PM.** The Christmas Party committee has put in a lot of hard work this year and if you have not got your ticket yet please reach out to Kenn Nixon.

National AGM - Monday, November 24 is our National Associations AGM. It will be a hybrid AGM, in person in Ottawa and available to watch and engage with online via Zoom. 783 Wing is in discussions to have access to a room at Legion #285 Centennial Legion where we can come together as a Wing and watch and participate as a Wing. Keep an eye out for an

Manitoba-based drone training program helping veterans transition to post-military life. By Daisy Woelk Global News

What do you do after dedicating 38 years of your life to the Royal Canadian Air Force? For Michel Latouche it was aerospace consulting. "I got hired by a company, worked for them for two years and went, 'No, I'd like to do this, but give back to veterans,'" he said. So, he and his wife Gail started the Manitoba-based <u>Veterans Elite drone Training Services</u> (VEdTS) in March 2023. He said they've already provided drone training to over 200 veterans across Canada. He said demand is driven by a number of factors.

"A lot of veterans have retired and have issues with transition or (post-traumatic stress disorder) PTSD. We found that learning to fly drones is given them a little bit of a sense of purpose," he said.

Nick Lisney retired from the air force, after trying five times, in 2022. He served for 32 years and 125 days. "It was difficult because you get up every morning and say, 'Oh yeah, I don't have to go to work today. What am I going to do today?' So it got a little interesting. My wife was like, 'Go do something,'" he said. "The transition was difficult, like getting out of the military." Now he is an instructor with VEdTS, and said that transition was much easier, especially having been a flight instructor during his time with the force. It's a bonus reconnecting with people he served with.

"It's nice, because even today, there's guys I haven't seen for years," Lisney said. "There's a post-military career social network, and it's fun. I enjoy it."

Bill McLean, who spent 31 years as an intelligence officer, and is now a graduated student from VEdTS, said the camaraderie in the group runs deep.

"You can take the person out of the uniform, but you can't take the uniform of the person. So you always have that connection... When I came on my course, I ran into a guy I hadn't seen in 10 years. Today, I've met a couple other guys that I hadn't seen for years as well," he said.

"It is amazing to see how veterans can help veterans through a program such as this." While McLean said he has no background in aviation, he's considering becoming an instructor with the program.

"The course does give you that confidence to be able to step outside an area that you might feel very comfortable in. And, you know, that's when you grow. Not only professionally, but personally." McLean said VEdTS also opens up new career opportunities for ex-military personnel.

"I don't think you can see your real estate ad now, or post it, without a drone fly through," he said, adding, "Interesting drone work is being done on the windmills that you see to determine the stress fractures... so, the farmers are using them for their fields. It's amazing what it opens up to us." Latouche said a dozen grads have already launched their own companies, adding the training is accessible to all veterans.

"We've trained veterans in wheelchairs, we've trained female veterans, we've trained Indigenous veterans. Veterans Affairs Canada can help you with the funding as well," he said.

For the video accompanying this article, please see the link below.

Downloaded from: Manitoba-based drone training program helping veterans transition to post-military life - Winnipeg | Global-news.ca 26 Oct, 2025

The continuation of the RCAF Victoria Cross Winners:

Pilot Officer ANDREW CHARLES MYNARSKI, VC

Pilot Officer Mynarski was a gunner on a Lancaster when his aircraft was attacked by enemy fighters over Cambrai, France. As the aircraft descended in flames, Mynarski went to the escape hatch, where he saw the rear gunner trapped in his turret. Mynarski crawled through the flames to reach the gunner, setting his parachute and clothing on fire. He was unable to release the gunner because both the hydraulic and manual release levers were broken. When all his efforts failed, Mynarski went back to the escape hatch, saluted the trapped gunner and jumped, but died as a result of his burns. The rear gunner miraculously escaped death and lived to tell of Mynarski's heroism.



Flight Lieutenant DAVID ERNEST HORNELL, VC

Flight Lieutenant Hornell was the aircraft captain of a twin-engine amphibian aircraft with 162 Squadron conducting anti-submarine warfare in the north Atlantic. Sighting a sub, Hornell turned to attack but the U-Boat returned with sustained and accurate anti-aircraft fire. One of Hornell's guns jammed and his aircraft was hit twice, starting a fire. Hornell still managed to drop his depth charges on the submarine and sank it. After Hornell crash-landed into the sea, the crew found the inflatable dinghy was too small for everyone so they took turns sitting inside or hanging on to its side while in the water. Two of the crew members died during their 21-hour ordeal. By the time Hornell and the remaining crew were rescued, Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted; he died shortly after being picked up.



On 15 Oct, a group of us attended Top Gunn 2 at Jubilations Dinner Theatre. It was a spoof on Top Gun full of music and laughs. Although, the Base Commander should not have been wearing a General's wedge cp with a Cpl rank on his jacket, if you ask me.....

The Flemings demonstrated their smooth dancing abilities on stage to acknowledge their anniversary.







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

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If you do, please contact Michele Henderson at michlorr@shaw.ca