

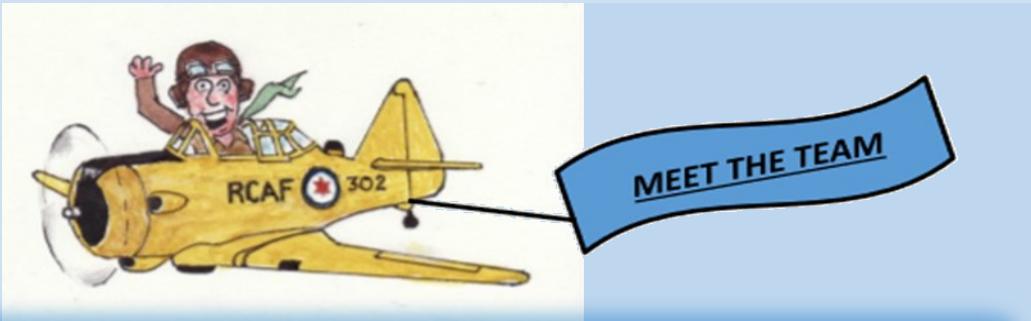
SPIRIT

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 theyll)*



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 Theyllness	Michele Henderson
Sergeant at Arms	Kevin Knight
Entertainment Chair	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,

783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA. The end of December sees the close of another active year for our Wing. November and the beginning of December are our busiest time as a Wing with hosting our large Remembrance Day Service, in cooperation with Calgary's Air Cadets, at the Genesis Centre with over 1000 in attendance, our annual Christmas Party which is always the kick-off to the Christmas Season (thank you the committee for organizing another fantastic event at the Blackfoot Inn), our Wing's outing to Theatre Calgary's *A Christmas Carol* on December 10 (thank you Darlene and Kenn for organizing), the presentation of the Wing's donation cheques to the Veterans Association Food Bank, Homes for Heros, the Magic of Christmas and to the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC), and our RCAFA National AGM.

On November 24 our National Organization held its first AGM in over 18 months. As Michelle and I have updated the Wing regularly at our monthly meetings, National has had to face a number of challenges over these many months to address both short-term financial (such as the large deficit caused by the end of the DND grant for publishing our monthly magazine) and long-term issues facing our Association (regarding its relationship with the RCAF and with an declining membership, and outdated organizational structure). If you did not get the chance to watch the AGM online, then please take the opportunity to review the AGM's minutes. A number of reforms at the National Association have been enacted, or are in process, that will address the Association's deficit and bring it to balance within two years, and I hope, will set the stage for our National Association's renewal in the coming years.

Elected to the RCAFA's National Board for 2026 were: Chris Charland; David Farnsworth; Henri Levasseur; Herb Harrison; Jim Donnelly; Michael Roy; Ralph Murphy; Roger Mussard; and Walter B. Peckham. Following the National AGM the new Board met and elected Henri Levasseur as our Association's National Chair, succeeding Terry Chester.

Announced at the end of the AGM was the RCAFA's Awards for 2025. I am very proud to report that 783 Wing members Adriano Fisico, Douglas Eagelsham, Keith Mann, Barbara Mann, and Bob Wade were awarded the RCAFA's Meritorious Service Award. It is our Association's fourth highest award, awarded to members in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding meritorious service. Beverley Spielman was awarded the RCAFA's Order of Excellence, which is the Association's highest award, presented to Members held in the highest esteem by their fellow members in recognition of their continuing outstanding service to the Association, their community and their country. And 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA was awarded RCAFA's Wing of the Year. It is presented to the Wing whose efforts during the year most enhanced the aims of the Association.

Congratulations to everyone. The recognition is well deserved. Words cannot describe the pride in all the hard work and effort that our Wing collectively makes in our community. As we head into Christmas, celebrate the last days of Hanukkah, and welcome the coming New Year, we have a lot to do in 2026, but a lot to be thankful and grateful for and a lot to look forward to. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year everyone.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

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



Happy Birthday to you (Jan/Feb)

Margaret M	2 Jan
Kris V	2 Jan
Angele M	11 Jan
Gary G	14 Jan
Kendra F	19 Jan
Charles H	19 Jan
Gord T	20 Jan
Keith S Sr	24 Jan
Brandon L	30 Jan
Glenn T	3 Feb
Edith M	4 Feb
Francesca F	9 Feb
Andrew S	10 Feb
Stuart C	13 Feb
Jim M	18 Feb
Daphne TK	19 Feb
Anna L	22 Feb





We will remember them

Marie Martha Harvey January 9, 1943 – December 23, 2025

Marie Harvey, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, in Calgary, AB.

Marie was born on January 9, 1943, in Niagara Falls, ON. Her early years were spent in Chippewa, ON, where she developed a lifelong love of swimming in the Chippewa Creek, now part of the Welland Canal.

It was in Niagara Falls that Marie met the love of her life, Norm. They were married on July 3, 1965, beginning a devoted partnership that spanned more than 60 wonderful years. Throughout their lives together, Marie and Norm made several moves, each one marking a new chapter and the arrival of a growing family. Their son, Tim, was born in St. Catharines, ON, and their daughter Patty and son Paul, in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. In 1974, the family relocated to Calgary, AB.

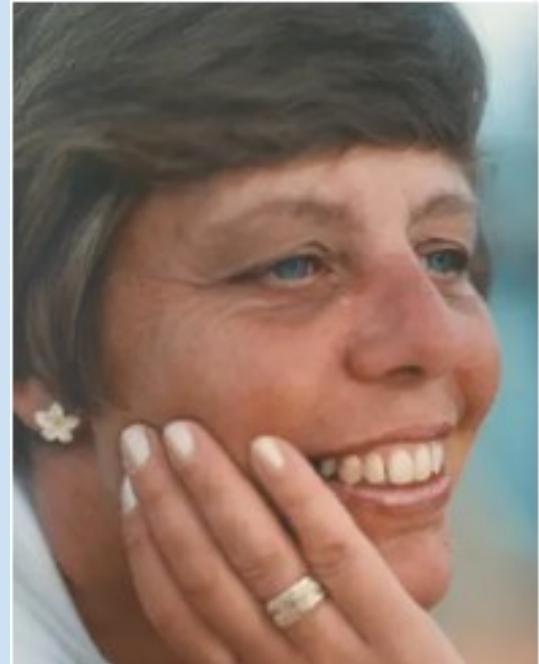
Marie had a deep love for gardening, sewing, knitting, and crocheting, finding joy in creating beauty and comfort for those around her. She was a dedicated volunteer throughout her life, generously giving her time to Scouts Canada when her children were young, and later to Heart and Stroke Foundation, the White Hatters (Calgary International Airport), Royal Canadian Legion Branch 285, and Royal Canadian Air Force Association 783 (Calgary) Wing.

Marie and Norm shared a passion for travel, and together they explored many parts of the world. Among her favourite destinations were Ireland and Australia, places that held special meaning and memories for her.

Marie leaves behind her loving husband, Norm, her children, Tim (Michelle), Patty (Dave), and Paul (Christina); and her cherished grandchildren, Zack, Natasha, Ally, and Cayley. She is also survived by her brother, Martin, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, John (Carol), niece, Jacqueline Marie, and her parents, Bill and Ernestine.

Marie will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, quiet strength, and unwavering love for her family. She will be deeply missed and forever held in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.



Some events from Nov and Dec



Our Guest Speaker Jody Weyman



Cheque presentation to MFRC



We get bigger and better every year!

Bryndis would like to share two of her podcasts that might be of interest to you.

Episode 7 - The Logistics of Curating a Military Museum with Alison Mercer: <https://www.zebrastoapples.com/episode-guide/episode-seven>

Episode 14 - Learning to Fly Gliders and Airplanes with Brian Lewis: <https://www.zebrastoapples.com/episode-guide/episode-fourteen>

Our last two in the continuation of the RCAF Victoria Cross Winners:

Squadron Leader IAN WILLOUGHBY BAZALGETTE, VC, DFC

S/L Bazalgette was a member of the Royal Air Force, but was born in Calgary, Alberta.

Squadron Leader Bazalgette was on a mission to Trossy St. Maximi, France, with his Pathfinder squadron. Nearing his target, heavy anti-aircraft fire knocked out two of his Lancaster's engines and started fires inside the plane. Despite the damage to his aircraft Bazalgette hit his target. While he battled smoke and flames, Bazalgette ordered his crew to bail out but he remained at the controls and successfully landed the aircraft. Tragically, the plane exploded and Bazalgette was killed, along with two injured aircrew who were unable to jump to safety.



Lieutenant (Navy) ROBERT HAMPTON GRAY, VC, DSC

Lt (N) Gray was a naval pilot and a member of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve who flew with the British Fleet Air Arm. As the RCAF now incorporates naval air, both the Royal Canadian Navy and the RCAF honour "Hammy" Gray as one of their own.

Lieutenant Gray flew off the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable to lead an attack on Japanese shipping in Onagawa Wan (Bay) in the Island of Honshu, Japan. At Onagawa Bay, Gray and the other pilots dived to attack a number of Japanese ships but they were met by enemy fire from nearby army batteries and warships. Gray continued the attack against an enemy destroyer. Despite the furious barrage and taking several hits, Gray reached the destroyer and dropped his bombs but only after his plane had caught fire. Gray scored a direct hit, sinking the destroyer, but died in his burning aircraft.



Honouring And Remembering Together (HART)

This year, the fifteen annual HART Ceremony, (and the 12th in person) was held. During the COVID pandemic, three ceremonies were conducted virtually.

HART is an international remembrance ceremony conducted by Canadian Air, Army and Sea Cadets and American Civil Air Patrol Cadets from Rocky Mountain Region, USA . They have cadets from across Alberta attending, including squadrons from Red Deer, Calgary, High River, Blairmore, Brooks and Medicine Hat. What began as a small outdoor ceremony at the Coutts international border crossing in December 2010 is now the largest international HART Ceremony in North America. Due to weather conditions, the Ceremony has since been moved indoors to the Vimy Ridge Armoury in Lethbridge.

In attendance at each ceremony, they honour members of the Canadian Memorial Cross Families. They are special VIPs as they have lost a child in the service of our country. The ceremony is also privileged to have American Gold Star Wives and Gold Star Mothers, the equivalent of our Memorial Cross Families in attendance who they will also honour.

Each year they also have dignitaries attend such as the Mayors of Lethbridge and Taber, ranking military members from the Canadian Forces and the American Civil Air Patrol, Canadian and American veterans, Air Force Association and the Royal Canadian Legion as well as the public. They also welcome members of our First Nations and Honoured Elders who will acknowledge our Land Agreement and offer a blessing. This event is open to the public and they encourage all to attend.



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