

# **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	Scott Deederly
Honorary Chairperson	Col (Retd) Don Matthews
Immediate Past Chairperson	Michelle Gerwing
First Vice Chairperson	Vacant
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	Darlene Laroche
Public Relations	Bob Wade
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight
Advocacy	Scott Deederly
Webmaster/Social Media	Charlee MacLean





## *Upcoming events:*

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 31 March 2026

285 (Centennial) Branch Royal Canadian Legion 9202 Horton Rd SW

Guest Speaker: Brad Gordanier of Polyus Studios (Canadian Aviation History Youtuber)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Friday, March 27, 2026 – The 26th Annual RCAF Mess Dinner at the Hangar Flight Museum
- Tuesday, 31 March 2026 – Monthly Meeting in-person and Online via Zoom – 7 PM Notable Links:
- **Latest digital edition of Air Force Magazine** (Vol 49. Issue 3 -15 December 2025): <https://magazine.rcafassociation.ca/>
- Direct PDF download the Magazine: <https://magazine.rcafassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Airforce-Magazine-Vol-49-No.-3-3.pdf>



*Happy Birthday to you! (Mar/Apr)*

Lynn McC	5 Mar
Bryndis W	6 Mar
Keith M	8 Mar
Scott D	10 Mar
Muriel M	10 Mar
Mary Lou N	11 Mar
Kent A	13 Mar
Darlene L	16 Mar
Bob R	17 Mar
Maurice B	1 Apr
Norm H	1 Apr
James B	5 Apr
Robert R	6 Apr
Brian L	7 Apr
Gerry M	11 Apr
Randy F	17 Apr
Stu McC	20 Apr
David D	23 Apr
Rom L	25 Apr
Stephen W	26 Apr

## Elsie MacGill

Elizabeth "Elsie" MacGill was the first woman in Canada to earn a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and the first woman in the world to earn a master's degree in aeronautical engineering and become an aircraft designer.

As a 35-year-old aeronautical engineer she supervised the production of Hawker Hurricane fighter planes at the Canadian Car and Foundry Company.

A few weeks after the beginning of World War II in 1939, she was informed that the plant would be involved with large-scale production of military aircraft.

She was put in charge of all engineering work related to the Canadian production of the British-designed Hawker Hurricane fighter. Within a year the old railway car plant was producing three fighters a day with a staff of 4,500.

A total of 1,450 Hurricanes were produced in just two years. When this contract was completed, MacGill was made responsible for the production of 835 Curtiss Hell Divers for the U.S. Navy.

MacGill became a symbol of Canada's miraculous economic wartime transformation. She was even the subject of a comic book called "Queen of the Hurricanes" that was devoted to her achievements.

In addition to her aeronautical pursuits, she had a concern for the legal rights and status of women, became active in women's organizations throughout Canada, and was highly respected for her thoughtful and constructive views. In 1967 she was one of the seven appointees to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Just prior to her death she had accepted an appointment to the Canadian Organizing Committee for the 1981 International Year of the Disabled. She died in a car accident at Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., on November 4, 1980, before she could participate on this committee.





*We will remember them*



For those who knew Harold or have seen the Kearl brothers' exhibit in the Air Force Gallery at TMM:

## Harold Enders Kearl

December 10, 1922 — February 7, 2026

Harold, at the venerable age of 103, returned to God who gave him life. Born to George & Rose Kearl in Cardston, Alberta, Harold was the 8th of 11 children which included: Arminto, Lawrence, Russell, Adaline, Merlin, Freeman, Eldon, Noreen and June. Harold is survived by his brother Ted Kearl of Provo, Utah. Harold and Marilyn's children are Eldon (Kim), Kathy (Bruce), Robert (Beth), Jean (Paul) and Brent (Kim). His posterity include 23 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

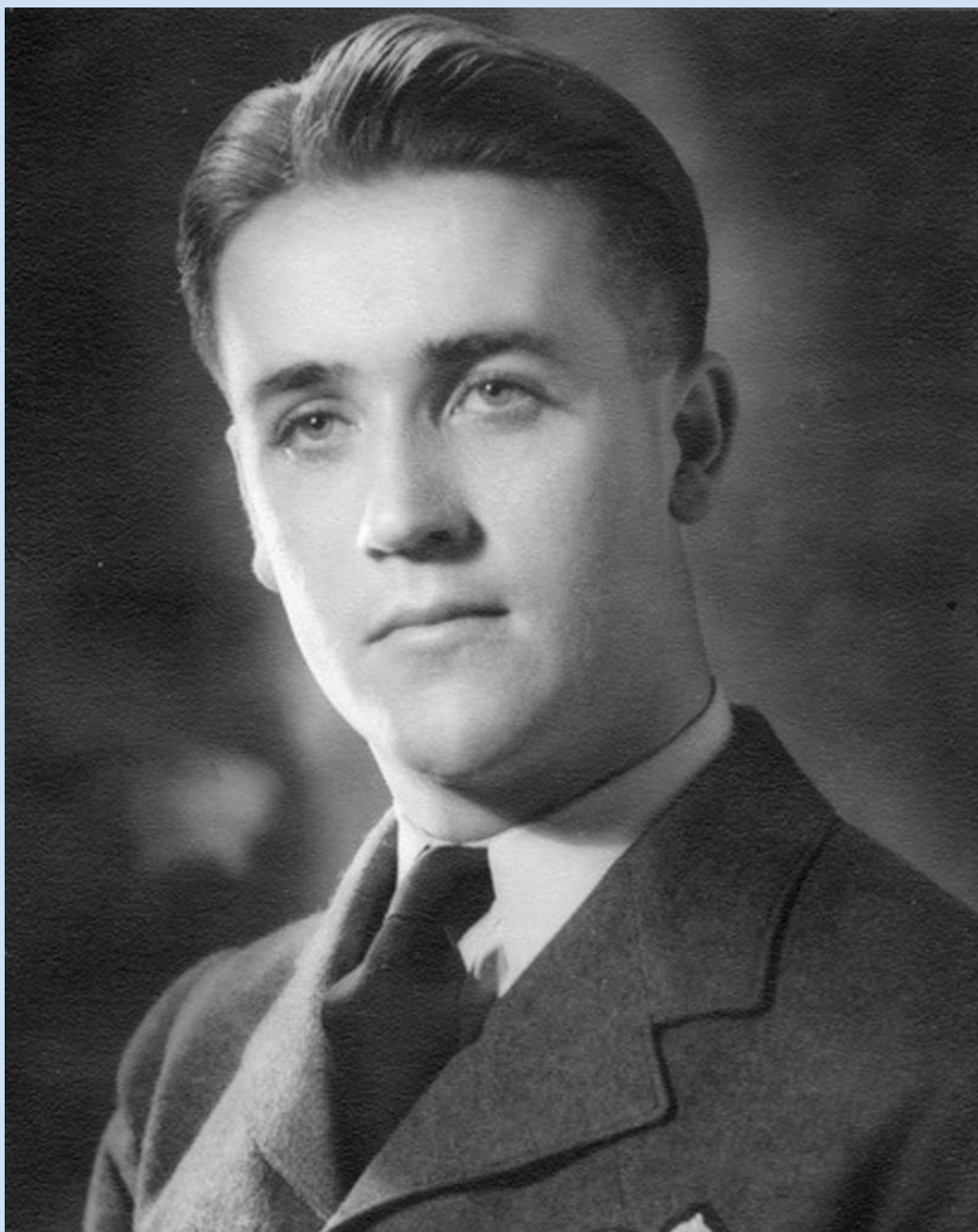
Harold graduated from high school in Cardston and received his wings as a pilot in Claresholm and served as a F/O for the RCAF. He piloted Halifax and Lancaster bombers from 432 Leaside Squadron at Eastmoor, near York, England. He flew 17 missions over Germany during the last six months of World War II. Then for about a year Harold served in Allied Transport Command flying VIPs and mail across Europe. Harold succeeded in visiting his brother's war grave near Berlin, who had also served as a pilot in the RCAF.

Harold's proposal to Marilyn Holmes on Crescent Road finally proved fruitful. Harold and Marilyn raised their 5 children in a small, one bathroom home in Mount Pleasant, a stone's throw from Queen's Park Cemetery. His working career began as a salesman for the Canadian Independent Biscuit Company, and later for Kearl Brother's Insulation. Harold transitioned in the oil and gas field, first in marketing for Husky Oil, then employed as a purchasing agent for Banff Oil. His working career ended as a real estate agent, initially with Arthur Lee Agencies, then moving to Hill Realty and finally Block Brothers.

Harold served in many church callings for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was serving as bishop when the church was constructed in 1964 at 202 Crescent Road NW. Over 600 individuals assisted in its construction. Later, he and Marilyn served in the Cagayan de Oro, Philippines Mission. Assigned to public relations, they presented over 1,000 copies of the Book of Mormon to interested individuals. Dad could strike up a conversation with anyone at anytime about anything.

Harold's strong work ethic connected well with his philosophy on life: "Make a decision that is a good decision, and then make it come true."

Our Dad is the personification of optimism and action; two important qualities for the high adventure he now enjoys with his beloved Marilyn.



# Track NASA's Artemis II Mission in Real Time

As NASA invites the public to follow the Artemis II mission as a crew of four astronauts venture around the Moon inside the agency's Orion spacecraft, people around the world can pinpoint Orion during its journey using the Artemis Real-time Orbit Website (AROW).

During the approximately 10-day mission, NASA will test how the spacecraft's systems operate as designed with crew aboard in the deep space environment. Using AROW, anyone with internet access can track where Orion and the crew are, including their distance from Earth, distance from the Moon, mission duration, and more. Access to AROW is available on:

NASA's website ([www.nasa.gov/trackartemis](http://www.nasa.gov/trackartemis))

The NASA app ([www.nasa.gov/nasa-app](http://www.nasa.gov/nasa-app))

Using AROW, the public can visualize data that is collected by sensors on Orion and then sent to the Mission Control Center at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston during its flight. It will provide constant information using this real-time data beginning about one minute after liftoff through Orion's atmospheric reentry to Earth at the end of the mission.

Online, users can follow AROW to see where Orion and the crew are in relation to the Earth and the Moon and follow Orion's path during the mission. Users can view key mission milestones and characteristics on the Moon, including information about landing sites from the Apollo program.

The mobile app includes similar features to the website, with the addition of augmented reality tracker. After a brief calibration sequence, on-screen indicators will direct users where to move their phone to see where Orion currently is relative to their position on Earth. Mobile app tracking will be available once Orion separates from the rocket's upper stage, approximately three hours into the mission. State vectors, or data that describes precisely where Orion is located and how it moves, also will be provided by AROW, following a proximity operations demonstration to evaluate the manual handling qualities of Orion.

These vectors can be used for data lovers, artists, and creatives to make their own tracking app or data visualization. Also available for download will be trajectory data from the flight, called an ephemeris, found at the bottom of this page, after the mission begins. The ephemeris data can be used to track Orion with your own spaceflight software application or telescope, or to create projects such as a physics model, animation, visualization, or tracking application.

Artemis II, the agency's first crewed mission in the Artemis campaign, is a key step in NASA's path toward establishing a long-term presence at the Moon and confirming the systems needed to support future lunar surface exploration and paving the way for the first crewed mission to Mars.

- **How do you know if there's an Air Force pilot at your party?**

Oh, don't worry. He'll tell you as soon as he walks in.

- **What did the pilot say to the co-pilot when they flew faster than the speed of sound?**

"WHAT DID YOU SAY?"

- **Why did the Air Force pilot prefer Paul McCartney's solo work?**

Because he's a Wings-man.

- **How do different military branches use stars?**

The Army sleeps under the stars. The Navy navigates by the stars. The Air Force chooses hotels by the stars.

- **Where do rabbits learn to fly?**

The hare force.

- **How do you play Air Force bingo?"**

- C-130, F-35, F-18

- **What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a fighter jet?**

The jet stops whining once you turn off the engine.

- **What's the difference between God and an Air Force pilot?**

God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

- **How do you make an Air Force pilot's life more like *Top Gun*?**

You take their breath away.

- **When is the only time a plane has too much fuel?**

When it's on fire.

**How are mathematicians like the Air Force?**

Both use pi-lots.





***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*

*If you do, please contact Michele Henderson at [michlorr@shaw.ca](mailto:michlorr@shaw.ca)*