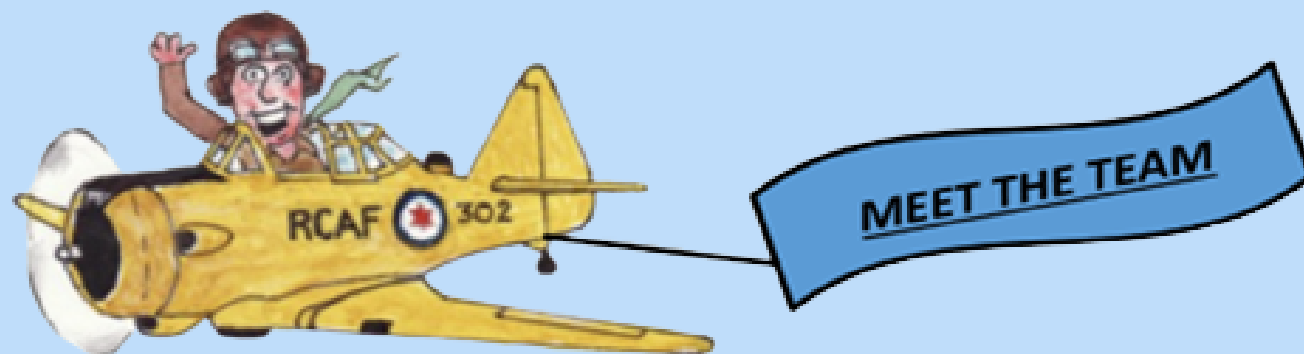


SPIRIT

783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter



**ROYAL CANADIAN
AIR FORCE
ASSOCIATION**



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

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

<https://www.783afacwingcalgary.ca/>

calgarywingRCAFA@gmail.com



Message from the Chairperson

Where did the Summer go, as I write this September has just arrived today and we begin our Fall season together as a Wing, with all the commemorative and volunteer work that comes with the change of seasons.

First up is the annual Battle of Britain Sunday commemoration service on Sunday, September 20th, 2026, starting at 2 PM at the Military Museums. I hope everyone can join us with Calgary's Air Cadets to mark and honour the 86th anniversary of this important battle.

Then the next week, on Tuesday, September 29th, is our first Wing meeting back from the Summer break quickly followed by our Wing's Casino fundraiser on Wednesday September 30th and Thursday, October 1st at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino. You have likely already seen the emails from Darlene calling for volunteers, and it only took a few days before all the shifts were filled with back-ups ready as well. 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA gets a casino about every 2-years and the opportunity funds our many charitable endeavours and backstops our support for Air Cadets and local museums. A few hours of volunteering with your fellow Wing members allows our Wing to do a lot of good in the community for the next two years and the quick response shows our commitment to our values as an organization and those who we support.

Later on in October, we have an Alberta Group RCAFA meeting on Saturday, October 3rd in Red Deer, we will have our October monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27th before our annual Remembrance Day Service. It starts at 10:45 AM on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at the Feature Gym in the Genesis Centre at 7555 Falconridge Blvd NE Calgary... and before we will know it, it will be time for the Christmas Party again and the Blackfoot Inn. It will be a busy and eventful Fall.

The good news announced last week I want to share is that Colonel Jeremy Hansen, our CSA Astronaut recently returned from his voyage around the Moon, had accepted the honour of becoming the Honourary President of the Air Cadet League of Canada. The new Honourary President will be a champion for the League and will be an inspiration to the Air Cadets, the volunteers and sponsors of the program. He represents what is best in Canada and he will be excellent in encouraging the next generation of Canadians to pursue careers in aviation, engineering, mathematics, science and leadership. We all saw his passion for the Air Cadets when he spoke to the Wing in Fall 2024.

Supporting our Cadets is more important than ever. By now you will have no doubt learned of the breakdown in trade negotiations and the associated "War of Words" with the Administration to the South. It has devolved into a systematic and deliberate attempt to denigrate our nation, its institutions and traditions, over the past three weeks.

The Commanding Officer of 52 City of Calgary Air Cadet Squadron, Erica Angel, and a young cadet who she was presenting an award to at the end of the annual Vernon Cadet Camp unfortunately became the centre of one of the many derogatory social media post from the Secretary of State for Defence, Pete Hegseth.

The Army Cadet League of Canada has condemned the online harassment and mockery of our cadets and their achievements, while the Chief of the Defence Staff had stated her full support for Major Angel, the Cadet in the photo and the Cadet program.

Our Wing has worked side-by-side with Major Angel since 2022 in organizing our annual Remembrance Day commemoration. She is an excellent officer and I know I speak for the entire Wing in sharing that we support her and the Cadets fully. Through our support, whether financial, volunteering and or mentorship, it is critically important we continue our work with Air Cadets and reaffirm the values that we all share in the program and within our own organization and with the country.

*Sincerely
Scott Deederly
Chair 783 (Calgary) Wing
RCAFA*



Happy Birthday to you!
(Sep/Oct)

Nathan K	5 Sep
Bernard H	8 Sep
Glenn H	12 Sep
Bob W	21 Sep
Wesley D	26 Sep
Brad G	26 Sep
Ken D	27 Sep
Betty W	27 Sep
Neil H	2 Oct
Jane M	6 Oct
Elizabeth B	21 Oct
Bev B	22 Oct
Ken C	25 Oct
Maurice H	28 Oct
David M	28 Oct

The Air Cadet League of Canada

Proudly Announces the Appointment of our Honorary National President

OTTAWA, ON (2 September 2026) - The Air Cadet League of Canada is honoured to announce that Colonel Jeremy Hansen, Canadian astronaut and Royal Canadian Air Force officer, has accepted the role of Honorary President of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Colonel Hansen's appointment marks an exciting milestone for the League as it continues its mission of inspiring and supporting young Canadians through the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program. A highly respected leader, pilot, astronaut, and role model, Colonel Hansen embodies the values of leadership, service, excellence, perseverance, and lifelong learning that are at the heart of the Air Cadet experience.

As Honorary President, Colonel Hansen will serve as an ambassador for the Air Cadet League, helping to promote awareness of the program and inspire the next generation of Canadian leaders, aviators, innovators, and explorers.

"Jeremy Hansen represents the very best of what Canadian youth can aspire to become," said Jacquie Pepper-Journal, President of the Air Cadet League of Canada. "His remarkable achievements, dedication to service, and passion for inspiring young people make him an exceptional Honorary President. We are deeply honoured to welcome him to the Air Cadet League family and look forward to working together to encourage youth across Canada to dream big, lead with integrity, and reach for the stars."

Colonel Hansen has enjoyed an outstanding career in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a fighter pilot before being selected as one of Canada's astronauts in 2009. He has played a key role in advancing Canada's space program and is internationally recognized for his leadership, technical expertise, and commitment to science, education, and public outreach. As a member of the Artemis II mission, he became the first Canadian to travel to the Moon, inspiring millions of Canadians through exploration and discovery.

His connection with youth and education has been a defining aspect of his career. Through countless school visits, public engagements, and educational initiatives, Colonel Hansen has encouraged young Canadians to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, aviation, and leadership—values that closely align with the objectives of the Air Cadet Program.

The Air Cadet League of Canada has supported the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program for more than eight decades, working alongside the Department of National Defence and thousands of dedicated volunteers to provide life-changing opportunities for youth aged 12 to 18. The program develops leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, self-confidence, and an interest in aviation and aerospace while helping young people become engaged and responsible members of their communities.

As Honorary President, Colonel Hansen will help champion the League's commitment to ensuring that every young Canadian has the opportunity to benefit from the Air Cadet Program, regardless of their background or circumstances.

"We are excited about the inspiration Colonel Hansen will bring to cadets, volunteers, sponsors, and communities across Canada," added Pepper-Journal. "His journey demonstrates that with determination, curiosity, and hard work, there are no limits to what our youth can achieve."

The Air Cadet League of Canada looks forward to welcoming Colonel Hansen at future national events and celebrating this exciting new chapter in the League's proud history.





A Glimpse into the Air Force Day on the Hill 2026

May 11, 2026

*Written by Brook Bangsboll,
Executive Director of the
RCAF Association*

As a highlight of the Air Force Day on the Hill event, a joint venture between the RCAF Association and the RCAF Foundation announced two new, named scholarships for Canadian youth pursuing careers in the RCAF or Canadian Aerospace industry. These two new scholarship awards have been named in honour of the late Syd Burrows of 888 Wing (Comox) and Desmond Peters, of 410 Wing (Ottawa). The awards winners will be announced later this summer.

Air force Day on the Hill, is an annual event hosted by the RCAF Association on Parliament Hill, that facilitates the gathering of senior leadership from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), the Canadian Aerospace Industry, Parliamentarians, as well as partners, stakeholders and sponsors of the RCAF Association. The event includes a visit to the House of Commons and the Senate, where RCAF Veterans and serving members of the RCAF are publicly recognized by the representatives of the Government of Canada. The reception that follows is a valuable networking opportunity that fosters greater engagement between the RCAF, the Government of Canada, and the Aerospace industry.

The message from the RCAF Association is clear – we are a Veterans' Association whose main objective is to advocate for a well-equipped, well-trained, well-prepared air force for Canada; motivate young Canadians to develop an interest in an aerospace (civil or military) career; and to inform new generations of Canadians about the importance and history of their country's air force. The association is also active in advocating for veterans' rights, with community service, and with promoting aviation heritage and youth projects, especially those supporting the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

Downloaded from <https://www.rcafassociation.ca/a-glimpse-into-the-air-force-day-on-the-hill-2026> 31 Aug, 2026



Battle of Britain 20 September at The Military Museums starting 2pm

Monthly meeting for 783 Wing 29 September at 285 Legion starting at 7pm

Casino fundraiser at the Deerfoot Casino Sep 30 and 1 Oct

Monthly meeting for 783 Wing 27 October at 285 Legion starting at 7pm

*Remembrance Day Service at the Feature Gym in the Genesis Centre at 7555
Falconridge Blvd NE, Calgary starting at 1045am*

Reminders

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