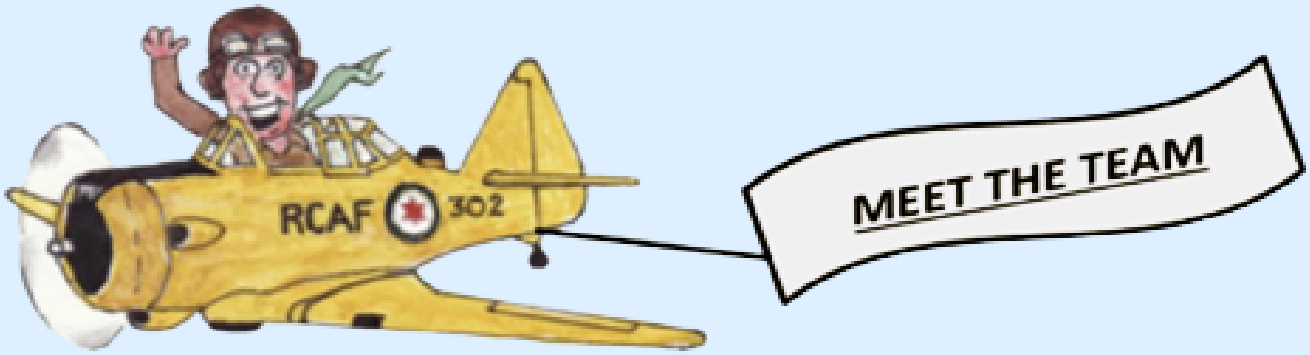
SPIRIT

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
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Treasurer	Kenn Nixon
Secretary	Cecilia Brugma
Past Chairs Advisory Council	Pat Sulek
Casino Chairperson	Darlene Laroche
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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

We enter our busiest month of the year as a Wing and I like to take this opportunity to remind everyone and many events in the coming month.

Remembrance Day is this week and I hope to see you all at the Feature Gym of the Genisis Centre 10:30 AM on **Wednesday, November 11, 2026**. 783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA will be joined by over 500 cadets for all seven Air Cadet Squadrons. And I am grateful for all the hard work our many Wing volunteers do to make this event a success every year along with the cooperation and support of Captain Erica Angel and the Calgary Air Cadets. Our Guest of Honour this year will be Jonathan Perkins, Board Chair of the Calgary Military Family Resource Centre, a timely speaker given the events at CFB Wainwright and the important work the MFRCs in Alberta and across Canada have in supporting our soldiers and their families in the aftermath of events such as the fire at CFB Wainwright.

Then next day, I am happy to inform that all 783 (Calgary) Wing members are invited to attend a special event on **Thursday, November 12**, the opening of the new ***Women of the RCAF*** exhibit at the Military Museums, starting 10:45 AM, with the Commander of the RCAF, Lieutenant-General Jamie Spenser-Blanchet, CMM CD, in attendance. Our colleagues at the Air Force Museum of Alberta have invited all 783 Wing to attend the exhibit opening ceremony and the luncheon afterwards, and the Museum has asks us to be a part of what will be a historic day.

On **November 14**, is the annual ***HART Ceremony, Honouring Allies and Remembering Together***, which takes place in Lethbridge, starting at 10 AM, at the Vimy Ridge Armoury at 337 Stubb Ross Road. Many cadets from across Alberta, along with a number of 783 Wing members will be in attendance. Our $2500 donation or support was crucial in helping Cadets from across Alberta come and attend.

On **Friday, November 20**, starting at 5:30 PM, is out a***nnual Christmas Party*** at the Blackfoot Inn, and Bryndis and I look forward to seeing everyone there for great night of food, festivities and comradery.

On **Tuesday, November 24**, is our last Monthly Wing Meeting of the year, where we will present donation cheques to Calgary Air Cadet squadrons, and confirm our Christmas donations and philanthropy for this year.

Then on **Friday, December 4**, the Wing goes to Theater Calgary to watch ***A Christmas Carol***. Our second year attending and a start of another great holiday tradition.

Update on the Tragedy at CFB Wainwright

Summary of the Event at CFB Wainwright

On October 17, 2026, at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Wainwright, a fast-moving, out-of-control grass fire, caused by gusts of unusually high winds, occurred on in Alberta during a high-intensity combat and live-fire training exercise ("Apollo Shooter"). There were 43 casualties with four fatalities. The four belonging to the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, both based out of Edmonton and included: Sergeant Morgan Wong (26); Private Shaun Farrell (23); Private Aidan Goulding (23); and Private Hayden Lykkemark (19).

Medical Update on Injured

Among the injured, out of 39 total, 19 soldiers suffered critical, severe burns and were treated via Code Orange mass-casualty hospital protocols in Edmonton. As of early November 2026, 25 service members remain hospitalized—including severely burned soldier Pte. Liam Ramage—and remain in recovery while receiving specialized medical care and skin-graft treatments. Four of the hospitalized members have been moved to facilities in British Columbia and Ontario to receive treatment closer to their families.

14 soldiers have been released from the hospital overall, though they continue to receive follow-up and burn recovery care.

Investigations and Cause

The fire started on the automatic grenade launcher range during routine training before high winds pushed it rapidly across the base and past the fire guard. Firefighters were unable to immediately enter the grenade range due to unexploded ordnance (UXO) risks in the permanent danger area. Multiple investigations are underway, including an independent investigation by Canadian Forces Military Police and a board of inquiry led by a general flag officer.

783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA's Response

At our October 27, 2026 monthly Wing meeting, it was proposed, discussed and passed that the Wing would make donations of $500.00 each (for a total of $1000) to the Edmonton Military Family Resource Centre and to the CFB Wainwright Support Fund managed by Support Our Troops, to support those organizations efforts as they care for the soldiers and their families impact by the Wainwright fire and show the Wing's solidarity. The Wing will review the situation in January 2027 if further donations would be useful and timely. Our hearts go out to all those affected by the fire and hope for a speedy recovery for those in hospital.

Sincerely
Scott Deederly
Chair 783 (Calgary) Wing
RCAFA



Happy Birthday to you!
(Nov/Dec)

Garry M	2 Nov
Ruth M	8 Nov
Kearra P	13 Nov
Walter W	15 Nov
Andrea C	16 Nov
Donad W	18 Nov
Dylaney T	22 Nov
Nadine S	22 Nov
Don M	24 Nov
Doug E	26 Nov
Lorne F	27 Nov
Cyndy 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
Mike TK	6 Dec
Michele H	13 Dec
Keith S	16 Dec
Kent G	17 Dec
Ed H	21 Dec
Art H	23 Dec
Arline C	31 Dec

Conditions for wildfire were 'extreme' at Wainwright Saturday, experts say by Verity Stevenson

A dangerous combination of weather conditions was at play Saturday afternoon when a deadly fire engulfed a training exercise at CFB Wainwright in east-central Alberta, killing four soldiers and severely injuring dozens more, weather and wildfire experts say.

That morning, Environment Canada had issued yellow alerts for much of southern and eastern Alberta because of strong winds forecast to reach up to 100 km/h and an incoming cold front that could cause abrupt changes in wind direction.

Before the cold front reached the area, the temperature in Wainwright climbed to over 23 C under sunny skies.

Conditions were extreme," said Mike Flannigan, a professor of wildland fires at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C., who runs the Canada fire weather outlook. "Things were dry. Any fires that started would have spread rapidly and would be intense and that's pretty well what happened."

Flannigan said NASA satellite data indicate a fire was burning near the base by around 2 p.m. The Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index shows that fire conditions across the Canadian prairies, including southern and central Alberta, ranged from very high to extreme.

Around 4 p.m., a cold front moved through the area, bringing a roughly 10 C drop in temperature and a sharp shift in wind direction, Flannigan said. He said the shift pushed the fire northwest toward the training area.

Canadian Armed Forces Maj.-Gen. Wade Rutland, inaugural commander of the revitalized 1st Canadian Division, told reporters Sunday that the fire began as a grassfire and spread rapidly around 4 p.m. as the wind direction changed.



Rutland said range control at the base were aware about a fire for several hours but decided training could carry on "for a certain amount of time."

That day, soldiers were throwing hand grenades on a grenade range, he said, while others were conducting a "section attack," in which 10 soldiers attack a simulated enemy.

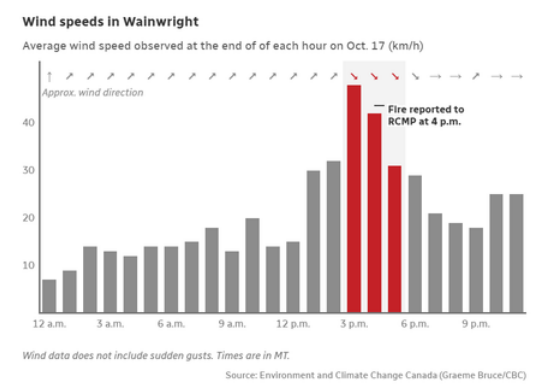
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Rutland said it is not yet known what exactly caused the fire. "Quite frankly, it could have been any of that or none of it," he said.

The major-general said troops described the fire as covering a distance of a kilometre in under a minute, with the fire suddenly "right on top of them."

"This was uncommon, rapid, and I certainly hadn't seen anything like it," he said, adding that conditions for most of the day were "within standard procedures to conduct training exercises" with wind gusts below 50 km/h.

Heavy winds were forecast



However, meteorological and wildfire experts say the combination of dry fuels, low humidity and strong winds created conditions favourable to rapid fire spread. Heavy wind gusts of over 80 km/h had also been forecast for the area later that day.

"This was a very dangerous setup," said Jonathan Porter, chief meteorologist for AccuWeather, a commercial weather forecasting company.

Porter says the company issued a warning to its business customers in the Wainwright area about a risk for high winds around 2:30 p.m. MT.

In addition to the strong wind, Porter said humidity was low, at about 20 per cent, creating "an ideal setup for wildfires to spread."

Flannigan of Thompson Rivers University had a similar assessment of the day's conditions, noting any fire ignited at the time would have spread quickly and intensely.

But those conditions were forecast and were not necessarily unusual for the area at this time of year, he said.

Reported speed difficult to assess

"You do get windy conditions and fall is the time for them," Flannigan said. He added that heavy rain this spring had caused abundant grass growth, which, after drying this month, created a large amount of fuel for fire to spread.

While grass fires spread more quickly than forest fires, it's unlikely the fire at CFB Wainwright travelled one kilometre in under a minute, Flannigan said — unless it merged with another fire or ignited unexploded ammunitions.

According to Natural Resources Canada, grass fires can travel up to 12 km/h and their flames can reach up to 10 metres high.

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Flannigan noted their speed typically reaches roughly 10 per cent of the speed of the wind that carries them.

In response to questions from CBC about the weather conditions and the response at CFB Wainwright at the time of the fire, the Department of National Defence said in an emailed statement that military police and the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service are conducting investigations in Wainwright and elsewhere in Alberta.

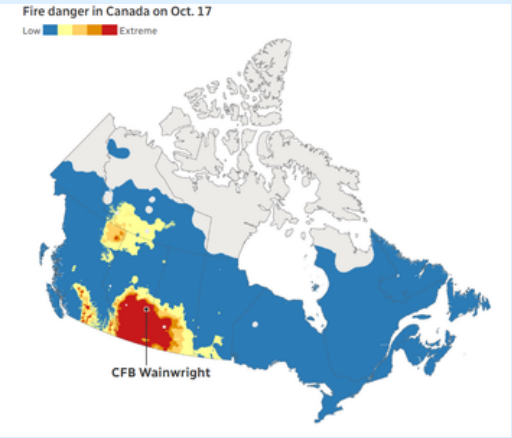
"The investigation remains active, and commenting on specific details at this stage would be inappropriate," spokesperson Kened Sadiku said.

Flannigan said he hopes the incident leads to better wildfire warning systems in Canada and within the military.

"One thing I can say is that grass fires are dangerous," he said. "Any fire we have to treat with respect."

Porter said he expects the Armed Forces' investigation to examine what actions were or were not taken in response to weather warnings "issued well in advance" and whether those warnings reached the people making decisions about the exercise.

"A key part of this investigation is going to be what actions were taken based upon the high wind warnings that were issued in that area," he said.



Fires at base not uncommon, says retired major general

It's not uncommon for troops to continue training even after flames spark nearby, says Scott Clancy, a retired major-general in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Armed Forces.

Clancy told CBC News that soldiers will often continue field training exercises when fires start, noting that fires are routinely managed by military range control.

He said Wainwright is a very large base and a decision to "carry on" would have been made by range control officers who were managing exercises on site Saturday.

The investigation to come will "look at the leadership, the culture that was created around that leadership, the orders, the safety regulations [and] the specific decisions to carry on training," he said.

"Wildfires ... can be smouldering low and then a few minutes later be wild blazing fires," Clancy said.

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Christmas Trivia

1. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called “milk punch?”
2. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
3. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
4. Where was baby Jesus born?
5. The movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on a what real-life department store?
6. What are the two most popular names for Santa Claus?
7. Elvis isn’t going to have a white Christmas, he’s going to have a….
8. What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
9. In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
10. In the classic Christmas movie, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?
11. In the movie, It’s A Wonderful Life, what happened every time a bell rang?
12. What words follow “Silent Night” in the song?
13. Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in The Polar Express
14. In Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
15. Which country did eggnog come from?
16. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
17. What did Frosty the Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
18. Which Christmas song was recorded by Jose Feliciano in 1970?
19. Approximately 1.3 billion of these are sent each year in the United States during Christmas. What are they?
20. The first artificial Christmas tree was made from what?

Answers are on the next page



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

HART Ceremony - 14 Nov - 1030 am at Vimy Ridge Armory, Lethbridge

Monthly meeting for 783 Wing 24 November at 285 Legion starting at 7pm

Wing Christmas Party 20 November at the Blackfoot Inn 6pm

For more event information, check out the **calendar page** on our website at https://783afacwingcalgary.ca/events

Christmas Trivia Answers:

1. Eggnog
2. Join in any reindeer games
3. Four
4. In Bethlehem
5. Macy’s
6. Kris Kringle and Saint Nick
7. Blue Christmas
8. An angel
9. Paris
10. Stink, stank, stunk
11. An angel got his wings
12. Holy night
13. Tom Hanks
14. Ebenezer
15. England
16. The Christian bishop St. Nicholas
17. He began to dance around
18. Feliz Navidad
19. Christmas cards
20. Goose feathers

Air Force Museum of Alberta/Air Force Museum Society of Alberta
Cordially invite our AFMSA volunteers and guests to meet:
The Commander Royal Canadian Air Force
Lieutenant-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet CMM CD

Command Chief Warrant Officer
CCWO Renee J. Hansen MMM CD

1100hrs – 1300hrs Thursday 12 November 2026 @ The Military Museums 4520 Crowchild Trail, SW. Calgary AB

Meet the Commander and experience the unveiling of our new "The Women of the RCAF" exhibit in the Air Force Gallery

Itinerary:

- 1045hrs convene in TMM Main Entrance Atrium (please arrive and be seated prior to 1100hrs).

- 1100hrs – 1105hrs Welcome address and introductions: Maj (Ret'd) Michelle Gerwing

- 1105hrs – 1110hrs TMM Director welcome & museum overview: Mr. Ryan Goldsworthy

- 1110hrs - 1120hrs Air Force Museum Curator address "The Women of the RCAF": Ms. Alyssa Graham

- 1120hrs – 1140hrs Commander of the RCAF and CCWO address: LGen Speiser-Blanchet, CCWO Renee Hansen

- 1140hrs – 1145hrs Thank you and AF Gallery tour start: Maj (Ret'd) John Argue

- 1145hrs – 1200hrs AF Gallery Tour and exhibit unveiling, ribbon cutting

- 1200hrs – 1230hrs Reconvene in West Cold War Exhibit Hangar for CWE tours: AFMSA volunteer docents

- 1230hrs – 1300hrs Light luncheon, finger foods, deserts, and beverages in East Cold War Hangar

- 1300hrs - End of official program, further tours available at Commanders request

Dress: Business Casual. Questions/RSVP contact: John Argue jeargue@shaw.ca mobile: 587 899-4675

Best Sugar Cookie Recipe



Ingredients

3 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR PLUS MORE FOR ROLLING
2 TSP ALUMINUM-FREE BAKING POWDER
1 CUP 2 STICKS SALTED BUTTER, AT ROOM TEMPERATURE
1 CUP SUGAR
1 LARGE EGG
2 TSP PURE VANILLA EXTRACT

Instructions

Into a medium bowl, whisk together flour and baking powder. Set aside.
In a large bowl, using an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment on medium speed, beat butter and sugar for about 1½ minutes, or until smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla until well combined. Scrape the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula.

Turn the mixer speed to low and carefully add the flour mixture a little at a time, occasionally stopping to scrape the sides of the bowl. Once all the flour has been incorporated, the dough should form a ball around the mixing attachment and feel soft but not sticky.

Wrap the dough ball in a piece of plastic wrap and press down to form a 1-inch-thick disk. Refrigerate for at least 10 minutes before rolling or store for up to 7 days tightly wrapped.

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured flat work surface to about ¼-inch thickness, using additional flour as necessary to prevent sticking. Use cookie cutters to create desired shapes, and carefully transfer with a cookie spatula to a nonstick baking sheet, placing the cookies about ¾ inch apart.

Bake one sheet at a time in the middle of the oven until puffy, about 7-8 minutes. Allow the cookies to rest for 2 minutes on the baking sheet before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Repeat with the gathered scraps and remaining disk until all the dough has been used.



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