

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

783 (CALGARY) WING

FALL NEWSLETTER 2010



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As elected at the Annual General Meeting held June 28, 2010. (* Non-elected positions)

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NATIONAL GROUP AFAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oct. 13 – 17 Nat. AGM @ Comox, B.C. – submitted by I.P.P. and Reg. V.P. AB Grp RJ Roe

Wing President Robert Clarke and myself (RJ Roe) attended the 2 days NEC Pre AGM Training, study groups and meetings prior to the regular AGM.

Comox Wing provided excellent hospitality and assistance to the NEC for meeting space, Parade and entertainment facilities. My personal opinion - I can't say the AGM program was as organized and as far as the AGM Business sessions were concerned it was a total disaster. I don't believe we achieved a thing, other than hold an unorganized parade without a Parade Marshall, present the preauthorized Awards and listen to some interesting guest speakers representing the R.C.L. Dominion Command, Canadian Forces Air Force, Ted Barris, and the Air Cadet League.

It would appear that the 2011 Nat. AGM is to be held in Quebec City and the 2012 if there should be an AGM – possibly in Niagara Falls or Deer Hurst Resort, Muskoka (G 09 site). Need deep pockets for these AGM's!



The latest recipient of the Side Hill Gouger was Rose Lalonde (bright blue top), manager of our National HQ Kit Shop, amongst all the rest of SHG holders at the National AGM.



Alberta Group was well represented at the AGM, as in the past couple years. Your elected officials above representing Alberta Group receiving the Group Efficiency Award – (AGAIN!) ("Oh Lord,....It's hard to be humble....")



I.P.P.- R.J. Roe receiving the Distinguished Service Award.

Another award was announced was the Christina Handler Memorial which was awarded to our very own Dot Deines. (to be presented to her at one of our local wing meetings)

#783 WING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On October 3rd a large number of Wing Members took a bus tour organized by Pat Sulek and Ken Nixon, to Nakoda Lodge for brunch and then a drive to Lake Louise. We had a great meal and a fun tour.

October 14 to 17th RJ, Grant and myself attended the AGM in Comox. The hosting was excellent and we discussed a number of items. The new Non-profit legislation bill C4 was discussed, also the possibility of moving to a Bi Annual meeting in the next few years. On Sunday morning a special ceremony was held at the Cenotaph at the Comox Base. We all marched with the cadet band and carried all our Wing Banners. We remembered all those who had died in the service of our country.

We finalized our plans for Remembrance Day at our Oct Meeting as well as getting more information on the Christmas Party.

Respective submitted,
Robert Clarke
President 783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC

Per Ardua Ad Astra

ALBERTA GROUP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Corner:

Dear Members and Friends,

Although the summer was less than perfect I hope it left a good impression on everyone.

As we all know, the Aim and Objective of the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) is to provide support to youth organizations, namely the Air Cadets, safeguard our heritage through museums or presentation whenever possible, and finally the advocacy.

The AFAC along with its trust fund has accomplished some great goals towards youth programs and preservation of our heritage such as: the donation to the Snowbird's 40th anniversary, fund-raising for the Comox BC museum, and support of our Wings towards the many Cadet programs - Air or otherwise, as well as other worthwhile projects. The advocacy portion of our great organization is alive and well. The support we show towards our government leaders in their procurement decisions is a source of confidence and knowledge to them.

Therefore, we all have a say and I say: "To learn helps to shape the future".

Yours truly,
Gilles McDermott
AB Group President
(780) 594-7767
gmc1@telus.net

I.P.P. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

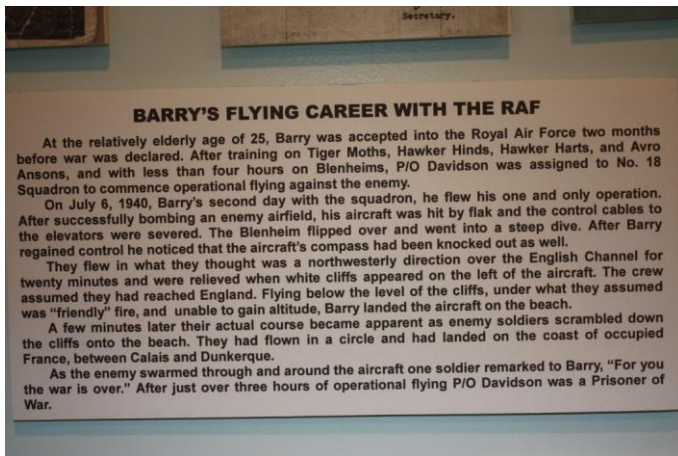
This autumn has been a very active season for myself partaking of several functions in the area, as well as the National AGM in Comox.

Aug. 21, I spent the day at Nanton's Bomber Command Museum to observe the running of the engines (only 2 – the 3rd one is being rebuilt in Winnipeg at the time) and view some of the artifacts inside the Museum.

I met up with the McKeague family who were making a day of it at the Museum as well as 2nd V.P. Dave and Betty Watson, who also brought along Dot Deines and Pat Trollope.



The day was filled with lecturers - Karl Karlsgard on the resurrection of the 2nd Halifax, off the coast of Scotland; Richard DeBoer from the Calgary Mosquito Restoration Society as well as Ted Barris, accomplished author and broadcaster who was promoting and autographing his latest book. Ted was also a Guest Speaker at the AFAC National AGM Awards Banquet in Comox. A couple small A/C were on ground display and also did a run-up, revved its engines and then shut down for the audience's enjoyment. There was a very good crowd celebrating Nanton's Annual Event.



I refreshed my memory about a former 783 Wing member while reading newspaper articles in the Museum on Barry Davidson. (Stalag Great Escape)

Although this report is NOT in chronological order, I have to mention that the Annual U.N. Peacekeepers Service & Parade started out extremely moist and did not progress all that much better until near the end. A few of our Wing Members participated in spite of the "drench".

(We are not the only one's that get rained on Parade! - B. of B. Parade)

1st V.P. Keith Mann stood in for our Wing President (who was away) and 2nd V.P.

Dave Watson and Past Pres. Kenn Nixon carried the Colours, and I tried to cover for Brian who was away; taking some pictures.

Sept. 18th – The Alberta Group Pre-AGM meeting was held in Red Deer with half of the Group Executive coming from 783 Wing. For those not aware of these representatives: Steve MacDonnell – IPP, Myself – RVP(S), Bev Spielman – Grp. Secretary, Kenn Nixon – Treas., Keith Mann – representing Air Cadet League.

The following day was our Battle of Britain Parade, which we managed to carry out Plan “B” (inclement weather) in the Navy Museum. It was a little cramped for space, with NO PARADE, and went well just the same. Our Guest Speaker, Lt. Gov. Don Ethel was the “icing on the cake” and we are honoured to have him grace our B. of B. Service.

Sep. 27th – Our 1st Wing Meeting after the summer break and what a great guest speaker, Richard DeBoer on the restoration of the Mosquito. I have heard his delivery 3 times now and each time is a bit different and every bit as interesting. I sensed he had a really interested and captivated audience.

Respectively submitted,
RJ Roe
I.P.P. President 783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC

Per Ardua Ad Astra

PAST PRESIDENTS REPORT

September 27, 2010

The past presidents met at Bev Spielman’s home August 29. Five members of the group were present. Bev suggested that we discuss a new Chair for the committee. I volunteered to accept the position and it was unanimous that my offer be accepted.

Two main topics were discussed. The first was how we can increase interest in the wing with the goal to increase our membership. One of the points was that our meetings have become a bit mundane. Suggestions were discussed that we should find interesting speakers to come in to the meetings to add interest. Some of the topics and speakers were discussed and ideas were given to Bob Clarke to take up with the executive.

Bob Clarke was encouraged to hold an Executive meeting. I was tasked to get the Legion for September 13 for the meeting.

The Wing has \$34,000 plus from casino revenues that need to be distributed. Due to many factors funds were not distributed at the Stampede Breakfast this year. We feel this is a great vehicle to get to know who our funds go to and how they will be used. The Past Presidents will hold a meeting to review and develop recommendations for the use of our funds.

The Wing has received a request from the Model Flying club to assist them with the maintenance of their airfield in Airdrie. Several of the group are members of the Wing and offer us the opportunity to go out there. After some discussion it is the recommendation of the committee that 783 Wing provide \$2,000 for their Club.

As we can see around the Legion they are in a period of renovations. We received a letter from the Legion requesting support to help offset the \$884,000 costs that are being incurred to refurbish the Legion including air conditioning, Roofing, façade upgrading and landscaping. After discussion we recommend that 783 Wing contribute \$2,500 in support of the Legion. We also discussed the point that we should provide the Legion with some ongoing funding in recognition of the support the Legion gives us. It was suggested that we might pay \$250 month to the Legion in recognition of their support.

I was tasked to discuss how we could have a little more exposure in the Legion. I spoke to the President and suggested we could put up a display case on the wall. He was interested in accommodating us with one or two of the cases that are currently mounted on the wall in the ballroom.

I move that the wing approve \$2,000 for the Airdrie Remote control Club, \$2,500 for the Legion renovation fund and that we spend \$250 per month to the Legion.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenn Nixon

WEBSITE INFORMATION & NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

783 (Calgary) Wing website is up and running. This is your original website that we are always tweaking and revising. Want to publish an event on the website calendar? Submit in writing (snail mail or email) to Brian Lewis.

www.783afacwingcalgary.ca

Distribution of this newsletter is either by e-mail or Canada Post. In an effort to be fiscally responsible and eco friendly, e-mail is the preferred method of distribution. (It will continue to be mailed to those for whom we have no e-mail addresses.) If anyone who receives the mailed copy but now has an e-mail address, please contact Anna Lewis with your new email address.

We encourage all members to become active in this newsletter by submitting ideas, recipes, news stories, pictures or general comments. I'll even take some good "clean" jokes. Feedback will help in the development of your newsletter and website.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of our last meeting, we have 80 regular and 5 life memberships for a total of 85 wing members.

Invoices were mailed out in June/10 for this year's membership fees. \$18.00 for singles and \$25.00 for couples. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Kendal Spielman as the due date for payment was June 30/10. Remit payment to #783 (Calgary) Wing AFAC, c/o Kendall Spielman, 95 Shawcliffe Circle SW, Calgary, AB T2Y 1J3 or phone 403-256-3612.

If you have any changes to your membership information, such as address, phone or email addresses, please contact her to update your file.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

At our first meeting of the year in September, we were please to present two awards to our members.



Steve MacDonnell received on behalf of his wife, Jane, her 5 year pin and Kenn Nixon was awarded "783 Member of the Year". Well deserved, everyone!

Date to coming up to remember is our annual Christmas party on Dec 3rd at the Blackfoot Inn. For tickets and more information, please contact Bob Clarke our president. Marion Mascaro is looking after tickets for her ladies group. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be prepaid.

As you can see from the length of this newsletter, there is a lot to catch up on. So take your time, sit back and enjoy the articles submitted by some of our wing members.

Yours truly,

Anna Lewis

Editor-in-Chief

AIR FORCE MUSEUM SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

The Air Force Museum of Alberta (AFMSA) is an equal partner in the new Military Museums at the location of the former Museum of the Regiments on Crowchild Trail. The Museum needs volunteers to be Tour Guides, so please consider volunteering by contacting Kenn Nixon. Official opening was on May 7, 2009.

The AFMSA website is www.airforcemuseumalberta.ca. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Kenn Nixon. Wing members are encouraged to become members of the museum. The AFMSA is an approved charitable organization, and can provide official receipts for tax purposes for all donations. For further information and applications for memberships, please call Don Norrie, the membership chairman, at 403-949-2579.

NOTICES

- Please save your used stamps for Marion Mascaro, to be donated to the Alberta Cancer Society. You can bring them to the monthly meeting or send them to:
 - #783 (Calgary) Wing, c/o 100 Rosevale Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2K 1N5
- Eleanor Berlin requests notification of any wing member who is ill so that she can send them a card from the Wing. Phone: 403-244-8217

CADET LIAISON REPORT

Air Cadet Reports September 27, 2010

The cadet year started off with a bang for all the City Squadrons. 604 Sqn, 781 Sqn and 52 Sqn report returning with over 100 cadets returning. 538 Sqn has returned with a healthy number returning as well. All the squadrons have had a very positive response to their recruiting and are looking at record numbers. It appears Air Cadets in Calgary are the strongest squadrons in the province.

The Region Cadet Support Unit in Winnipeg has changed command, LCol Brodeur is now the Commanding Officer and from some of our initial contacts he seems to be an enthusiastic and strong support of cadets.

The Alberta Provincial Committee is holding its Annual General Meeting in Calgary at the Radisson Hotel this year. There are some interesting developments being presented.

There have been significant changes in the Scholarship program this year. Many of you have been involved in the board process and we encourage you to continue. We have lost the Senior Leaders and the Survival Instructors courses from the scholarship process because they have become regional courses instead of National Camps. The Cadet Exchange program, Power Pilot and Glider Pilot continue to be National Courses. We have confirmed the Advanced Aviation courses, Airport Operations and Aircraft Maintenance and the Advance Aero Space and Oshkosh courses are now going to be boarded. So you can see that your assistance will be appreciated.

The Scholarship boards will be held on February 19, 2011 at the Lacombe High School.

The Battle of Britain was a success partially because we had about 110 Air Cadets attending and participating in the ceremony. The Cadets love attending and seeing our members at the museum.

We are looking forward to the Remembrance Day service at Mewata Armouries this year. We hope to have a significant number of cadets participating with us.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenn Nixon

SPECIAL EVENTS TOURS



Special Events/Bus trips - Pat Sulek, our event coordinator, welcomes all suggestions and comments.

OFF THE MAIN ROAD TOUR OCT 3 2010

We are now up and running for another great year with the Air Force Association....and we have held our first Tour of the season. The Off the Main Road Tour started bright and early departing from Horton Road Legion at 9:00am, with a total of 46 enthusiastic people.

Up the road we went, on 1A to Nakota Lodge for brunch. The day was lovely, with beautiful fall colored leaves on the trees. I chose to take "the road less travelled", to be able to see nature in all its finery, and also to go on a different path, somewhere we have not been before, rather than up the Trans Canada Highway.

Nakota Lodge is a delightful place to visit, situated beside a little lake, overlooking majestic mountains in the distance. The day was so calm, you could see clearly the mountains reflexion like a mirror in the lake. The food was plentiful, and very tasty.. and no cooking or clean up required...so I am sure we women really enjoyed that aspect of the brunch.



We traveled on to Lake Minniwanka, then up to Lake Louise, where we stopped for a look at the majestic Lake Louise Hotel, and the splendor of its surrounding scenery. Then back on the bus, for our trip back home down the familiar Highway 1.

Our bus driver Greg, was very delightful...and seemed to enjoy our many comments along the way.

Our fellow passengers very politely listened to the newest jokes, and laughed appropriately. They also were very clever when answering the riddles.

So all in all, I feel that this was another successful tour, we went up with 46, and came back with the same 46. All is good.

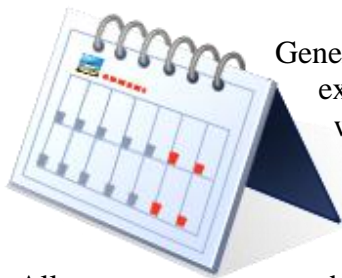


The flowers were all in bloom at Lake Louise. What a beautiful day!

Looking forward to scouting out our next tour.....Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Sulek
“Tour director” special events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



General Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month, except in July, August and December, when there are no meetings. They will continue to be held at 1930 hrs at the #285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Horton Road, for the foreseeable future.

Members may enjoy dinner at the #285 Legion before the meeting (last call for the kitchen is around 1815 hrs).

All members are encouraged to attend the Wing Meetings to not only find out what's going on, but also to have input into the decisions and activities. Summer dress attire is from May 1 to Sept 30.

Date missing? Wrong information? Let us know! We're always looking ahead, so all dates (even a year in advance) are most welcome.

- **November 11, 2010 Remembrance Day, emails and letters sent out to all Wing members for Ceremony at Mewata Amouries – to be seated by 10:30 am please – Remember there is a food drive for the Veteran Food Bank also.**

- **November 22, 2010** **Wing Meeting**
- **December 3, 2010** **#783 Wing Christmas Party, Blackfoot Inn for tickets contact Bob Clarke @\$20/person prepaid**
- **December 30-31, 2010** **#783 Wing Casino nights – See Keith Mann to sign up.**
- **December, 2010** **No Wing Meeting – Enjoy the holidays!**
- **January 24, 2011** **Wing Meeting**
- **February 28, 2011** **Wing Meeting**
- **March 28, 2011** **Wing Meeting**
- **April 25, 2011** **Wing Meeting**
- **May 30, 2011** **Wing Meeting**
- **June 27, 2011** **Wing Meeting & AGM**
- **Sept 16-18, 2011** **#1 Air Division Reunion, R.C.A.F. in Edmonton, AB**

LAST POST

Allen Spielman



This July 2010, we lost a much beloved member of our wing. (Partial excerpt from our Winter 2008 Newsletter.)

Allen Spielman joined Air Cadets as the first cadet in 538 Squadron in Calgary in 1950. He worked his way up through the ranks, serving as #15 Wing Training Officer, Administration Officer and became Commanding Officer of 604 Squadron. After retiring as CO, he joined the Calgary Center Sponsoring Committee, which administered and raised funds and support for 52, 538 and 604 Air Cadet Squadrons.



After serving as Sponsoring Committee Chairman for four years, he then joined the Provincial Air Cadet League as a Squadron representative in the Southern Zone. He became Zone chairman for three years, spent two years as Vice Chairman, two years as Provincial Chairman, and presently is a member of the Past Chairmen's Board of the Alberta Air Cadet League. He also coordinated the Effective Speaking Contest for the Provincials for two years. He was awarded a Life Membership of the Provincial Air Cadet League in 2003.

Even though his main interest has been Air Cadets, he spent twelve years being involved with the Lions International Youth Exchange. Over the years, he arranged for over 1500 young people to travel to other countries (Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Finland, Britain, and Italy to name a few) and brought students from these countries to experience cultural exchanges.

He is a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, serving with 783 Calgary Wing, and has held the position of President at both Group and Wing levels. He served three separate terms as Wing President. Allen is also a past National Director of the Association and holds the honor of being presented with the first Life Membership award in the newly named Air Force Association of Canada. He has been a key figure in the fund raising for the Wing, serving as Casino chairman for over 16 years.

For his numerous activities, he has received many awards; among the highest is the Canada 125 Medal, the Certificate of Honor from the Air Cadet League of Canada, Life Membership in Alberta Air Cadet League, and the Alberta Centennial Certificate and Medallion. He has just been awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2008. In 2000, he was also recognized as a "Great Albertan". Allen had been married for 52 years, with three children and has three grandchildren.

CATCH UP ON PAST EVENTS.....



Stampede Breakfast at the Spielman Ranch this July.



Over 100 people came to participate.



On July 8th, the CBAA (Cdn Business Aviation Association) had a golf tournament and tradeshow in Calgary. A few of our cadets were asked to help out and Brian (our wing PR Director) was hired to be their photographer. Keith Mann had a chance meeting with General Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD - Chief of the Defence Staff.

783 WING REPRESENTED AT NANTON

Pictured are a jolly group of 783 Wing representatives who attended the special program at Nanton on 21 July to honour the role of Flying Instructors in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. We started with a pancake breakfast and continued through the day with presentations from wartime Flying Instructors and a very interesting presentation by the Toronto writer and columnist Ted Barris.

We enjoyed a fine luncheon and had the opportunity to visit the various displays in the hangar at Nanton and witness the running of two of the Rolls Royce Merlin engines on their Lancaster bomber. Photo courtesy of our own RJ



SECOND VICE RAMBLINGS

Your Second Vice-President, along with Kenn Nixon, had the pleasure of representing 783 Wing at the recent commemoration of Canada's Peacekeepers at Peacekeeper's Park in Calgary on August 8th. We formed part of the official Colour-Party and were proud to fly the Wing Standard and the Association Roundel on that occasion.



It was my first time attending a ceremony at Peacekeeper's Park and I was impressed with the Memorial Wall displayed there in memory of Canadians who have, over the years, paid with their lives in order to promote peace and stability in the trouble spots in our world. Although primarily Army personnel have been involved, there are numerous names from the Air Force and Navy represented as well, who

gave their lives in support of the ground operations in these various theatres of operation. Several veterans of the current Afghanistan operation addressed the assembly and prayers were offered in memory of those who had lost their lives in the cause of Peacekeeping.

After the service at Peacekeeper's Park, the Colour-Party and spectators were invited to move to nearby Buffalo Park, commemorating the loss of the Canadian Forces Buffalo aircraft and crew who were shot down over Syria, while on United Nations Peacekeeping duties in the Middle East. This was a particularly poignant time for me as I was stationed at CFB Trenton at the time of this tragedy and knew some of those crewmembers personally.

I was pleased to participate in the services remembering Peacekeeping operations, as we sometimes tend to put all the emphasis on Remembrance Day and forget that Canadians serve in so many other ways.

Dave Watson
Second Vice-president

Picture provided by RJ Roe



RECIPE SWAP



Rueben Casserole

Submitted by Pat Sulek (#783 Wing) Her personal favorite!

- 5 cups uncooked egg noodles (1 pkg)
- 2 cans (14 oz size) sauerkraut, rinsed and well drained
- 2 cans (10 ¾ oz size) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- ¾ cup milk
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 3 tablespoons prepared mustard
- ¾ pound sliced deli corned beef, chopped
- 2 cups (8 oz) shredded swiss cheese
- 2 slices day-old light rye bread, chopped into coarse bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Cook noodles according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine the sauerkraut, soup, milk, onion and mustard.

Drain the noodles, stir into sauerkraut mixture. Transfer to a greased 13-inch by 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with corned beef and cheese.

Toss breadcrumbs with butter and sprinkle over top.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until bubbly.



COMEDY CORNER



Sound familiar, anyone?

Hope your travels this summer were nothing like this !



GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....

Dave Watson

Dave was born and educated in Toronto. He worked as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer at the Toronto Malton airport where he was a licensed mechanic with Trans Canada Airlines.

He joined the RCAF in 1953 and received his Pilot training at Penhold during the summer of 1954 where he met Betty who was working in Red Deer at the time. After receiving his wings at Portage la Prairie in 1955, he and Betty were married and their first posting was to Claresholm as a flying instructor. Dave was subsequently selected to become a staff instructor at the Flying Instructor's School at Trenton.

His next posting in 1958 was to Maritime Air Command, training on the Neptune and the Argus. He spent four years at Greenwood flying with 405 Sqn and then another four years at Summerside flying the Neptune and Argus with the Maritime Proving and Evaluation Unit and then the Argus again with 415 Sqn. These eight years were spent on anti-submarine patrols covering the north Atlantic from the Azores to Iceland and from the east coast of Canada to the North Cape of Norway tracking Soviet submarines.

In 1967 he received a yearlong posting to the DEWLINE as the Military Commander of Site Fox Main at Hall Beach, NWT. After surviving the frozen north, he was posted in 1968 to Air Force Headquarters at Ottawa where he manned the Air and Naval NATO Standardization desk for three and a half years.

In 1971 he escaped Ottawa, being posted to Transport Command to fly the CC130 Hercules out of CFB Trenton on global transport operations with 436 Sqn. During his seven and a half years at Trenton he flew with three different units; 436 Sqn, Base Flight Safety and during his last two years, as the Chief Flying Instructor with 426 Sqn, specializing in the Hercules.

In 1978 he retired from the Canadian Forces after 24 years and moved to Yellowknife, NWT, flying the new De Havilland Dash 7 STOL aircraft as Chief Pilot for Wardair North. It was during late summer that year that he had the honour of flying HM Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip



and young Prince Edward on three occasions during her Royal Visit to officially open the Commonwealth Games at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton.

After two years of extensive flying throughout the high Arctic, the Wardair North operation closed and Dave, Betty and their four children moved to Calgary in 1980. He took employment with Business Flights, flying Learjets for three and a half years, until the National Energy Program spelled a temporary death-knell to the petroleum business throughout Alberta. After a period of unemployment, he was fortunate to secure employment with Mobil Oil Canada where he flew Twin Otters, King Airs, Fairchild F-27s and De Havilland Dash 8s throughout the oil patch for six years, before Mobil closed their flight department. He then flew under several different contracts with companies in the Calgary area until his retirement from Commercial aviation in 1998.

Since his first Solo in 1949, he has accumulated a total of just under 17,000 flying hours on 36 different types of aircraft. He retired from the Canadian Forces with the rank of Major (Squadron Leader) and holds the following decorations: Canadian Centennial Medal; Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee medal; and the Canadian Forces' Decoration with Clasp.

OTHER NEWS.....

Calgary, AB

October 8th, 2010

Last summer, my husband and I visited Vancouver Island. After visiting with family and friends we made a special trip to The Comox Air Force museum. We found it very interesting and informative, but imagine my surprise when I recognized our hostess, Marty (nee Gallant) Cunningham, who had been on the same course (clerk typist) as me, in Aylmer, ON back in 1952. Marty was most gracious and very knowledgeable about all displays in the gallery of the museum. We have since exchange emails, photos and phone calls. I hope to see her again next summer, at the RCAF Airwomen's Reunion in Edmonton on 3,4,5 of June 2011.

From: Edith (nee Préfontaine) McMinn

See below photo of Edith – Front Row, far right



The Calgary Sun ■ MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010



MIKE DREW/CALGARY SUN

Lt.-Gov. Don Ethell speaks at a ceremony in Calgary honouring the 70th anniversary of The Battle of Britain held at the Military Museums on Sunday. The commemorative event was hosted by the 783 (Calgary) wing of the Air Force Association of Canada.

Crucial victory saluted

Ceremony pays tribute to Second World War veterans

JENNA McMURRAY
Calgary Sun

War veterans joined government officials and city residents Sunday to commemorate a major turning point in the Second World War.

The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which took place between July 10 and Oct. 31, 1940, was marked by about 250 people at a ceremony at the Military Museums.

"The Battle of Britain was a turning point in World War II because the allies won the battle and it gave them breathing space to regroup and form a strong army that could subsequently take over Europe," said Don Matthews, honor-

"If we lost the Battle of Britain, the fear was the Nazis would invade Britain."

Don Matthews, Air Force Association of Canada

ary president of 783 (Calgary) wing of the Air Force Association of Canada, which hosted the event. "If we lost the Battle of Britain, the fear was the Nazis would invade Britain."

Second World War veteran Cliff Black began working for the Coastal Command out of Halifax in 1942 and then worked for the Bomber Command in northern Yorkshire in England from 1943 until the end of the war in 1945.

He credits the Battle of Britain fighters with ensuring

overall victory. "The Royal Air Force fighter command that was involved saved our defeat as a troop," he said.

"It was those fighter boys that we owe so much to, they saved us from losing the war."

Eighty Canadian pilots fought in the battle and 20 were killed.

Lt.-Gov. Donald S. Ethell was on hand for Sunday's event and said the ceremony was a way to honour those who fought, especially the ones who didn't come home.

"They didn't get to experience the tremendous joy and celebration that came with the end of the war," he said.

"May they rest in peace and may we never forget their extraordinary sacrifice."

The ceremony included the *Last Post*, laying of the wreaths, prayers and remarks by Ethell and other government representatives.

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Did you know that there is a poem, written by Edna Jaques, called "In Flanders Now?" Written at the close of WW1 in answer to John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields". It was used at the unveiling of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In Flanders Now
By Edna Jaques in 1930
1891-1978

We have kept faith, ye Flanders' dead,
Sleep well beneath those poppies red,
That mark your place.
The torch your dying hands did throw,
We've held it high before the foe,
And answered bitter blow for blow,
In Flanders' fields.
And where your heroes' blood was spilled,
The guns are now forever stilled,
And silent grown.
There is no moaning of the slain,
There is no cry of tortured pain,
And blood will never flow again
In Flanders' fields.
Forever holy in our sight
Shall be those crosses gleaming white,
That guard your sleep.
Rest you in peace, the task is done,
The fight you left us we have won.
And "Peace on Earth" has just begun
In Flanders' now.

