

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



783 (CALGARY) WING

December 2012 NEWSLETTER



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As elected at the Annual General Meeting held June 28, 2012.

Non-elected positions are signified by prefix (eg. ^N Past Presidents Chair)

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WING REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

President's Report

November 26th, 2012 Wing Meeting

President Dave reviewed his activities for the past month. On November first, he and member Gordon Hill formed a Colour Party for a Remembrance Service for the Open Door Seniors which was greatly appreciated.

Later that evening a cheque for \$3000 on behalf of 783 Wing was presented to the newly formed 952 Air Cadet Squadron at the Springbank Middle school, to help them get established.

The President, Secretary and several other Wing members attended the Remembrance Service held by students of the Juno Beach Academy at Queen's Park Cemetery on Friday, November 9th.

Finally, our annual Service was held at the Mewata Armoury on Remembrance Day. We had many fine comments from the attendees and I would like to thank Vice President Pat Sulek and her committee for a wonderful and meaningful service. (see Other News)

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Watson

783 Wing Awards

September 24th Service Awards

Anna and Pat presided over the presentation of Long Service pins to the following members:

- 10 yr. pin - **Kendra Fisher**
- 15 yr. pin - **Randy Fisher**
- 10 yr. pin - **Don Matthews**
- 35 yr. pin - **Barry McDonald**

October 22nd Awards

New Member - **Patricia MacLean** was inducted into 783 Wing as a new member.

Long Service Pins - **Betty** and **Dave Watson** were presented with their 20 year pins.

Presentation of Wing Awards from AGM - on behalf of 783 Wing, President **Dave Watson** accepted the National President's Award for best Wing.

Meritorious Service Award - This National award was presented to member **John Fox** for his years of faithful service to the Wing.

Membership Award - Chair **Anna Lewis** was presented with the National Vice President's Award for her efforts over the past several years in encouraging new membership, resulting in our present total of 135 members.

Distinguished Service Award - **Marion Mascaro** was presented with a National Distinguished Service Award for her tireless efforts over the years on behalf of 783 Wing and the Association as a whole.

AFMSA - The NEC also presented an award to the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta, presented to LCol (Ret) **Don Matthews** at Hamilton. Don is also our Honourary President at 783 Wing so we congratulate him and his staff of volunteers for maintaining a 'World Class' Military Museum in Calgary, dedicated to telling the Air Force story.

We also gave a vote of thanks to member **Bev Spielman** for her observations and skill in writing excellent recommendations regarding members who dedicate themselves to the objectives of the Association and 783 Wing in particular.

November 16th Awards

Members Awards Two awards were presented at the recent Christmas Party on November 16th;

- **Vern McKeague** was honoured with the Christina Handler Award
- **Bev Burke** was presented with her 10 year pin.

The President thanked **Bev Spielman**, **Sue Clarke**, **Pat Sulek** and other helpers for their work in producing a lovely Christmas Party and to Past President **Robert Clarke** for arranging the Blackfoot Inn and the superb menu we enjoyed.

Treasurer's Report

The current 783 Wing Balance Sheet was reviewed and a tentative Budget was presented for the first quarter of 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Kenn Nixon

Past President's Report

Chairperson Bev Spielman was not available at the November meeting so no report was given.

Robert Clarke, our Christmas Party co-ordinator, reported that a letter had been sent to the social co-ordinator of the Blackfoot Hotel, thanking him and his staff for their superb hosting of our recent Christmas Party.

Cadet Liaison

All the Cadet Squadrons and Corps had been very busy and active this past while. One hundred and fifty Air Cadets were presently visiting Civil Air Patrol units in Montana.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Fischer

Welfare

Marion Mascaro reported that Eleanor Berlin, our Sick and Welfare Director, had not been very well herself for the past few weeks. A get well card will be sent and she will be reminded that we are all thinking of her.

Do you know of anyone who is ill or needs encouragement?

Give Eleanor Berlin a call at **(403) 244-8217**

Membership

Membership is now reported at 139 as of the November meeting. This includes two new members, **Mark Levesque** and **Mac Hayden**, as well as **Jim** and **Grace Third** from 703 Wing Lethbridge, who recently moved to Calgary and are transferring their membership to 783 Wing.

Moved? New Phone or Email? Know someone who wants to join as a member?

Contact Anna Lewis (Membership):

Address: #783 (Calgary) Wing RCAFA c/o Anna Lewis, 271-78 Ave NE, Calgary, AB T2K 0R5
Phone: (403) 730-8969 Email: bandalewis@shaw.ca

Other Business

Public Relations

The status of the Wing Website was discussed and it was decided to consider creating a completely new site as we are unable to revise and update our existing Website.

Military Museum Report

Mike Ricketts advised the members that due to conflict between our Wing meeting and the Board meeting of the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta, the minutes of that Board had not yet been published. He will report at our next Wing meeting.

Grant Whitson reported that there was a huge turn-out at the Service held at the Military Museums site on Remembrance Day.

285 Legion Liaison

Tickets are available for the Legion's Robbie Burns Dinner, which will be held on the January 26th. These tickets will be \$30 each for Legion Members and \$35 for non-Members.

A 783 Wing volunteer is urgently required to take on the duty of 285 Legion Liaison Officer. Please contact one of your Executive members.

Thank you, Pat Sulek

Entertainment

Robert Clarke – More information will be forthcoming in the New Year regarding the 783 Wing Charter afternoon set for 1 to 4 pm on April 7th, 2013.

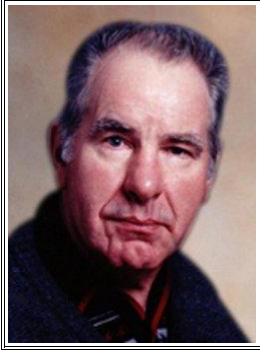
Casino

Peggy McAllister – No report submitted. The proceeds from the Casino in April were reported at the September 24th Meeting.

THE LAST POST

MEISNER, Otto Alvin

October 30, 1921 - October 17, 2012



Otto Meisner of Calgary, passed away on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at the age of 90 years. Otto is survived by his daughters, Lorraine and Susan Meisner, Linda Wagner (grandsons, Jason and Richard Wagner); son Kenneth Meisner; his sisters Marion Eckstein and Opal Rockwell; and brother Zane Meisner. Otto was predeceased by his wife Lillian. Otto was the son of Clifford and Madge MEISNER.

A Celebration of Otto's life was held at Royal Canadian Legion No. 285 Centennial Branch on Friday, November 9, 2012. In living memory of Otto Meisner, a tree will be planted at Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Otto was a long-time member of 783 Wing and will be missed.

Content courtesy of <http://www.mcinnisandholloway.com> and <http://www.findagrave.com>

NOTICES

Wing Member Illness

Eleanor Berlin requests notification of any wing member who are ill so that she can send them a card from the Wing. Phone: 403-244-8217



Save your Stamps!



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

Volunteers needed

285 Legion Liaison

783 Wing urgently needs a volunteer to act as Liaison to 285 Legion. We need a keen individual who can keep the Wing updated on Legion events and functions. 285 Legion – Horton Road graciously provides us with meeting and display space. Contact Dave Watson or Pat Sulek if you can help!



Air Force Museum Society of Alberta

The Museum needs Tour Guides. Consider volunteering. Contact Kenn Nixon for more information. The AFMSA website is www.airforcemuseumalberta.ca.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



General Wing Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month.

No meetings will be held in July, August or December.

Meetings are at 1930 hrs at the #285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Horton Road.

Members may enjoy dinner at #285 Legion before Wing meetings. Last call for the kitchen is around 18:15 hrs.

All members are encouraged to attend Wing Meetings to find out what's going on and have input into the Wing decisions and activities. Summer dress attire is from May 1 to Sept 30.

January 26, 2013

Horton Road 285 Legion Robbie Burns Dinner

Come enjoy the Bard's Birthday in style. Pipes, Poetry and, of course, the Haggis.

Wear yer Kilts if you've got em, lads!

Tickets available from 285 Legion starting on Dec 15.

\$30 each for Legion Members, \$35 for non-Members.

April 7, 2013

783 Wing Charter Afternoon

Tentatively scheduled from 1 to 4 pm. Details to follow.

DATE MISSING? WRONG INFORMATION? LET US KNOW!

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD, SO ALL DATES (EVEN A YEAR IN ADVANCE) ARE MOST WELCOME.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS



Upcoming Events and Tours

Sun, April 7, 2013

783 Wing Charter Afternoon

Tentatively scheduled for 1 to 4 pm. More details to follow.

Robert Clarke will provide more information in the New Year.

Stay tuned for future events

RECIPE SWAP

3, 2, 1 Cake

This is perfect for those of us with just one or two in the house these days, & hate to make a huge cake. This way you can make 1,2,3 or as many as you need. These individual little cakes are amazing and ready to eat in one minute! They are perfect for whenever you feel like a treat without all the fat and calories that cake can have. Genius idea!



INGREDIENTS:

1 box Angel Food Cake Mix

1 box Cake Mix - Any Flavor

DIRECTIONS:

In a ziploc bag, combine the two cake mixes together and mix well. For each individual cake serving, take out 3 Tablespoons of the cake mix combination and mix it with 2 Tablespoons of water in a small microwave-safe container. Microwave on high for 1 minute, and you have your own instant individual little cake!

KEEP remaining cake mixture stored in the ziploc bag and use whenever you feel like a treat! You can top each cake with a dollop of fat free whipped topping and/or some fresh fruit.

Helpful Tips: This recipe is called 3, 2, 1 Cake because all you need to remember is

3 tablespoons mix,

2 tablespoons water,

1 minute in the microwave!

TRY various flavors of cake mix like carrot, red velvet, pineapple, lemon, orange, etc. Just remember that one of the mixes has to be the angel food mix; the other is your choice.

The flavor possibilities are endless!

NOTES: The best thing is, you open both cake mixes into a gallon storage bag, one that 'zip locks' or 'self-seals', or a container that seals tightly, shake the two cake mixes to blend and then make the recipe. Storage of mix is simple, put it on a shelf. No need to refrigerate, since the mix is dry.

Always remember, that one of the cake mixes **MUST** be Angel Food. The other can be any flavor. The Angel Food is the cake mix that has the eggs whites in it. So, if, anyone is allergic to egg whites, you can **NOT** serve this recipe.

NOTE: Write the recipe on the bag or write it on a small index card and drop it into the bag for later reference.

Also a good idea if you have kids that want a snack, but you don't want to bake a whole cake. A friend tried the carrot cake box mix saying: Use the carrot cake and angel food. It does work but if you use the carrot, as I did, then when you mix it up with the water, let it sit a minute before you put in the microwave so the water can soften the carrots and raisins

Larry's BBQ Beans

1 lb bacon, cut into bite sized pieces
2 large onions, chopped
2 cans kidney beans (drained)
2 cans lima beans (drained)
4 cans pork & beans
2/3 cup ketchup
1/4 cup BBQ Sauce
2 tbsp vinegar
2 cups brown sugar

Sauté bacon and onion together

Heat uncovered at 350°

Submitted by Betty and Dave Watson

An Unusual Recipe from the Middle-East**STUFFED
CAMEL**

1 – medium camel
4 – lambs
20 – chickens (roasted)
150 – eggs (boiled)
40 kilos – tomatoes
Salt and seasonings



Stuff eggs into tomatoes.
Stuff tomatoes into chickens.
Stuff chickens into lambs.
Stuff lambs into camel.
Roast Until Tender.

Serves 150 people.

From the kitchen of Lorie Gordon

COMEDY CORNER

German Airfield

One World War II decoy, built in occupied Holland, led to a tale that has been told and retold ever since by veteran Allied pilots. The German "airfield", constructed with meticulous care, was made almost entirely of wood. There were wooden hangars, oil tanks, gun emplacements, trucks, and aircraft.

The day finally came when the decoy was finished, down to the last wooden plank. And early the following morning, a lone RAF plane crossed the Channel, came in low, circled the field once, and dropped a large wooden bomb.

Quotes on the New Year:

"New Year's Day now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." – Mark Twain

"Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account." – Oscar Wilde

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other." – Anonymous

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." – Albert Einstein

"Many years ago I resolved never to bother with New Year's resolutions, and I've stuck with it ever since." – Dave Beard

"New Year's Eve, where auld acquaintance be forgot. Unless, of course, those tests come back positive." – Jay Leno

"Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one." – Brad Paisley

"New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time." – James Agate

"Dear God, my prayer for 2013 is a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix these up like you did this year." – Anonymous

"A dog's New Year's Resolution: I will not chase that stick unless I actually see it leave his hand!" – Anonymous

"I hope the world ends in 2012 so I can't be held accountable for my last New Year's resolutions." – Anonymous

OTHER NEWS



Sept 16, 2012 – New Air Cadet Squadrons for Calgary

As some of you may or may not know, this September there are two new Air Cadet Squadrons starting in Calgary. The last time this happened was around 1955. So this is an exciting time for the Air Cadet movement.

One of the new squadrons being formed in Calgary is the Juno Beach Squadron. As with any new squadron forming, funding is a big issue and new squadrons are not able to access the casino fundraising for 2-4 years. Consequently the Juno Beach Squadron Sponsoring committee is already hard at work with fundraising plans. The cost of renting the school alone for one night is over \$6,000 plus the other costs of running a squadron (even a new one).

It is to this end, that I am reaching out asking for your consideration for help or support. Juno Beach is planning a "wine & cheese" silent auction towards the end of November, and is in need of items to auction. If you have items or services that you would like to donate or have a business or know of one that would like to, please contact me. Items such as hot air balloon ride, Condo time for a getaway, golf related items, flight simulator time at Westjet, police ride along time, spa packages, Movie packages, gift certificates..... the list of possible items are endless.

Juno Beach Squadron is a registered non-for-profit organization and can provide tax receipts for items donated.

Nov 11, 2012 – Remembrance Day Service at Mewata

The Remembrance Day Service at the Mewata Armoury was attended by 300 Cadets, 60 Veterans, and over 350 VIP's and general public. There were a total of 22 Wreath layers. Cadets served as escorts for the wreath layers.

The poster contest was won by Cpl. Mark Fisher, from 781 Sqn, the second place winner was Cpl. Caiwyn Cross from 83 Juno Beach Sqn and the Essay Contest was won by Sgt. Scott Fisher, from 783 Sqn.

This year our guest of honor was Brigadier General (ret'd) Edward McGillivray, The Chaplain was Major (ret'd) Reverend A. W. Lees. Our Master of C was again this year Colonel (ret'd) Don Matthews, along with WO1 D. Raposo from 538 Squadron. All 6 city squadrons were involved in the ceremony providing escorts, readers, trumpeter, piper (for the lament), and the band (for the main music).

This year, thanks to Dave Watson, "In Flanders Fields" was presented by the Cantori Choir (by CD) rather than the just being read. This was an amazing addition to our program, and was one of the highlights of the service. Judging by the response from people after the service, this will be added to our future services.

Many thanks our Team for the Service: Dave and Betty Watson, Dot Deines, Brian and Anna Lewis, Kendra, Capt. Randy Fisher, Keith Mann, Kenn Nixon,. for all their many hours of dedication to making this event such a great success. Keith was able to secure a huge truck at the last minute to clear away chairs. Brandon Lewis, Mark and Scott Fisher helped immensely to help put everything into the truck. A few chairs that had gone MIA were discovered by our own Super-Sleuth Randy.

Special thanks to Capt. Caswell, 52 Sqn, and Capt CharlieMae Marlett 538 Sqn for their support on our cadet side of the house.

Sincerely, Pat Sulek, Chair, Remembrance Day Service Committee.



Cadets pinning poppies on the pillow



Ret. Maj. Mike Ricketts for the Military Museums (RCAFA 783 Member)



Cadets on parade ready for march past



Master Fisher and Flight SGT Lewis rewarded for their work on Remembrance Day events and clean up for the Court Martial.

Nov 11, 2012 – Premier Redford at The Military Museum



Edith McMinn welcomes Premier Redford

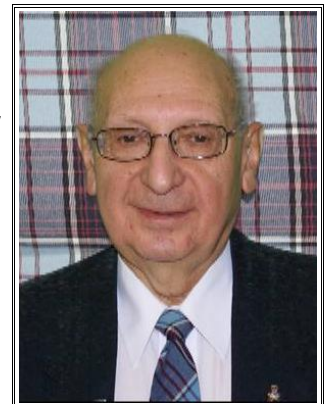
On Remembrance Day, Tom Doucette, Director of The Military Museum ask me to meet Premier Redford and welcome her to The Military Museum. I offered coffee which she accepted and introduced her to the Veterans and volunteers at the Museum. We had a most enjoyable visit.

Respectfully submitted by : Edith McMinn

Frank Mascaro Scholarship

Peggy McAllister reported on the establishment of this scholarship by the Mascaro family and Frank's involvement and dedication over the years with the regiments of The Queen's Own Rifles, the Princess Patricia Light Infantry and the Army Cadet Corps associated with these regiments.

This award to be presented to the most deserving Army Cadet, commencing in the 2013/2014 season.



Other Photos

Other Awards



Mike Whalen receiving a letter of appreciation for his 783 service for the Veterans food bank work over the past three years.



Vern's award from National



Bev Burke 10 year pin award

783 Wing Christmas Party



"The Grinch" at the 783 Christmas Party

Effective Speaking Workshop



Pat and Kenn's Effective Speaking Workshop

Alberta Group Executive and Wing Members of the RCAF Association

On Monday, Nov. 26th, Alberta Group President, Robert Roe, presented a donation cheque to the R.C.L. Branch 35 President, Tim McCoy, in Red Deer.



Photo: compliments of Al Low, President 703 Red Deer Wing.

This was the first mutually convenient time in which this activity could have taken place, formally; as a result of a Motion made and passed at the Sept. 22. Alberta Group Executive Meeting.

This Donation was made on behalf of the the Alberta Group Executive, in appreciation for the years of providing the AGECC with an adequate meeting room to conduct our meetings, excellent lunch choices and service facilities, over many years.

Branch President McCoy assured me that the donation would be greatly welcomed for the Poppy Fund or Veterans Food Bank and would be put to good use.

At your service, "RJ" Robert Roe, Alberta Group President, N.E.C. Director, RCAF Association

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals

Several RCAFA 783 Wing members were honoured by the Queen in recognition of the contribution that they have made to their community and the country of Canada.



Keith Mann

(Presenter was the then National President of the Air Cadet League, Bob Robert)



Randy Fisher



RJ Roe

(RCAFA AB Group Pres. R.J. from Sen. Joe Day at the CWH Museum in Hamilton)

No Photo Available

Gerry Morrison



Ian & Faye Morgan

(Presented by Lt Governor Don Ethel on September 6th 2012)



Steve MacDonnell

(Presentation by Gov. Don Ethell)



Mike Ricketts



Ron Howard

(The ceremony took place in Stettler on November 12th, 2012)

Distinguished Service Award



Marion Mascaro receives the Distinguished Service Award

in recognition of Outstanding and Distinguished Service to the Association of 783 Wing RCAFA

Letter from the Editor

Greetings to all.

The last few months have been a real adventure for Lorie and I. Uganda proved to be fantastic! The primitive environment and darling children were awe inspiring. We played hard and worked even harder. Even the journey to and from Africa was filled with excitement. If only we could do a bus trip there together...

Remembrance Day was quite special for us this year. Seeing so many Veterans and young Cadets together with Active Members was, for me, a reminder of the sacrifices that so many have made to give us all freedoms we perhaps take for granted. Even the freedom to deny those sacrifices. I only hope that I can live up to the charge that the many who surrendered their lives and innocence to secure have placed upon us. The haunting of the pipes; the stirring prose; the rich imagery of a peaceful field filled with flowers and markers for all those who have fallen. I will NOT forget them.

The Christmas and New Year season was incredibly busy this year. It seems that the parties and banquets started in early November and carried on well into January. When it was all said and done, I can only say that we came through with more than ever before. Now if we could just return some of that excess weight that we are carried with us into 2013.

A belated Merry Christmas to all and have a Fabulous New Year.

Cheers, Thom Gordon
tgordon@iterstar.ca