

# **SPIRIT**

***783 (Calgary) Wing Newsletter***

***ROYAL CANADIAN  
AIR FORCE  
ASSOCIATION***

[www.783afacwingcalgary.ca](http://www.783afacwingcalgary.ca)



***Wing Meets every  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7pm  
285 Legion Horton Road  
(on hold due to COVID)***



**MEET THE TEAM**

<http://783afacwingcalgary.ca/>

Chairperson	Rob Caswell
Honorary Chairperson	Col (Retd) Don Matthews
Immediate Past Chairperson	Randy Fisher
First Vice Chairperson	Michelle Gerwing
Second Vice Chairperson	Scott Deederly
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	Art Hill
Entertainment Chair	Muriel Mymko
Public Relations	Bob Wade
Military Museum Liaison	Bob Wade
Cadet Liaison	Kevin Knight
Advocacy	Scott Deederly
Historian	Grant Whitson
Webmaster/Social Media	Kent Anderson







## *Message from the Chairperson*



Rob and I (Michelle) had plans to complete this newsletter at the beginning of the month; however, life happened for both of us at work and this newsletter is going out late. My apologies!



**LIFE IS WHAT HAPPENS WHILE YOU  
ARE BUSY MAKING OTHER PLANS.**

*John Lennon*

 SayingImages.com

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Rob Caswell CD, AdeC  
Chairman

783 (Calgary) Wing  
Royal Canadian Air Force Association



## *Happy Birthday to you (Jan/Feb)*

Raymond Wetmore	6 May
Terence Holland	7 May
Teri Lang	17 May
Barb Gibson	23 May
Ron Guidinger	23 May
Don Norrie	25 May
Jacilyn Spenard	25 May
Carney Henderson	28 May
Bruce Millar	28 May
Glenys Goossens	31 May
William Cook	8 Jun
Pat Sulek	19 Jun
Ernie Anastasiou	20 Jun
Robert Vanderlee	23 Jun
Kevin Knight	24 Jun
Philip Ricard	26 Jun
Jorden Brugma-Lattery	28 Jun
Craig Henderson	29 Jun
Bev Spielman	29 Jun



## *Member Profile - Lorne Fleming*

Lorne, born 1934, is a proud native Calgarian, who attended both Balmoral and Crescent Heights Schools. His brother Earle was a member of the 1940s original 52 Squadron and Lorne's hopes were to follow his lead. In 1950, the 403 (FB) Reserve RCAF Squadron offered a summer program with training taking place in Abbotsford BC. *Recruit* Fleming, while there, had particularly liked "Drill" which helped him advance, as on the second night of recruitment, the brand new 538 Cadet Squadron had arrived there as well. Due to their increased training needs, *Cadet* Fleming became Sergeant Fleming to help train the new cadets. The original home of 538 squadron was located at 1206- 1 St. SE for many years. They then joined together with 52 and 604 and jointly moved to the H-Huts at Mewata Armories. During 538's early years, their civilian committee, chaired by Mr. Jim Askew, convinced League HQ to implement a flying scholarship for first year cadets as a recruitment incentive under the leadership of Training Officer F/L Stan Dundas and civilian Instructor Frank Foster, Lorne and fellow cadet Denny May (son of the WW1 flying hero "Wap" May). The instructor coached these two to qualify for the 1951 scholarships.

Summer camp took place at Abbotsford AF Base and while there, F/S Fleming was able to participate in a fly past involving most of the 1951 Western Canadian flying scholarship cadets. After that camp Lorne divided his time between 403 and 538 until **1956 -1959** when he joined the RCAF. After training at St. Jean, Que. he was told with his past service that he qualified for a posting wherever *he* wished to serve. In typical military style, he was sent to Penhold (80 miles from home). One very good thing to come out of this posting was meeting the sister (Ethel) of one of his fellow air-men, Ed Smith. She became Lorne's life companion of over 60 years!

After leaving the forces, he became involved in Cadets again on the civilian side. He acted as secretary to the sponsoring group which included 52, 538 and 604. In 1968, Lorne received his commission and served as 538's Admin Officer and then Training Officer. This was during the Paul Hellier, green uniform era, and so he never got to wear the Air Force blues. It was also at this time when the ACLO's separated the three squadrons and dismantled #15 Wing. Lorne took over the Commanding Officer's position of 52 Squadron from 1973 to 1976. It was during that period that Lorne worked closely with 783's Charley Witcher in the reorganizing that was desperately required to resolve many operational difficulties. This feat took most of his service time as CO but finally brought 52 back to a functional level.

During the era of the Calgary Cadet Military Tattoo's, Lorne was the Air element's coordinator for the last year that the tri-service event was held. Sadly, due to Tatoo rehearsal times conflicting with Cadet mandatory training these constraints caused the Tatoo to close.

One of Lorne's favorite projects was working with Bev Spielman in arranging a citizenship tour of Maelstrom AF Base in Great Falls, Montana. This was the first ever co-ed trip which saw 65 male cadets and 35 female cadets partaking in the tour. Because of the success of this trip, a tour to Whitehorse when Queen Elizabeth visited there in 1974 became the beginning of females joining their male counterparts. This helped to lead the integration of females into the Air Cadet squadrons of today.

After cadets, his afterlife, he joined Calgary Transit in 1960, first as a transit bus driver, then in 1979 as a Training Officer and in 1980 he became instrumental in developing the startup LRT training program. He completed his long Transit career in 1990; BUT once again got the *Air Blues* and joined 783 Wing.

He and Ethel are active member of their church. From July 2011 until December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Flemings served a mission in the Philippines caring for medical needs of ailing missionaries.

They have been blessed with four children (two boys, two girls) ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Lorne, third from the left, is joined by fellow Cadet Denny May, W/C Don Freeman DFC Commanding Officer of 403 Squadron and Committee Chairman Mr. Jim Askew





## ***We will remember them***



Beverly Ethel Melbourne  
July 5, 1938 - April 9, 2022

Beverly Melbourne passed away April 9, 2022. Born in Verdun, Quebec on July 5, 1938, to William Stanley and Mary Couch. She is survived by her husband of fifty-seven years John Melbourne.

Beverly joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1958 and was stationed in St Hubert, Quebec, with 401 Squadron as an Accountant. She left the RCAF in 1964 and worked as an Executive Assistant for several Petro Chemical Companies. In 1986 she joined the Royal Canadian Air Force Association and held executive positions at wing, and group levels and was the Alberta Group Secretary from 1990 to 1998. Beverly was awarded the National Member of the year in 2000 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

In 1995 Beverly became involved with The RCAF Benevolent Fund supporting Air Force veterans and veterans' widows. From 2002 on she served as the National Chairperson of the Fund until its disbandment in 2007.

In 2000 She participated in the formation of the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta which became part of The Military Museums. She was a Founding Member and was made a Life Member of the Museum.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations be made to the Veterans Food Bank.

## *It is time to see the humour in it....*

Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, “Mine are so good at social distancing, they won’t even call me.”

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, with COVID, I discovered that wasn’t the reason.

I never thought the comment “I wouldn’t touch them with a 6-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog — we laughed a lot.

Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, “See? This is why I chew the furniture!”

How did the health experts lie? They said a mask and gloves was enough to go to the grocery store. When I got there, everyone else had clothes on.

Why do they call it the novel coronavirus? It’s a long story....

What’s the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One’s the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.





# reminder

## ***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*

*All members are encouraged to contact Michèle Henderson at [michlorr@shaw.ca](mailto:michlorr@shaw.ca) at any time during the year with the person’s name, the event, and the date on which it is to be recognized.*