

THE JETSTREAM

700 WING AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall-Winter 2015

Erwin Loewen

Hello again Wing members. As was pointed out in our October Meeting, it has been a busy Fall, mostly during RCAF Week in Edmonton, from September 14th to the 20th. Just before that, on the September 13th meeting, the Wing conducted elections for our Executive, and I am humbled once again to accept the President's position. My thanks go to the rest of the elected Executive for the Wing. David Jackson, as Vice President, Sylvia Loewen as Treasurer and still holding the acting position of Membership, and to Joe Twyman as Past President.

Just as much thanks go to the rest of the Committee Chair positions. For the

Aviation Memorial, Jenni Reiz; the Battle of Britain Parade Coordinator, David Jackson; Cadet Liaison, Nick Nimchuk;



Cadets on sentry post on the Aviation Heritage Memorial during the ceremony

Casino, Bob Morgan; EAHS Director, David Jackson; Event Coordinator, Val Melvin; Poppy Fund, Joe Twyman; Regalia, Darrell Smith; and Veterans Affairs, Bob Whitley.

We became quite busy almost immediately as two days later members of the

CHRISTMAS MEETING ON DECEMBER 6TH!

The next meeting of the 700 Wing will take place on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 3 p.m. at the Kingsway Legion at . Details contained in the newsletter and on our events calendar on the last page.

Wing assisted the Alberta Aviation Museum with a fundraiser for the acquisition of an Avro Lancaster! The next day was the Aviation Heritage Memorial Stone Dedication ceremony which was a huge success. Two days later was the Wing's first attempt at resurrecting its TGIF night. This was followed by a weekend of events. The

Battle of Britain Parade was held on a Saturday for the first time in our history as we tried to squeeze in both the Parade and the unveiling of the RCAF Commemorative Park celebration on the same weekend.

That evening a number of Wing members attended the Battle of Britain and RCAF Commemorative Park Dinner, held at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre. Kudos to the RCAF Commemorative



Brigadier General (Ret'd) Bill Buckham, chair of the RCAF Commemorative Park Society, was all smiles at the joint RCAF Park/Battle of Britain dinner on Saturday, September 20, 2015.

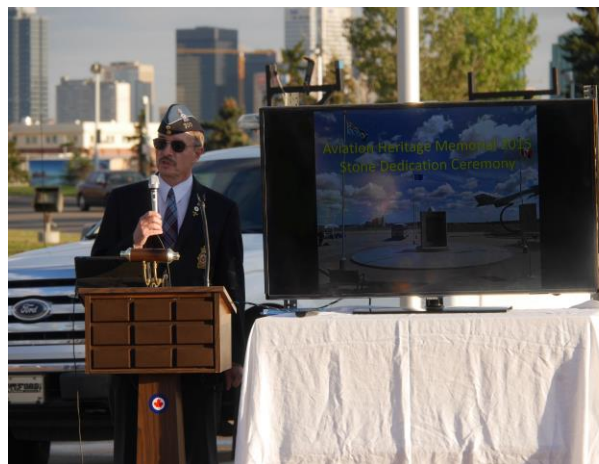
Park Society, the Edmonton United Services Institute, and a wee bit to the Wing itself for hosting a dinner that will be remembered for years.

Finally, on Sunday, September 20th, the unveiling of the RCAF Commemorative Park took place in Griesbach, Edmonton. Opened by a flyover of two 408 Squadron Griffons, closed by two 410 Squadron Hornets, and interspersed with the occasional Canada Goose in between, it was a fabulous affair. I'll

have more information on all of these events in additional articles in this newsletter.

AVIATION HERITAGE MEMORIAL STONES CEREMONY

On Wednesday, September 16 of this year, 700 Wing held the first Stone Dedication ceremony in five years at the Aviation Heritage Memorial outside of the Alberta Aviation Museum in Edmonton. The Aviation Heritage Memorial, a unique tribute to aviation that



Erwin Loewen addresses the audience at the annual Aviation Heritage Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony.

includes a Pioneer/Experimental,

Commercial, and Military component, was an idea brought to life by former Wing member Al Karlan and his wife, Eve. The Memorial has been in existence for over 10 years now but due to changes in the Wing and a loss of knowledge on the process, it took a few years to get back to getting stones purchased and then preparing for a dedication ceremony.

Previous dedication ceremonies had been conducted immediately following the annual Battle of Britain parades. Given this year's schedule and the significant number of stones being dedicated (12), the Wing opted to hold the ceremony on its own, but fittingly during RCAF Week in September.

As such, our Vice President, David Jackson, pulled together a parade format



Family members capturing memories from the Memorial just prior to the ceremonies.

and ceremony structure unique to the stone dedication. It was so successful it is now the

template for all future stone dedications.

#504 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, who meet at the Aviation Museum on Wednesday nights, provided the cadets, honour

guard, and colour party as well as observing the ceremony with us. They did a fabulous job and we thank them for their participation.

75th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BRITAIN PARADE

The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain required a unique parade and we made it so this year. Due to scheduling issues and to ensure we had a venue that could manage the size of the parade we found ourselves having it on a Saturday for the first time, and back at the Alberta Aviation Museum. 408 Royal Canadian Air Force Tactical Helicopter Squadron



Reviewing Officer Bob Morgan takes the salute as 408 Squadron marches past at the 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain parade

participated in the parade along with most of the Edmonton and area Air Cadet Squadrons.

The Reviewing Officer this year was the one and only Robert (Bob) Morgan, from our Wing. Bob's illustrious career as a pilot in the RCAF was not only highlighted during the reading of his biography at the parade, but would be recognized the next day at the RCAF

Commemorative Park unveiling with a street being named after him in Griesbach, near the park.

There was no more fitting an RO for this parade than Bob, and his speech on his days as a “Cold War” pilot and a

tribute to his fellow pilots was both humorous and thought provoking. I’m sure the young members of both 408

Squadron and the cadets were as taken by his words as I was.

RCAF COMMEMORATIVE PARK UNVEILED IN GRIESBACH

For many years the community of Griesbach, Edmonton, was a part of CFB Edmonton, housing numerous headquarter buildings, parade grounds, messes and a military prison, along with significant private married quarters.

That all changed in 1995 after the closing of CFB Edmonton as an air base and its rebuilding in to Garrison Edmonton.

All military functions were consolidated at the Garrison north of the city and Griesbach was reverted to a “normal” Edmonton community. Demolition and new construction abounded



Brigadier General (Ret’d) Bill Buckham, chair of the RCAF Commemorative Park Society, receives a cheque for \$35,000 from President Val Melvin and Casino Chair Bob Morgan in 2014.

and it slowly transformed into one of Edmonton’s premier communities. Canada Lands, an asset disposal company for the Federal Government, helped to guide the transition.

Part of that transition included the creation of three themed parkland areas in the community to reflect on the three elements of

Canada’s military forces. One such park was to be dedicated to the RCAF.

Over five years ago a group of ex-RCAF veterans were brought together under the leadership of Brigadier General (Ret’d) Bill Buckham, to work with Canada Lands and create the park.

In 2014, 700 Wing voted to contribute \$35,000 toward the project to complete it. The Park consisted of three plazas, Mosquito, Griffon, and Ad Astra. Storyboards at each tell the tale of the RCAF and Edmonton related ones such as regarding 418 City of Edmonton Squadron.

Along with the park itself, eight streets were named after key contributors to the RCAF's success and legacy, with Edmonton connections. Included in receiving this honour was our own Bob Morgan!! We are so very proud of him. Several stories were printed in local papers about Bob and he was also featured in more than one TV News interview. Bob started his career as a fighter pilot so we're sure his ego could handle the attention. ;-)

This September was the culmination of the project with the almost completed park unveiled to the public and officially handed over to the Griesbach Community League from the RCAF Commemorative Society. It started off by sharing a gala dinner between the 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain and the RCAF Park on Saturday, September 19th followed



Major General Al Meinzinger, Deputy Commander of the RCAF, speaks at the Battle of Britain/RCAF Commemorative Park Dinner.

by the unveiling of the park the next day on Sunday the 20th.

The dinner was held at the Chateau Louis Hotel Conference Centre and was attended by Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell, Deputy



An honoured and humbled Bob Morgan stands and is recognized at the dinner, surrounded by his family members, a very touching moment.

Commander of the RCAF Major General Al Meinzinger, and many other prestigious guests. It was hosted by local radio celebrity J'Lyn Nye, a very fitting MC for the night as she is also the Honourary Colonel for #408 (Goose) Tactical Helicopter Squadron here at Garrison Edmonton.

700 Wing was well represented at the

dinner and it was an amazing and magical night. Along with Bob Morgan, two other pilot honoured with streets named after them were able to attend the celebrations. Russ Bannock made it to the evening and next day celebrations while Don

Laubman was able to attend the unveiling on the Sunday.

The Sunday morning the major sponsors were hosted to a champagne breakfast back at the Chateau Louis and yours truly was pleased to represent the Wing there. I had a marvelous time and was able to spend

some time conversing with Russ Bannock. He had some amazing stories that included him asking to be posted to an operational squadron overseas when he decided that being a pilot instructor back in Canada was more likely to get him killed!

The celebration to unveil the Park, centred around the amazing Ad Astra Monument, took place early on a grey afternoon. It started with two Griffon helicopters flying over their "Mother Goose" and MC once again, J'Lyn Nye, and Ad Astra Plaza. Again the speakers included Lieutenant Governor Lois Mitchell, Major



Two CF-18 Hornets from 410 Squadron end the festivities at the RCAF Commemorative Park unveiling.

General Meinzinger, and of course our own illustrious Brigadier General (Ret'd) Bill Buckham.

The unveiling of 10 plaques for the streets named after the pilots along with Ad Astra

Boulevard and the lake in the park, named Roundel Lake, had the three living honoured pilots go up first to unveil their plaques, and then several more of us to unveil the rest. I had the honour to unveil Lieutenant General William Carr's plaque at that time.

The day finished with two CF-18s from 410 Squadron in Cold Lake flying perfectly over the Ad Astra monument and it was done. It was the perfect ending to a marvellous RCAF Week.

POPPY SALES

Kudos to Poppy Fund Chair Joe Twyman for his hard work and dedication to the task of coordinating 700 Wing's efforts to help Canada "Remember Them" via this year's poppy sales leading up to this year's Remembrance Day. Over twenty people

helped during the course of the 10 days in November during which we had to man

a table at West Edmonton Mall. The table never looked better and the volunteers as well! Thank you all who assisted this year. Your help will assist veterans in the Edmonton area with the proceeds of the donations gathered here in Edmonton.



Joe Twyman, Past President and Poppy Fund Chair, sits with Bob Morgan at the 700 Wing table at West Edmonton Mall.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN COINS FOR SALE

There are still several 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain coins left in the Wing inventory if anyone would still like to obtain them. These were from the last batch of coins from the Royal Canadian Air Force



This is the front and back of the new commemorative 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain coin now on sale from our Treasurer.

Association. Please contact Sylvia Loewen (see end of this newsletter for contact

information) to arrange to receive your order or bring your \$25 per coin to the next meeting, and remember both the remarkable event and the 75th Anniversary

events that took place this year!

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2015

700 Wing is pleased to announce that our Christmas Dinner will take place this year on Sunday, December 6th at the Kingsway Legion, 14339 50th Street in northeast Edmonton. The cost of the dinner will be \$30 per person. It starts at 3 p.m. with a short meeting (I promise!) followed by a cocktail hour (cash bar) with entertainment. This will be

followed by raffles, 50/50s, and a wonderful dinner with incredible company.

Please RSVP by phone or e-mail to Sylvia Loewen at her contact information listed on

the last page of this newsletter no later than Thursday, December 3rd by 4 p.m. **NOTE:** All reservations by 4 p.m. on December 3rd are FINAL and will be invoiced.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!





504 Sqdn Colour Party marches on for the Aviation Heritage Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony



The 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain Flag flies proudly over the Aviation Memorial during the Battle of Britain Parade



The Wing's new member and Chaplain Ray Olsen prepares to speak at the Battle of Britain Parade



Jenni and Joe at the Battle of Britain/RCAF Commemorative Dinner



Bob Morgan, Don Laubman and Russ Bannock, three RCAF pilots with streets named after them in Griesbach Village



Kipnes Centre veterans wait for an escort to the RCAF Commemorative Park ceremony

Donations from current Casino Funding to date:

\$35,000.00	Griesbach Commemorative Society (RCAF Commemorative Park)
\$10,000.00	Kipnes Centre (for new dining room furniture)
\$5,000.00	Valour Place
\$3,000.00	Daysland Cemetery (used for upkeep with over 70 military graves)
\$2,000.00	Edmonton Garrison Family Resource Centre (for new equipment for children)
\$1,600.00	COPA Flight (fuel for taking children up in their first airplane rides)

Additional funding was used to cover Wing expenses for the Battle of Britain Parade, to pay for National membership expenses and assorted other meeting costs.

2015-16 700 Wing Executives

President	Erwin Loewen	maxace@shaw.ca	780-473-2406
Vice-President	David Jackson	maritimer@telus.net	780-918-0967
Treasurer	Sylvia Loewen	maxace@shaw.ca	780-473-2406
Past-President	Joe Twyman	captogre@telus.net	780-489-3531
Secretary	Vacant		
Membership	Vacant		
 CHAIRS			
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EAHS (Hangar)	David Jackson	maritimer@telus.net	780-918-0967
Event Coordinator	Val Melvin	ticklmegrover2769@msn.com	780-752-0503
Poppy Fund	Joe Twyman	captogre@telus.net	780-489-3531
Regalia	Darrell Smith	debo61@xplornet.ca	780-416-1967
Veterans Affairs	Bob Whitley	bob.whitley@copaedmonton.ca	780-461-0639

Upcoming 700 Wing Meetings and Events

Date	Event	Location
Dec. 6 @ 3 p.m.	Christmas Meeting & Dinner	Kingsway Legion
Jan 23 @ 2:30 p.m.	Robbie Burns Day Celebration	Kipnes Centre
Feb 20 @ TBD	Wing Wing-Ding Night (details to come)	TBD
Mar 6 @ 2 p.m.	Glenn Miller Band Concert**	Winspear Centre – tickets \$70 – see below

**For the Glenn Miller Band concert please contact Nick Nimchuk (see contact info above) if you are interested in participating in a Wing group purchase of tickets. Money is due no later than December 6th. Bring your money to the Christmas Dinner or as arranged with Nick.