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**Issue 28**  
December 2022

**A Publication of News and Activities of the 700 (City of Edmonton) Wing**



**700**  
WING

**jetstream**

*current topics >>>*

## *700 Wing Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony*

The Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony was held on September 15, 2022 in the Alberta Aviation Museum cadet hall.

Eleven individuals were recognized at the ceremony.

Thank you to John Chalmers for his article about the Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony.



## ***Top Wing in Canada!***

*700 Wing the Top RCAFA Wing Award for 2022*

This award originated in 1961 by the Chief of the Air Staff as the RCAFA Wing of the Year Award. It is presented to the Wing whose efforts during the year appreciably enhanced the aims of the Association. The purpose of the award, which shall be a plaque bearing

a Canadian Forces Badge, inscribed to show the recipient as the "Wing of the Year", is to honour the achievements of the Wing in furthering the aims & objectives of the Association.



Past Chair David Jackson presenting current Chair, Tom Sand, the Top Wing Award.



## Chair's Message

As the Chair, I look back over the past year with great pride in, and admiration for, everything that you – and 700 Wing in general, has accomplished! Bravo Zulu to the small but mighty 700 Wing!

In 2022, 700 Wing made donations totalling some \$26,000 to various organizations supported in our mandate. There are a few more donations pending in early 2023. The final total should be close to \$30,000.

Worth noting on the financial side is Nick Nimchuk's successful efforts with online sales of a variety of Air Force related items. Also of note is Nick's superlative effort to make the office something to be proud of.

700 Wing, in partnership with the EUSI, hosted The Annual Security and Defence Symposium and Mess Dinner on March 5th. The event was a huge success. The Symposium presenters were very entertaining and informative.

The RCAFA J.D. McCurdy Trophy was presented to 700 Wing's nominee, Longview Aviation Capital, for their remarkable achievements and continuing support of the De Havilland legacy. The presentation was made by David Jackson at the Alberta Aviation Council Conference in Calgary on April 9th.

There were several 700 Wing recipients of 2022 Alberta Group awards. These included 5 members who received the Order of the Side Hill Gouger, two who received the bar to the Order of the Side Hill Gouger, an award of Merit and finally, Wing of the year.

We held our stone dedication ceremony at the hanger on September 15, 2022, and a wonderful night was had by all. The ceremony recognized eleven new inductees to our memorial and two current stones that were updated. Over seventy people were in attendance with some coming from as far away as Three Hills, Alberta; Trail, British Columbia; and Vancouver, British Columbia. For the first time, the formal portion of the ceremony was held inside the hanger. This decision was well received. The evening's master of ceremonies, Erwin Loewen, did an excellent job introducing and reading the biographies of each honoree. Reverend Ray Olsen provided the blessing and prayers during the ceremony. After the formal portion of the ceremony was concluded, the guests were escorted to the monument to view the stones. Afterwards, everyone was invited

back inside for a reception that featured wine and pastries. A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who worked that night to help make the event such a huge success.

There were several 700 Wing recipients of National awards announced at the National Bi-Annual General Meeting in October in Hamilton, Ontario. These include:

- Vice President's Award to **Sylvia Loewen** - The Vice President's Award was only presented in 2022 but was actually the 2021 Award to the Association member who has contributed most to the membership campaign during the past year or, cumulatively during the past several years,
- National Member of the Year to **David Jackson**, and
- National Wing of the Year to **700 Wing**.

Well done to all!

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations the Loris Koch Memorial Walkway and Garden were refurbished, and a Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative plaque installed. The flower beds along the memorial walkway were updated by replacing the annuals with perennials. The perennials included roses, both English & wild, symbols of the Crown and Alberta, and poppies, symbols of remembrance. Thanks to all the members who made that happen.

700 Wing, with support from the Alberta Aviation Museum, hosted a first-class Remembrance Day ceremony, our first since 2019. The ceremony was excellent and very well attended. It was a capacity crowd. The event received good press coverage for 700 Wing and the Museum. Many sincere thanks to all those members who made that possible.

Penultimately I would like to thank all those involved in bringing the Christmas/holiday function back for the first time in a couple of years.

Finally planning for the RCAF's 100th in 2024 has begun. The committee has met twice so far, and the skeleton of a plan will be presented at the regular meeting in January.

*Tom*

T. L. Sand  
Chair  
700 (City of Edmonton) Wing



## Congratulations Sylvia!

### NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2021

**Sylvia Loewen** was presented with the National Vice President's Award, which was introduced in 1964. The purpose of this award is to recognize annually the Association member who has contributed most to the membership campaign during the past year or, cumulatively during the past several years.



## FYI on Canadian Emblems

There is no need for the crown used in Canadian emblems to change upon the accession of a new sovereign. There are two standard heraldic ways of depicting the Royal Crown and each sovereign may choose their preferred version: the Tudor crown or the St. Edward Crown. However, this is considered a stylistic choice and does not affect the blazon, which remains the Royal Crown. Anything that bears the St. Edward Crown (for e.g., passports) remains valid.

Alix Chartrand  
Armorial@gg.ca



The 700 Wing produced a plaque to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Shown is the plaque which is located on the Loris Koch Memorial Gardens leading to the Aviation Memorial at the Museum..

**His Majesty Charles the Third**, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and His other Realms and Territories King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith



Canada is a constitutional monarchy whereby the Sovereign is Canada's Head of State. King Charles III automatically became Sovereign of Canada on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Charles Philip Arthur George was born at Buckingham Palace on November 14, 1948. He is the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The young Prince became Heir to the throne at the age of three when his mother became queen in 1952.

2009 – 2022: Vice-Admiral in the Royal Canadian Navy  
2009 – 2022: Lieutenant-General in the Canadian Army  
2009 – 2022: Lieutenant-General in the Royal Canadian Air Force





Nick's Kit Shop at Open Cockpit Day

## Holiday Message from the Chair



Season's Greetings to all my friends, colleagues, and members of the RCAFA family. I would like to thank you all for your friendship, support, time, energy, dedication, commitment, and quality work. During this holiday season, I extend warmest wishes for a joyous and peaceful

holiday season with your loved ones. May your home be filled with cheer, warm memories, and happiness now and throughout the coming year. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## Our Christmas Dinner

Thirty members and guests participate in our first post pandemic social gathering in 2022 at the Nova Hotel on Kingsway. The event was an afternoon buffet with Nick Nimchuk hosting the event. Sylvia Loewen also provided some Christmas trivia. Nick presented the 'Starliner Story', a short overview of the collection of pins and crests the wing was fortunate to inherit and how he is able to market the items on the internet.





# Remembrance Day Service



We are back! This past November 11th saw the first in person Remembrance Day service in 3 years. Remembrance Day (RD) is a solemn day of remembrance for all of the fallen throughout the many conflicts that Canada has participated in. While RD is usually a commemoration of those who fell in conflict, those who fell in training for possible conflict, such as the Cold War, and Peacekeeping should also be remembered. It is better when we gather together as a community to say thanks to all of those who have gone before us. A community can give renewed strength to individuals who still serve and are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. A community can support the individuals who are still grieving the loss of a family member or friend that died in service of this great country.



Thanks to John King as the Remembrance Day Committee Chair, organizing the whole event as well as being the MC.



## Remembrance Day Service 2022

by John King

This year's service had roughly 500 people in attendance. We wanted to keep it relatively small as there are some crowd capacity limitations in the venue we have. It had been several years since 700 Wing had hosted this service and yet without any advertising, we saw a sizeable number gather with us for this solemn occasion. Hopefully next year we will be able to go bigger and better.

Having said that, it was still a roaring success. 12 and 504 Air Cadet Sqns paraded with us. These young people did a great job despite not having held a public parade in so long. We had outstanding audio and visual displays that enhanced the ambiance of the service. This garnered much praise from our guests. We can thank 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron serving members who attended and provided our feature bugler. We thank too, 3 Canadian Division Headquarters for providing Chaplain support. Many service institutes and City of Edmonton representatives also came out to support the service and pay their respect to the fallen. And to all of those groups and citizens, too many to name in this short article, we thank them too

for their attendance. Without you a portion of the greater community misses out on such an important act of remembrance.

A personal thanks to every 700 Wing member who directly and indirectly supported this year's Remembrance Day service. Without you this would not happen. We now head in to Christmas, celebrating the season of giving. Please take time to be thankful and remember that all we have today and tomorrow is because some gave all for us.



### **Congratulations David Jackson**

... for winning the Len Baldock Memorial Award for Member of the Year, 2022.

Introduced in 1962 by the RCAF Chief of the Air Staff, this award honours the Association member-of-the-year whose skills in performance, inspiration, enthusiasm and leadership in Association activities has been well above the ordinary. This award acknowledges superior performance throughout not only the year of its presentation but also performance over the long term.



Erwin Loewen presents David Jackson RCAF Member of the Year, 2022

## Aviation Personnel Remembered

Story and photos by John Chalmers

On September 15, widely celebrated as Battle of Britain Day to commemorate the famous aerial combat from July 10 to October 31, 1940, in defence of England during the Second World War, an annual event was held involving the Aviation Heritage Memorial beside Kingsway, in front of the Alberta Aviation Museum in Edmonton.

Organized by 700 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, the occasion remembered individuals who have contributed to Canadian aviation.



They are recognized by the placement of commemorative stones at the base of the monument. This year, eleven new granite stones were placed, bring the total to 641 since the monument was erected in 2005.

The three-sided monument honours men and women in the categories of Air Forces (Military); Bush Pilots and Experimenters; and Commercial Air Industry. While the annual service is an undertaking of 700 Wing, the stones are

sponsored, typically by family members, to honour the individuals named on the stones.

This year, the flag atop the Aviation Heritage Monument was at half-mast, due to the death of Queen Elizabeth a week before the dedication of the new stones.

Full information about the Memorial Stones can be seen at the Wing's web site, [www.700Wing.com](http://www.700Wing.com). Anyone wishing to sponsor a stone will find all info needed there. By clicking on Memorial Stones as listed in the menu at that site, an application form can be downloaded.

Rev. Ray Olson, chaplain to 700 Wing, participated in the evening's program by offering an opening prayer and provided a

Jetstream



benediction to help conclude the formal portion of the ceremonies.

During the induction ceremonies, the name, with photos of each individual to be honoured, is projected on a large screen while a biography is read, telling of the person's accomplishments and contributions to aviation. At right is Erwin Loewen, who served as M.C. and read the biographies of individuals honoured this year.



This year, my five brothers and sisters and I sponsored a stone to honour our father, Dr. J.W. "Jack" Chalmers (1910-1998). Born in Winnipeg, he came to Edmonton in 1931, his home for the rest of his life. The monument in front of the museum is an especially appropriate place for a stone in his name, which is shown here. During the Second World War, our father trained as an RCAF Navigator in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan at No. 2 Air Observer School, which was housed in the historic hangar that is now home to the Alberta Aviation Museum.



It was there that Dad received his N wing, and was commissioned as a Flying Officer in the RCAF. At the age of 32, and not likely at that age to be posted overseas for combat, and already an experienced teacher and school principal, he was assigned as a navigation instructor at bases in the prairie provinces until war's end. He continued his air force service by being involved with Air Cadets until 1961, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Of this year's honourees, four were born in Edmonton. Stanley Kisko, born in 1935, served the RCAF for over 25 years in Canada and overseas as an aircraft mechanic, then returned to Edmonton, where he continued working in aircraft maintenance. Derek Umbach (1938-2021) trained as an aircraft maintenance engineer, spending 47 years in that capacity, working throughout Canada, with his final position at Edmonton International Airport. Frank Mathew (1924-2001) served as a Canadian-based navigator with the



RCAF during the war. Afterwards, he had a 35-year association with Air Cadets, established a printing business and eventually trained as a teacher. Jason White, born in 1961, earned a pilot's licence and has a long association with Air Cadets, flying familiarization flights for them, flying a tow plane in Cadet glider training, and serving as a commanding officer for a Cadet squadron.

A landscaped walkway leads from the Alberta Aviation Museum to the Aviation Heritage Memorial beside Kingsway, named for that route travelled by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their visit to Edmonton on June 2, 1939. Previously, the road was called Portage Avenue. The walkway bears the current motto of the RCAF, Sic Itur Ad Astra – “Such Is the way to the stars.”



Two other honourees were born elsewhere in Alberta. John Forbes (1913-2006), born in Clyde, joined the RCAF in 1941, served during the war in Canada as an airframe mechanic, then post-war was in the trucking business until retirement. Stanley Baxter (1931-2022), born in Lloydminster, earned his pilot's licence in 1954 and had a long and colorful career as a civilian pilot, qualified to fly seaplanes and multi-engine aircraft in both Canada and the United States

Luigi “Lou” Turchet (1931-2020) was born in Powell River BC and joined the RCAF at age 20, serving the air force for 19 years. After leaving the military he settled in Edmonton and enjoyed a second career with TELUS. John Randall (1918-2005) was born in Iowa and flew as a pilot for Eastern Air Lines both before and after air force service for the United States during the war. Upon retirement he enjoyed visiting Edmonton and northern Canada.

This year again saw a married couple commemorated. Edward Torpy (1918-1993) was born near Pincher Creek AB and enlisted in the RCAF in 1938, serving overseas during the war as a bomb aimer, gunner and navigator. His Scottish-born wife, Williamina (1908-1984) known as “Billy,” served as a nurse with

the RCAF during the war, one of the few such nurses commissioned as an officer. With Edward continuing in the air force until 1964, the couple was stationed at many bases in Canada and the United States.

Usually the annual dedication ceremonies are held outside at the aviation monument. This year, due to the forecast of rain and not wishing to risk being caught in it, the ceremonies were held in the exhibition hall of the museum hangar, one-quarter of the large building that is Canada's last double-long double-wide hangar of its type built for wartime service and still in use today.



Following the ceremonies, attendees walked from the hangar to the memorial to see the new stones in place at the base of the memorial where family and friends had opportunity to photograph the stone with which they were associated. Afterwards, all returned to the hangar for coffee, wine and pastries in a social opportunity sponsored by 700 Wing.

At the monument, after the formal program guests were able to see the stones they sponsored and learn more about the stones from Erwin Loewen, at right. The stones are placed in



the circular base at the monument, beginning with the oldest that were installed at the outer perimeter. In total, there are some 3,000 stones in the base, more than enough to accommodate names for many years!

Most inductees who were honoured this year are deceased, but one of living members in attendance was 87-year old, Stan Kisko, seen below at far left beside the Aviation Heritage Monument, speaking with a friend.





As dusk settled during the visit to see the new stones, the rain that was forecast was gradually moving in when the lights came on to illuminate the monument. Proudly “flying” beside the monument, in front of the Alberta Aviation Museum, is an RCAF CF-101 Voodoo jet aircraft, one of over 30 aircraft in the museum, one of Canada’s largest and best.

The museum, in its 80 years as part of the fabric of Edmonton history and culture as a wartime training location, is a historic building protected by city and provincial designation, and the home of a splendid museum, is under threat by city council, who voted to put the building up for sale in two years. As the hangar and the building are owned by the City of Edmonton, no taxes are paid on the property. Council would like

to sell the building to a new owner in order to generate tax revenue, in complete disregard of the significance of the building, the museum and their importance to the city.

Other than holding the ceremonies inside, there was one important difference from all previous such events. Ceremonies concluded with the singing of “God Save The King,” the first time I have heard it since I came home for lunch one day while in junior high school, February 6, 1952, and was stunned to learn from my parents that my king, George VI, had died. I will now remember the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022.

### God Save the King!



## Royal Canadian Air Cadet Museum

We continue to receive donations of artifacts. Work to develop a collections policy for the museum is planned to start in January 2023 and the target date for completion is June 30th, 2023.

Development work of an Air Cadet Museum online presence as part of the ACL website has slowed due to circumstances beyond our control. Target date for draft content and design is now March 31st, 2023. Part of the website will include a database of artifacts that will be accessible to all the museums hosting Air Cadet displays as well as Air Cadet League Provincial and Territorial Committees.

Work continues on Air Cadet displays for the Alberta Aviation Museum in Edmonton, Alberta and the Bomber Command Museum of Canada in Nanton, Alberta. The panels have been printed and the framing delivered. The target date to have the panels installed is May 27th, 2023.

### Flashback from Our Past

Does anyone still remember when 700 Wing was the “go to” place during Klondike Days? The Wing even had its own currency then.



## National Bi-Annual General Meeting Update

By: David Jackson, Immediate Past Chair

12 December 2022

This fall I flew to Hamilton, Ontario to attend the National Bi-Annual General Meeting of the RCAF Association. The meetings were held at the Courtyard Marriot on Upper James Street, hosted by 447 Wing 14-16 October.

Between people present and proxies submitted, quorum was achieved with over 71% attendance; 24 in the room and 12 online. There was an acknowledgment that the association is going to need to change in order to stay alive.

We voted unanimously to request King Charles III be our new patron of the Association after the death of our patron, Queen Elizabeth II.

We ratified the board vote to appoint the following to the National Board of Directors:

- Guy Vallieres, Quebec
- Furguson Mobbs, Ontario
- Stephen Dieter, Ontario

We voted unanimously to approve of a new policy offering life membership at no charge to all RCAF Association veteran members-in-good-standing who have reached the age of 90. If your membership lapsed in recent years, or if you have never considered membership in the RCAF Association until now, all you need to do is call 1-866-351-2322, ext 227 or 613-612-7223 and ask for Wendy or Dean.

Work is progressing on making it easier to nominate awards and to clear up the terminology used for various awards. Please nominate people for attendance awards! There will be a cleanup of the policy framework over the next 6 months which must be ready for late 2023 and in place for 2024.

National Membership: 2,315 in Wings, 1,013 at large for a national total of 3328.

For me, the major highlight was the Advocacy Update from LGen(ret) André DesChamps. The RCAF faces challenges with recruiting new members and has not met manpower targets since 2010. The RCAF will make up the bulk of defence spending: \$100 billion over 10 years, all new technology, but needs people! In response, the Air Force is now running its own basic recruit courses. Pay scale adjustments increased for pilots but needed for other trades.

As for the decision on the Future Fighter, expect a contract at end of calendar year for the F-35. The

F-35 won't be online until 2026-27 and will need five years of training in the USA for pilots and mechanics. 6 x A330 MRTT (Multi-Role Tanker/Transport) have been bought, but the RCAF need bigger hangars and not all of these aircraft will go to Trenton. 2 additional used A330 aircraft were purchased for cargo purposes.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles we can expect a contract 2025-26. These will be stationed in Greenwood and Comox.

NORAD Modernization has been accelerated. The Northern Warning System needs to be replaced / supplemented with over the horizon radar plus modernize the Command and Control Centre in Winnipeg. New skills are needed for the new Command and Control Centre in Winnipeg.

Search and Rescue is a mess. The CC-295 King-Fisher is not going to be ready for operations for some time to come.

Watch for the NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) replacement contract known as Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) to be awarded in late 2023. The CT-155 Hawk fleet will retire in 2024. Pilots will need to go to USA and EU for fighter lead-in training until the RCAF buys a replacement.

Training aircraft for FAcT and fighter lead-in training will determine the Snowbirds replacement aircraft. A lengthy discussion then ensued.

All Wings need to acknowledge receipt of their new Charters and renew their commitment to these new Charters. This is being done in event the Association has to revoke Charters in the near future. If you have resolutions for the Association, send them directly to the National Board of Directors.

The RCAF Ball 2023 in Ottawa in April features the prize of a Lancaster ride, worth \$3500.

The next Biannual General Meeting will either be in Victoria or Halifax.

700 Wing had two awards presented at the National Bi-Annual General Meeting:

- National Member of the Year: David Jackson
- National Wing of the Year: 700 Wing

Wings across the country are still talking about the Great Fighter Jet Debate 700 Wing hosted online in the midst of the pandemic.





Stanley R. Baxter



F/L John W. Chalmers



Cpl John A. Forbes



Sgt Stan Kisko



SL/Maj Frank Mathew



Capt John J. Randall



Ed Torpy



Mrs. W Torpy (Lovie)



Sgt Lou L. Turchet




Derek J. Umbach



Capt Jason M. White


*We Remember and Acknowledge Their Service*



Alan Sather  
1932 - 2021



John Kozoriz  
1925 - 2020



# Wing Executive Members and Calendar



## 700 Wing Executive 2022 - 2023

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson	Tom Sand
Vice-Chairperson	John King
Treasurer	Nick Nimchuk
Membership	Sylvia Loewen
Secretary	Dawna Mercier
Communications	Brian Andrus
Director at Large	Paul Alberto Jr

### APPOINTMENTS

Immediate Past Chair	David Jackson
Chaplain	Ray Olsen
Aviation Memorial Chair	Sylvia Loewen
Casino Chair	Brian Andrus
Air Cadet Liaison	Vern Toews
408 Sqn Liaison	John King
Memorial Garden	Joe Twyman
GM Air Cadet Museum	Tom Sand
Kipnes/Veterans	Bob Whitley
EAHS/AAMA Liaison	Vacant
Battle of Britain Parade	David Jackson
Regalia	David Jackson
Memorial Database	Erwin Loewen

[www.facebook.com/700wing](http://www.facebook.com/700wing)  
[www.700wing.com](http://www.700wing.com)

Thanks to  
Derek Blatchford for his  
assistance in editing the  
newsletter

Contact information:  
700 (City of Edmonton) Wing  
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Email: 700WingRCAFA@gmail.com

## Calendar 2022-2023

Tentative calendar for planning the upcoming year  
**700 Wing Calendar for 2022-2023**

2022	Date	Event Comments
Saturday	December 10	Christmas Function Chateau Nova Kingsway
2023	Date	Event Comments
Saturday	January 14	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	January 21	Robbie Burns Afternoon Kipnes Centre (tentative)
Saturday	February 11	Regular Meeting (Charter Night Event/Dinner?)
Tuesday	February 14	700 Wing 74 th Anniversary of Charter
Sunday	February 26	Alberta Group Meeting
Saturday	March 11	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	April 1	RCAF Anniversary Mess Dinner (tentative)
Saturday	April 15	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	April 22	Alberta Group AGM
Saturday	May 13	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	June 10	Summer Barbeque and AGM
Friday-Sunday	August 4 - 6	Alberta International Airshow
Saturday	September 9	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Thursday	September 14	Memorial Stones Dedication Ceremony
Sunday	September 17	Battle of Britain Parade
Saturday	October 14	Regular Meeting Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	November 4	Poppy Sales
Thursday	November 9	700 Wing 62nd Anniversary of Incorporation
Saturday	November 11	Remembrance Day Alberta Aviation Museum
Saturday	November 18	Regular Meeting (skip a week for Nov 11th )
Saturday	December 9	Christmas Function

General Meeting start at 2 p.m. unless otherwise indicated

Unless otherwise indicated

### Nick's Kit Shop

The Wing is having great success with selling a variety of crest, patches and pins online.

Thanks to Nick Nimchuk for leading this initiative and setting up 'Nick's Kit Shop' through eBay. He has received orders from Great Britain and Australia for some of the product he has. Well done, Nick!

