



408 Goose Squadron Association

December 2000 Issue

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Greetings one and all. It's time once again to gather all the notes that you've sent me over the past 6 months and put them together in a newsletter for all to read. I am always concerned that I'll not have enough tangible material to write the next newsletter. It seems, though, that newsletters generate calls and notes from you all and I never have a shortage of new material. In fact, I run out of space more often than not.

I continue to develop plans for our reunion in Edmonton with the help of my staff. The reunion seems to have a life of its own. I have managed to obtain volunteers to co-ordinate a number of events and co-operation continues from the Squadron. We've grown from the concept of moving the Association Executive to Edmonton from Brantford, to the establishment of an office with 3 persons. The Association has an internet presence and with the help of the Squadron here in Edmonton, we've managed to grow our numbers and spread the word. I am happy to report that this newsletter will go out to 391 different addresses.

Some of the names we've gathered were from simple conversations over the telephone while others dropped by our exhibit during Edmonton's Klondike Days this summer. Some were also gathered by word of mouth. It is not our intention to cajole persons to join us, rather it is the intention of the committee to spread the word and continue growing numbers. If you have received a newsletter, and would like, we can remove you from our mailing list. As Bruce Felton (past Chairman) once indicated to me, the numbers of our veterans are getting fewer and fewer. We have only a handful of Mapping and Charting era persons and even smaller number of helicopter types.

We will continue to pursue our objective. All the while, we'll accept with thanks, any and all applications for membership. One of the objectives stated in our constitution "To perpetuate the memory of 408 Squadron Members and their exploits." In order to do that, we need numbers. Our constitution permits differing membership divisions from Regular membership to Honorary Membership.

INTRODUCTIONS

We are happy to announce the arrival of Captain Cheryl Lawrence into our fold. She comes to us upon the departure of Lt Nathalie Sleno who many of you have spoken with. Nathalie left us at the end of October. She gave birth to her and Jeffs second child in early November and after completion of maternity leave, will go on to her career of choosing in the military. She will become an Medical Associate Officer - Bio. Training will commence in May and eventual posting will be in Toronto.

Captain Lawrence is a substantial gain for us. In addition to serving as the Maintenance Officer for 444 Combat Support Squadron in Goose Bay , she has had experience planning for and executing several winter carnivals there. The anniversary in Edmonton, we're hoping, will be a cakewalk for her. She should be with us throughout the event in May.

Cheryl works fulltime in the office. She'll provide continuity and ensure that there is someone to answer the telephone when the Association is called. With her help, we will continue to

achieve our goals and grow the Association. She'll also play a major role in the planning for and success of our event.

Welcome, Captain Lawrence.

700 WING

In addition to the activity surrounding the "Goose" Squadron Association, yours truly has been appointed the squadron liaison officer to the 700 Wing of the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC.) Like other Wings of the AFAC, 700 Wing consists of past members of the Armed Force as well as members of the community who are simply aviation enthusiasts. 700 Wing has a long standing tradition of promoting military aviation in the Edmonton area. They are involved in things from support to Air Cadet activity to co-ordination of parades for events such as the Battle of Britain parade. Our representation there will help us achieve our aim.

CORRECTION

The June newsletter had an indication that you would find a date on the outside of your envelopes indicating "paid up" dates for members of the Association. Unfortunately, that date did not get printed and several people were confused by a second number they found. The second number is called a Publication Mail Agreement number and we use it to achieve lower mailing costs. You should see a date along with your address on the envelope of this newsletter. If your records are different from ours showing a different paid up date, please call us and we'll change our record.

INFORMATION SEARCH

Just after the June newsletter went to publication, a Mr John Thompson called indicating that he is looking for information on Donald Edison Sherman. Donald Sherman went missing on Feb 21, 45. His entire crew was found in a private cemetery in Duisburg Germany later. They were then moved to a British Military cemetery in Rhine Burg Germany. Mr Thompson can be reached at mjlthompson@home.com

Rip Pridday is looking for information of his fathers service - Robert Pridday. Mr Rip Pridday can be reached at Apt #3 2336 2nd Ave N.W. Calgary T2N OH2, 403-283-8212

DONATION

We wish to acknowledge the kind generosity of Mr. David Waterman. Mr Waterman, of Calgary, sent us a donation of \$200 along with his annual dues during July of this year. Thank you Mr Waterman.

TRENTON MEMORIAL



As many of you will know, a group was formed following the 1999 Squadron Reunion in Ottawa and tasked with the design and installation of a 408 monument on the grounds of the RCAF memorial museum in Trenton, Ontario. The groups picture is included here. Seated are: Ron Cleminson (Left) and Wally Kasper (Sec. Treas.) Standing, left to right: Paul Nyznik, Alex Saunders, Morrie Konick and Cliff Kinney (Chair.) Missing: Grant Pennington. Paul Nyznik writes - Cash donations to the cause, which are tax-free, would be much appreciated and may be sent to the Secretary at 9 Cleadon Drive, Nepean, Ontario. K2H 5P5.

THE MEMORIAL

We have received a number of updates regarding this project. This has been a big project that our membership, through the offices of the Association Executive in Brantford previously and Edmonton more recently, have donated significantly towards.

During September, Wally Kasper wrote in part

"In view of the distinguished history of 408 (more tonnage of bombs dropped than any other Canadian Bomber Squadron during the last war and more casualties than any other squadron - 936), the outstanding work the squadron

accomplished during the Photo/mapping period and its distinguished accomplishments as a Tac Hel Squadron (aid to the civil power in forest fire flood assistance and peacekeeping) we felt that the 408 Memorial should stand tall among the many other squadron and organisation memorial stones in the Memorial Gardens at the Museum.

We feel that we have accomplished this mission to give 408 the "biggest and the best" and the Memorial will come in at a cost of some \$32,000.00 There will, of course, be a number of additional costs such as the 408 display inside the Museum as well as the cost of the dedication ceremony which will take place on the 24th June 2001, the date of the founding of 408 in 1941."

"There is the matter of the Ad Astra bricks which the museum sells to commemorate past and present members of the RCAF and various squadrons. Many of these have already been purchased and installed in the garden. Some of these will have been purchased by ex-408 members but the museum did not request information as to squadron or other organisational affiliation when the applicants were applying for a brick. But now that 408 Squadron will have its own memorial, the museum has agreed to locate those bricks purchased by ex-408ers at the site of the 408 Memorial. Since the museum has no way of knowing which of the bricks belong to ex-408ers, it will be necessary for an ex-408er (or a relative in the event that the person named on the brick has now departed for the big aerodrome in the sky) to notify the museum of his/her wish to have their brick moved to the site of the 408 Memorial.. ... those Association members who would like to have their bricks moved ... should contact the RCAF Memorial Museum and request that it be done. Their letters should be addressed to : BGen Jeff Brace (ret'd), Executive Director, RCAF Memorial Museum, CFB Trenton, P.O. Box 1000, Astra, On, K0K 3W3."

Alex Saunders wrote during late October. His notes ...

"This seven foot tall monument honouring the achievements of 408 Squadron during its 60 year history is now in place at the RCAF Memorial Museum in Trenton, Ontario. The official dedication ceremony, to which all 408ers are invited, is scheduled for Sunday, 24 June 2001. "Mother Goose", Molly Rayner and the squadrons first CO, Air Commodore Nelles Timmerman, will be honoured guests at the event. While the outdoor monument is a fait accompli, funds for the indoor display of 408 memorabilia are still needed. Donations would be gratefully received and should be sent to Wally Kasper, at 9 Cleadon Drive, Nepean, Ont, K2H 5P5



CLEARING IN/OUT ACTIVITY

I'm happy to announce that we've achieved success in putting the Association Office on the clearing forms that members posted to and from the unit use. The requirement to drop by our office will help us to introduce the concept of the Association to new Squadron members and then invite them to join the Association as a Regular member once they are posted to another unit or leave the service.

Final Fly Past

The Association has the task of reporting the passing of several of our members.

Dorothy Glover wrote after the June newsletter to report that her husband, Vaughan, past away of April , 2000. Vaughan served with 408 at Linton as a Navigator from 1944 to 1945. He did a tour of operations and received a DFC.

Robert Pridday who was a Flight Engineer with the unit passed some time ago. His son, Rip, called the association during July. Mr Pridday served during Jan 43 to Oct 43.

Mr Francis Walker. A note returned with the Jun newsletter indicated that he passed some 5 years ago. Mr Walker was a Wireless Electrical Mechanic serving in the unit from April 1944 to August 1945.

THE LAST POST

They shall grow not old

As we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them

Nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun

And in the morning,

We will remember them.

CANADIAN HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION - WINDSOR

Mr Ed Curnutte from Windsor wrote us during the summer with information reprinted below.

Greetings from Windsor,

Our group, the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association, has been working on the restoration

of a Lancaster Bomber that had flown with 408 Squadron during the Rockliffe days. This Lancaster, serial number FM212, was the prototype of the MkX (P) and was SOS in 1962 and sold to the City of Windsor as a memorial. It is the only Lancaster in existence (that we know of) that bears the markings and camouflage of its wartime 408 Sisterships. It is coded as "EQ W ", with the "W" standing for Windsor.

Currently the Lanc is mounted on a concrete pedestal in the centre of a beautiful Memorial Rose Garden, where it has been since 1965. Unfortunately, time and the elements have done their damage to the airframe and we are endeavouring to have it moved to an indoor display facility at Windsor Airport. We have no intention of changing the squadron markings.

Should all the approvals be granted, this project promises to be a very exciting, albeit long and difficult one to undertake. However, the will is there in order to see it become a reality. We are also looking for that elusive photo of FM212 in flight. Our website is <http://www.wincom.net/~gsawhney/CH2A/lancaster.html>. If anyone has information that Mr Curnutte may find useful, please give him a call. Ggls@on.aibn.com

THE CANDIAN PEACEKEEPING SERVICE MEDAL (CPSM)

Bill C-300 authorised the creation and issue of the medal. It received Royal Assent and became law in April 1997. The medal recognises service by Canadians deployed outside Canada for a minimum of thirty days, not necessarily consecutively, either on the strength of an authorised unit of the Canadian Forces sent on international peacekeeping or observer missions or those who directly supported such missions. More information on the medal can be obtained on the internet at <http://pk.kos.net/cpsm/html>

REUNION

The reunion in Edmonton is shaping up. To date, we have received about 10 registrations in addition to the Chaplain General who will consecrate the new colours and Governor General's office. A Queens representative is required to present the colours. The Chairman of the '99 Reunion, Ron Cleminson, tells us that we should expect a flurry of activity as we get closer to the reunion date. Registration is \$100 per person; you can fill in the attached form and send it. Your registration fee will cover the cost of transportation to various planned events at the Reunion and the dinner on Saturday night. There will be a BBQ provided at 408 Squadron on Saturday and a Meet and Greet on Friday. Your registration fee will also cover the cost of those events. We have achieved conference rates at the Edmonton Ramada Inn

and Conference Centre located at 11834 Kingsway Ave N.W. Edmonton. 780-454-5454. You are asked to make your accommodation plans at the Ramada as all transportation arrangements are being made from there. You should plan your arrival during the afternoon of 18 May. A service called "Sky Shuttle" is available to take you from the Edmonton International Airport to the Edmonton Ramada Hotel. It leaves the International airport every 45 minutes. Cost is \$11.00 one way per person and \$18.00 return. Upon your arrival at the hotel you will be provided with a reunion package detailing event and transportation plans. We will begin our activity by sharing time together at a meet and greet that night from 19:00 hours to 21:00 hours.

Unfortunately, LCol Shelley will be in Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission during May. He has directed that we are to go ahead with the reunion in his absence. The unit has been awaiting its new colours for years now and operations have delayed their issue several times. The current Deputy Commanding Officer will take on the role of Commanding Officer. Major Yves Grenier will be our Commanding Officer during the reunion.

Note that the reunion in Edmonton is a separate event from the memorial dedication in Trenton. That event is being directed by the Memorial Committee as described above. It will take place on the 24th of June and be attended by VIP guests Air Commodore Nelles Timmerman and Mother Goose (Molly Rayner.)

A schedule for the reunion in Edmonton is attached.

INVITE TO JOIN

During May we sent a general letter to ex 408ers inviting them to join our ranks. We've copied it below and the invitation goes out to all new newsletter recipients.

May 3, 2000

Dear ex-408 Squadron member,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 408 "Goose" Squadron Association. We are an organisation consisting of members who have served with 408 Squadron since the Squadron was formed 24 June 1941, and those who are currently serving.

We are reaching out to you for many reasons. We would enjoy having you aboard as a regular member of our Association whereby we could benefit from your stories. You could share them with us and with others through our bi-annual newsletter. Our newsletters circulate in

both June and December, and are full of stories from members that have served in WWII in the bombing sorties, all the way to members who are currently serving on tactical helicopter missions. Besides your valuable input, we would be able to inform you of future activities and reunions such as the one we are currently planning for 18-21 May 2001 here in Edmonton. Information on this event, as well as registration forms, will be posted in both newsletters this year.

We look forward to hearing from you and we sincerely hope you will consider joining our Association.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roy Phillips

Major

Chairman

408 "Goose" Squadron Association

408 Squadron 60th Anniversary/Reunion Schedule

Serial	Timing	Event	Location
1.	Friday Evening 18 May Various	Delegates Arrive at Hotel Registration	Edmonton Ramada Inn

2.	Friday Evening 18 May 19:00 Hrs	Meet and Greet	TBD
3.	Saturday 19 May 10:30 Hrs	Static Display's incl veh etc BBQ	408 Squadron
4	Saturday 19 May 13:00 Hrs	408 Sqn Association Business Meeting	Edmonton Ramada Inn
5.	Saturday Evening 19 May 19:00 Hrs	Anniversary Dinner	TBD
6.	Sunday 20 May 10:00 Hrs	Memorial Service	Base Chapel
7.	Sunday 20 May 11:30 Hrs	VIP Luncheon	City Hall

8.	Sunday 20 May 13:00 hrs	Consecration of New Sqn Standard Freedom of the City Parade	City Hall
9.	Sunday 20 May 15:00	Reception	TBD
10.	Monday 21 May	Travel	

Latest Update 9 Nov, 00 by Major R Phillips, Chairman

REGISTRATION FORM

408 "Goose" Squadron Association

60th Anniversary and Reunion



Edmonton Alberta May 18 to 21, 2001

The following form should be used to register your intention to attend the Edmonton event.

Name (print)

Address: _____ City: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal Code/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Accompanying person(s) names

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

Do you have a requirement for? (please indicate if necessary)

Vegitarian: _____

Diabetic Meal: _____

Do you have any food allergies we should be aware of? _____

Registration fees @ \$100 per person: Number of persons _____ X \$100.00 = \$ _____ total

Registration fees cover the cost of all transportation to and from planned reunion activity in the Edmonton area. The cost of travel and accommodation will be borne by the attendee. We have achieved conference rates at the Edmonton Ramada Inn and Conference Centre located at 11834 Kingsway Ave N.W. Edmonton. 780-454-5454

Payment - Canadian and US residents please submit payment in Canadian Dollars or US equivalent by cheque or money order. All other nationalities by international money order in local/own currency equivalent, payable to: 408 "Goose" Squadron Association. Mail with registration to:

408 "Goose" Squadron

Association

3023 - 44B Ave N.W.

Edmonton, Alberta

**T6T 1G8
April 01.**

Cut-off date for registrations is 25

EDITORS NOTE - FEE'S

Some of you may have heard that we were attempting to raise enough funds to bring our WWII veterans to Edmonton for the reunion. We had hoped to pay for their travel, registration and accommodation plans. Unfortunately, that will not be happening. Although we've hosted a number of fundraising events, our bank account has no where near the funds required to support this plan. After several activities, for which the Association will be financially responsible, are accounted for we only have approximately \$650 in our account. The Association has to pay for various activities here and in the Air Force of the day, cannot cross the line to use Public Funds. We have to be careful to use only those funds that we've raised or otherwise collected from membership etc. My apologies for any confusion.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Mr Jim Taylor from the Ex-POW Association has helped us gather names for our Association. Jim is the Secretary/Treasurer of that group and contacted a friend of his in the Ex-Air Gunner Association. Jim is also part of the "Cradle Crew" who did operations on bombers during the war. More information on a book written by Mr Kenneth K Blyth who was also a part of the crew can be found at www.cradlecrew.com The following, was taken from that website.

There were 18,000 Canadian airmen killed in World War II, and 4,272 killed while with Six Group. Documented heroes were few in number, but, in actuality, all who participated were heroes in their own way. They were ready to lay down their lives for their country.

The Cradle Crew, one of the youngest bombing crews in the Royal Canadian Air Force's Six Group flew Handley Page Halifax bombers during WW II. Author Ken Blyth recalls their training, raids over enemy targets, being shot down over Germany,

prison camp, and, at war's end, release by the Russians.

The majority of the prisoners in Stalag Luft I were Americans. Colonel Hubert Zemke, the senior-ranking American officer, had been captured during November 1944. Group Captain Cecil Weir was the senior-ranking British officer. He and Zemke worked well together.

At 1:00 a.m. on 30 April 1945, the Germans abandoned Stalag Luft I, just ahead of the advancing Russian tanks, cavalry, and guerrilla troops, who were "hell bent for the Baltic"

Ken Blyth and his fellow prisoners awoke that morning to find themselves no longer under armed guard and comparatively free. It was later that the world would learn that Adolph Hitler had committed suicide on 30 April 1945 in his bunker at the Reichschancellery in Berlin.

To maintain protection and order for the prisoners until they could be rescued by the Allies, Colonel Zemke became the camp's commanding officer, assisted by Group Captain Weir. In essence, Stalag Luft 1, without the German troops, was an "Allied Island" surrounded by their enemy, the German countrymen.

"Frankly," states Blyth, "the Cradle Crew members....consider themselves very fortunate to be alive today."

During August, Mr Taylor gathered his list that we've added to our's. We can tell you that the names were much appreciated and helped us. Thanks Mr Taylor

CONCLUSION

Thanks so much for you input. I am confident that the Association word is reaching out. I often get reports back after an issue and they are not always from members.

Activity for the months ahead will be a continued effort to see that our next reunion goes off as planned. I look forward to meeting you all in May. Have a safe and Merry Christmas.

Roy Phillips

Major

Chairman