

# 395 SQUADRON ALUMNI FOUNDATION



## Alumni Notes

395 Squadron Alumni Association Newsletter Volume 13 ~ April 2016

### Our 70th Reunion is Upon Us!



395 Alumni, here we are again another anniversary upon us and another reunion. We had such a successful reunion five years ago in recognition of the Squadron's 65 Anniversary that the executive thought we would proceed with another. We have a few new members on the team and plans are well underway with registration taking place as this newsletter goes out!

The reunion will be held on Friday, May 27 and will once again be held at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre. Tickets are only \$60.00 which includes a buffet dinner, swag, guest speaker, and time to reacquaint with long lost cadet buddies! Please consider registering ASAP by going to the Alumni website at [www.395alumni.ca](http://www.395alumni.ca) to fill out the registration form and send it to the Alumni email address. Payment can be made by cheque, PayPal or Electronic Payment. We have block booked a few rooms at the Chateau Louis Hotel which will be available at a discounted rate until April 20. Rooms must be booked by calling the hotel.

#### Guest Speaker

We are very pleased that we are able to have a unique guest speaker at the reunion. Col Andy Cook, Wing Commander, 17 Wing Winnipeg will talk about his experiences from air cadet to Snowbirds pilot to wing commander.

#### Reunion Memorabilia

Please bring your memorabilia to display at the reunion. No doubt that those photos from when you were in cadets were fun but today they are a part of the history. If you would like to have them form part of the Alumni's archive, please scan the pictures into a JPEG format and put them onto a USB stick to bring to the reunion. We would then copy the pictures to build the Alumni's archive file.

#### Name Change

In consultation with several individuals outside the Alumni, the executive committee voted to change the name from 'Foundation' to 'Association'. This change allows us to deal with future endeavors the Alumni may want to proceed with such as registering as a society in Alberta. Watch for the new branding in future correspondence.

#### The Alumni is Growing

Since our last reunion five years ago, we have grown in size. We are pleased to say that we have some younger alumni joining the ranks and we now have over 155 former members of the unit. We encourage you to look for other members to join. Simply have them go to our website to register as a member.

#### Acknowledgements and Thank You's

Thank you to Keith Zukiwski who has been able to maintain our Alumni website over the years. It certainly has a different look from five years ago. Check it out at [www.395alumni.ca](http://www.395alumni.ca)

We would like to acknowledge three companies who have contributed to this year's reunion in time and materials: City Pro Entertainment Inc., Perfectly Cracked Design and JBEC (JB Educational Consulting). These companies have continually supported the Alumni over the past five years including the last reunion. Thank you!

A big thank you to the Reunion Committee, without you we would not be able to host the 70th reunion.

#### 70th Reunion Committee

Brian Andrus • Cody Butkowski • Karen Butkowski  
Monique Barr • Nanette Booth • John Breen  
Joe Luce • Rebecca Maron • Andrew McLellan  
Nick Nimchuk • Nicole Norton • Don St. Croix  
Stacey Urwin • Keith Zukiwski

#### 395 Squadron Annual Cadet Review (ACR)

In conjunction with the 70th Anniversary of the Squadron, the 395 Annual Cadet Review will take place on Saturday, May 28 at HMCS Nonsuch seated at 1330 hrs. for 1400 hrs. Major General Paul Bury will be the Reviewing Officer. Major Bury is responsible for all cadets and reserve units in Canada. Please come out and support the unit and the many Alumni who will be attending this event. Please RSVP Karen Butkowski at [Butkowski@telus.net](mailto:Butkowski@telus.net) by May 16 if you wish to attend.

As in past years the Parent's Committee will be hosting the Annual Banquet & Awards night which will take place later that evening. Tickets for the banquet are available for purchase Tuesday evenings at the ship or contact the parents committee through the squadron's website at [www.395squadron.ca](http://www.395squadron.ca).

## Featured Alumni Member Nick Nimchuk

As we have done in past newsletters, we like to feature some of our alumni members. In this issue we are featuring a long standing executive member, Nick Nimchuk.

A native Edmontonian, Nick joined 395 Squadron in September of 1968. Growing up right next door to the Industrial Airport, air cadets was a natural course for an airport brat.

The Squadron generally paraded over 200 cadets at the time during it's truly golden era under CO Major Frank Matthews. Cadets became a large part of Nick's life - hours spent every week on the basement stairs melting shoe polish on the boots in multiple layers, convincing mother you could iron your own trousers with a razor sharp crease, consuming vast quantities of Brasso polishing your cap badge and practicing drill commands in front of the mirror. Tuesday parade night was the highlight of the week. Nick achieved the rank of Warrant Officer 2nd Class by 1973 and during the same year successfully completed the Power Flying Scholarship course at CFB Namao. During the

Scholarship he was appointed Flight Leader of his class. After achieving the rank of Warrant Officer 1st Class in 1974 he served as WIng Warrant Officer for the spring No. 9 WIng year end parade - a real highlight of his cadet career. That year also brought a unique distinction in being issued the first green air cadet dress uniform in Canada. He was retired from cadets later that year after the calendar caught up with him.

His strong attraction to aviation continued after cadets and Nick went on to earn a commercial pilot license with multi-engine and instruments ratings within only a few years while attending the University of Alberta and working summers on a road construction crew. Graduating in 1977 with a BSc in Meteorology, he began a long career with the Government of Alberta Provincial Forest Fire Center where he currently serves as the Head of the Fire Weather Section. To this day Nick considers his time in Air Cadets as an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable period in his life and is extremely proud to be a 395 Alumni and 700 Wing RCAF Association member.

### FYI

There are two airshows in Northern Alberta this summer. One in Cold Lake, July 16 & 17 and the other at Villeneuve Airport, August 6 & 7. Our Alumni member, Bud Granley, will be performing in Edmonton with his Yak and Golden Hawk Harvard. Two jets: F-18 Demo team and the F-16 Viper Demo Team. Last year the airshow in Villeneuve was sold out on both days.

### Follow Alumni on Social Media

The Alumni now have a presence on Twitter and Facebook. For up to minute information on the reunion as well as other information, please follow and like us.

### Joe Luce Performing at the Fringe

Joe will be performing at the Fringe and he needs your help working the shows. The duties requiring volunteers are: Collecting tickets, selling tickets and head count; Ushers; Video camera operation and DVD sales. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Joe at 780-699-4515 or joeluce@hotmail.com. The dates and times of the shows will be confirmed by June 20th.



### 395 Squadron Alumni Steering Committee Executive 2016-2017

**Brian Andrus**  
Chair/Treasurer

**Karen Butkowski**  
Co-Chair/Admin Coordinator

**Nick Nimchuck**  
Archives

**Erwin Loewen**  
Archives

**Keith Zukowski**  
Webmaster

**Joe Luce**  
Event Coordinator

**Monique Barr**  
Advertising

**Nanette Booth**  
Graphic Design

**Don Ste-Croix**  
Member at Large

**Sylvia Loewen**  
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**Stacy Urwin**  
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