

# Alumni Notes

395 Squadron Alumni  
Foundation Newsletter

395 SQUADRON  
ALUMNI  
FOUNDATION



Volume 9, October 2013

## What is New with the Alumni?

The Alumni executive members had the summer off with many on holidays with their families. At our first meeting of the academic year, several agenda items were discussed. The most notable being the hypnotist show, which is our only fundraiser for the Alumni and a membership survey.

### Hypnosis Fundraiser Show

Our third family hypnosis fundraiser show will be held on Friday, March 14, 2014. We would like to thank Joe Luce and his comedian entourage for supporting us in this endeavor. Watch for more details about the show as we get closer to the date.

A component to the hypnotist show will be a silent auction. We are asking our membership to step forward and, if possible, find at least one silent auction item to donate. Please contact Karen Butkowski at 780-486-6150 or email [Karen.Butkowski@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Karen.Butkowski@gov.ab.ca) with your donation and we will make an attempt to pick it up from you if need be. Again, if we have at least one item per member, the auction would be awesome! The funds we raise at the hypnosis show/silent auction are used towards operating our website, purchasing equipment used to archive hundreds of photos we have acquired, and supporting the 395 Air Cadet Squadron.

### Volunteers

As in any volunteer organization volunteers are the key to their success. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of former alumni, mostly former cadets, to maintain the organization and database with over 120 members on our email list. As the Executive of the Alumni, we are always looking for assistance; even helping out at our only fundraiser would be a great asset. If interested in volunteering in any aspect, please contact us through our website and one of our executive would be happy to get in touch with you.

### Membership Survey

An online survey has recently been sent out. We need your participation to understand what our alumni will look like in the future. One of the important points we may want to consider is whether we should become a registered society in the province? The requirements change dramatically from being a steering committee to a registered society in several ways, those being the election vs. appointments of the executive; the requirement to have an annual general meeting; and submitting yearly financial statements to the government. One of the positive sides to being a registered society is that we would be able to write charitable receipts for donations with the potential of better access to corporations for donations. Many large entities have indicated that they will not contribute funds to a non-registered society.

### In Memoriam

With regret, one of our former 395 Squadron commanding officers has passed away. **Captain Tom Lawrence** was the CO at the Squadron from 1989 to 1992. Prior to being CO, Tom was the Chief Training Officer in the mid-sixties when the cadets were still wearing the old blue wool uniforms. He passed away June 21, 2013 at the age of 71.



It is with sadness that we have learned that **Mr. Art Skinner** passed away at the age of 97 years old. Mr. Skinner was instrumental in creating Camp Wright from its infancy. Our Squadron worked along side Art in the building of the first four cabins at the camp. Art acquired old telephone poles which were used in the wall construction. He was a member of the Alberta Provincial Committee for many years and the majority of time as the Director of Camp Wright. He passed away, September 28, 2013 in Calgary.

# Blast from the Past ~ Profiles of Alumni

## Bill Clark (Cadet from 1973 to 1977)



Detective Bill Clark, a former cadet with 395 has had an interesting career path. He started with 395 Squadron in 1973 and while still in cadets joined the Air Reserves at 418 'City of Edmonton' Squadron RCAF at CFB Edmonton. While in the reserves he became a NCO Airframe Technician on Twin Otters. He subsequently decided to enroll in officer training with the Canadian Forces and attained a rank of Officer Cadet. His officer cadet training was at CFB Chilliwack (closed in 1995), the course started with 195 candidates and by the time

they graduated 13 weeks later, there were only 95 remaining. Eventually he was sent to CFB Portage la Prairie (closed in 1992) to begin his flight training on

the Musketeer. Due to an inner ear problem, he was forced to leave the military and his dreams to fly with the military were dowsed.

In September 1979, Bill joined the Edmonton City Police Service. After 22 weeks of training in the classroom and 6 weeks on the street he was a police constable. He was one of the youngest constables

on the force at that time.

Bill has had a variety of experiences within the police service from patrol to identification unit to detective. He is currently the Chief of Detectives of the Homicide department and has been with the department for 34 years.

When asked, "What did cadets do for you?" Bill responded, "Air cadets taught me discipline, respect and team work. I have always played sports but air cadets was a different commitment. I made friends that I still see around today. The many experiences and life skills learned was outstanding. I was part of the rifle team at the Prince of Wales Armouries, shooting every Friday night." The qualities allowed him to promote his career. He stated that the summer camps certainly gave him an edge when he went to Boot Camp in Chilliwack. His most fond memories are of the trips to Banff and Camp Wright. Bill has returned on a couple of occasions to 395 Squadron to lecture on his role as a police officer and talk about leadership and team work. Married to his wife Angela for the past 28 years (Angela was a former Airborne Cadet when they met), they have 3 sons, Kevin, Scott and Brent. Kevin is into his 4th year



as a Constable with the Edmonton Police Service working out of the Downtown Division. Scott is a journeyman electrician working out of the camps near Ft. McMurray. Brent is attending NAIT for Occupational Health and Safety.

*Next issue we will start profiling our Steering Committee members who keep the Alumni Foundation going.*

### Photos

We are still looking for those photos of your past life as a member of 395. Download them through our website and we will either post them or archive them. Please ensure that you have names of people in the pictures and the year it was taken to assist us with archiving them.

### Meet & Greets

Something new we would like to try is having Meet and Greets at the Norwood Legion. The intent is to have Alumni members collaborate over a beverage on the way home on a Friday evening. Our first one will be on Friday, October 25, just drop by between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. You never know who will show up and what stories you will hear. Please join us!

### Facebook

The Alumni has a new Facebook page! Please look for it on Facebook and we will post the Facebook link on our web page.



## Change of Command at 395 Squadron

The unit's 15th Change of Command occurred September 17, 2013. Major John Breen relinquished his command to Captain Andrew McLennan, a former cadet at the squadron. We are pleased that our Alumni were provided an opportunity to present Alumni

pins to a retiring cadet and two staff members. They were: Major Breen, presented by Maj Brian Andrus (Ret); Keith Peddle, Supply Technician presented by Karen Butkowski; and, Warrant Officer Second Class Darien Peddle, presented by Nick Nimchuk.



Sign of the Change of Command documents, L to R, Outgoing CO, Maj J Breen, Maj Perry, Reviewing Officer and incoming CO, Capt A McLellan



Capt. McLellan, 15th CO, receives the squadron banner from Maj Perry



Maj Brian Andrus (Ret) presents the Alumni pin to retiring CO of 395 Squadron Maj John Breen.

## The Beverly Cenotaph

Some of our Alumni members are involved with a group refurbishing the Beverly Cenotaph in northeast Edmonton. Beverly Heights was originally the Town of Beverly and became part of Edmonton in 1961. The town was a coal mining community with over 20 mines operating in the town's area. The Beverly Cenotaph was originally built to remember the men from Beverly who served and died in World War I. The original dedication ceremony was held on October 17, 1920, making the cenotaph the first to be erected in the Edmonton area, and one of the oldest in Alberta. The cenotaph was expanded and rededicated in 1958.

Community members as well as others are trying to raise funds to redo the area around the cenotaph and re-dedicate the monument for the community's 100th anniversary.

Former cadet Joe Luce is the Chair of this community endeavour. If you wish to assist or contribute to this historical monument, please contact Joe Luce at 780.944.2776 or toll free at 1.877.944.2776.

**The Beverly Remembrance Day Parade and Service** is hosted and organized by Joe Luce and is attended by 395 Squadron Air Cadets.

9:30am

Non-Denominational Service  
Maranatha Christian  
Reformed Church | 1905-47 Street

10:20am

Parade assembles outside church

10:50am

Parade arrives at Cenotaph

10:55am

Commencement of  
Cenotaph Ceremony  
at Beverly Memorial Cenotaph  
40 Street - 118 Ave., Edmonton

## 395 Squadron Alumni Steering Committee Executive 2013-2014

**Brian Andrus**  
Chair/Treasurer

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

**Nick Nimchuck**  
Archives

**Erwin Loewen**  
Archives

**Keith Zukowski**  
Webmaster

**Joe Luce**  
Event Coordinator

**Nanette Booth**  
Design and Publications

**Don Ste-Croix**  
Member at Large

**Sylvia Loewen**  
Member at Large

**Stacy Urwin**  
Member at Large

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