



395 SQUADRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Notes

395 Squadron Alumni Association Newsletter

December, 2022

Overview

This past year no social activities occurred, partly because we were coming out of COVID and people were still looking at how the pandemic would play out. Many cadet units were restricted to on-line training and only started parading in September of this year.

As for what we will be doing next, the executive has not decided the direction we should go. Perhaps we can try a reunion in 2023 or look at 2024 which is also the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF. As for other activities, they are yet to be determined. Maybe we should plan for the 80th year reunion in 2026.

The Alumni has made contact with the SWO at 417 Squadron and once restrictions are lifted on base for visitors, the unit will welcome us back for a tour. It is unknown if Maple Flag will occur in 2023. With the war in



417 Squadron Griffon Helicopter

Ukraine, many air forces have diverted their resources towards this war effort.

In this newsletter we are featuring four former cadets who obtained their flying scholarship and pursued a career in aviation. Two became commercial airline pilots, another a helicopter pilot while the fourth, as part of his job, flew many hours in a helicopter. We featured Julius Martisz in last year's issue. In this issue we will briefly mention Julius, (retired), Cory Buerger, Wayne Tomchick (retired), and Nick Nimchuk, (retired). An amazing aviation career for all four of these former air cadets.

Highlights in this edition:

- Overview - p1
- Squadron Cadets Who Reached for the Skies: Julius Martisz, Cory Buerger, Wayne Tomchick, Nick Nimchuk - p2 -p3
- 417 Squadron - Update - p4
- Reunion Update - p5
- Our Squadron Update - p6

FORMER 395 AIR CADETS WHO REACHED FOR THE SKIES

Julius Martisz



Julius Martisz graduated from the Air Cadet Flying Scholarship Program in August 1973. At that time fly school was located in CFB Penhold. He left 395 Squadron as WO2 on May 1974.



From 1975 until 1980 Eldorado Aviation Corporation hired Julius as an apprentice Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) with the possibility of a flying position if he was suit-



ably qualified. Subsequently he was rated as a Commercial Pilot in 1976. Completed a Multi Engine IFR rating in 1977.

He worked with Aircraft Maintenance organizations at Edmonton's Municipal Airport from 1986 to 1989, gaining flying experience with these organizations by occasionally ferrying aircraft. During this time, he became licensed as an AME and subsequently became certified with pressurization and turbine endorsements.



Julius's complete story is published in the previous 395 Squadron Newsletter, December 2021

Cory Bueger



Received the following comments from Cory after Brian Andrus & Cory met up recently:

I am glad you stopped by as well. We didn't get long to speak but, I wanted to pass on my sincerest thanks once again to you for your personal contribution, and indeed service,

to the Air Cadet program. Your (Maj. Andrus) leadership at 395 Sqn during our overlapping tenure when I was a youth, made it a truly rewarding and positive experience. It cannot be understated what an impact it had on my life. One can plot a direct course that commences with my air cadet experience to a 28 yr career with the RCAF (10 reg force/18 resv) with an overlapping 24 yrs in law enforcement.

Achievements

- Police Exemplary Service Medal Awarded on: June 12, 2013
- CCATA ANNUAL AWARD OF MERIT was presented to: EPS Auto Theft Unit – Cory Bueger
- Det. Cory Bueger is a member of Edmonton's gang unit, on secondment to ALERT, the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team. (2013)



FORMER 395 AIR CADETS WHO REACHED FOR THE SKIES

Wayne Tomchick



Wayne's Comments:

I wish we had digital back in the day. After a dusty search in the basement I found a couple of aviation photos but I fear that most are still at Mom's on the Island. Oh well.

A brief history of my career:

- Joined 395 Sqn Sept 1970
- Gliding scholarship 1973 in Yorkton, Sask
- Power school 1974 Edmonton Flying Club
- Exchange Visit to UK 1975



The most prestigious Air Cadet award was The Order of the Coyote circa 1972 at Camp Worthington. I think

Sereda gave me that one. Stewart Sehn and I spent overnight in a plastic shelter in freezing temps. Five others built a huge four way lean-to with a huge fire that went out. They slunk into the cabin at 3 am. We had to be shaken awake.

- 1975-77 Mount Royal University Aviation program.
- 1977-79 Aero Aviation flight instructor at YXD
- 1979 flew Ted Smith Aerostar for small charter outfit in Regina
- Jan 1980 hired by PWA at 22 years old in right seat B737
- 1982-87 laid off but flew a Lockheed Electra for Northwest Territorial in Yellowknife
- 1985-87 Recalled to Canadian Airlines 1987 and flew DC 10 as second officer for a couple of years then back to 737 in YVR
- Flew right seat DC 10 (first officer) 1998-2000. Air Canada bought Canadian so I took a 10 year leave of absence to Jalways (owned by JAL) based in Honolulu flying the DC 10
- Checked out as Captain in 2004 then transitioned to the 747 classic in 2005.
- Back to Air Canada as 777 FO late 2009
 - Captain 767 2012
 - Captain 787 2016
 - Retired April 2022

I got a nice surprise Apr 10, 2022. Water cannon salute in YVR on my retirement flight from Sydney. The best part about this flight was my wife Lori was working it too. She is still an FA (43 yrs, started with CP Air)



Nick Nimchuk

Nick Nimchuk was a former WO1 of the squadron while Major Mathew was the CO. He achieved his wings through the flying scholarship program. The CAF was in transition and during this time cadets were moving away from the blues to greens. He was the first cadet to test (model) the new cadet green uniform in Western Canada. Nick has had numerous titles over the years with the Alberta government ministry but he spent many hours in a helicopter while surveying forest fires throughout the province. He is a graduate of the U of A in meteorology and obtaining a commercial pilot licence with instrument and multi-engine ratings.

Government of Alberta:

Fire Weather Unit Head
Wildfire Management Division
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry





News From 417 Squadron *by SWO G. Arnt, 417 Squadron*

2022 presented some challenges for 417 Sqn due to aircrew shortages and heavy aircraft maintenance. It also allowed us to experience many great examples of teamwork, professionalism, and excellence.

In February we hosted the first of several visits from 1 Wing. Colonel Mike Babin and CWO Lori White toured the squadron as part of the CSS Optimization initiative that will see 417 Sqn, along with 439 Sqn in Bagotville, become part of 1 Wing. While the transition will not change the mission for the squadron, to conduct personnel re-



covery and utility transport for 4 Wing, it will change the look of our aircraft as we swap helicopters between units and transition to camouflage green. Closer ties with 1 Wing will also result in more interaction with 408 Sqn in Edmonton. We look forward to see how these changes play out over the coming years alongside the Griffon Limited Life Extension (GLLE) which will see various aspects of the CH146 helicopter modernized.

Winter 2021 saw the Transient Servicing team de-ice 43 aircraft (transport and Hornets); spraying approximately 22,000L of glycol. Starting at the beginning of April, the team provided daily support to passenger aircraft arriving in Cold Lake to ferry members participating in the Canadian Army's annual readiness verification exercise Ma-

ple Resolve. Their efforts garnered them the Wing Team of the Quarter award with Brigadier-General Moar noting how they enable operations out of Cold Lake, saving hours of additional travel time to Edmonton.

In June, the squadron participated in a Search and Rescue exercise, EX CHIN-THEx, led by 435 Sqn. This exercise saw the aircrew and maintenance team deploy to Grande Prairie, Alberta. During the exercise they participated in responding to simulated Search and Rescue scenarios coordinating with the CC130H as well as the CH149 to provide medical care and effect rescues.

The warm summer months also enabled us to conduct a visit with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the provincial Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS) at the Edmonton International Airport (EIA) where we had the opportunity to highlight our capabilities with other medical agencies. The event began with the 417 Sqn crew conducting a simulated SAR callout flight which included hoisting a stokes litter followed by our Med Tech hoisting the AHS medical director on a double-up.

July saw the Cold Lake Air Show return for the first time since 2018. The air show brought thousands of visitors to 4 Wing and it was a busy weekend for everyone involved. Squadron members were spread all over the Wing to support various tasks including helping with setup, staffing the admittance gates, supporting the VIP area, and of course holding emergency standby posture with our CH146 Griffon helicopter. Fortunately, our services weren't required so our members managed to have a great spot for spectating.

Cold Lake also welcomed many members of the RCAF Cadets to their summer train-

ing camps. We provided familiarization flights for the top performing members of the courses; demonstrating our SAR capabilities. The squadron also welcomed visits to 4 Wing from local schools and camps this summer to provide students with exposure to our operations and equipment.

In August, the squadron was honoured to connect with the grandson of one of our WWII members; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. Squadron Leader James Sinclair served with 417 Squadron during WWII in North Africa, Malta, and Sicily. The CO and SWO marked the occasion by conducting a presentation during his visit to Cold Lake.



In October, a real life SAR emergency tested our readiness as an 82 year old pilot performed a forced night landing with his personal aircraft into an open field after encountering fuel problems. A timely response by 417 Sqn fortunately found that the individual had very minor injuries and their primary concern was getting back to their car! After dropping them back at the airport and waving goodbye, the unit was satisfied that our skills had been validated and could have been lifesaving had the situation been more serious.

Remembrance Day provided an opportunity for the CAF to once again come together

News From 417 Squadron cont'd

to connect with local Veterans and the community, with squadron members having the honour of assisting with the laying of wreathes.

To close out the year EX-SKAHA, the squadron's semi-annual mountain flying exercise, took place in Revelstoke, B.C. The exercise is an excellent opportunity for the aircrew and maintenance team to practice deployed operations and be exposed to a more challenging flying environment.

Overall, 417 Sqn has had a busy year and is looking forward to some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the holiday season.

Something New at 417 Squadron



Photo: Corporal Connie Valin

Our transient servicing team has been in high gear this winter season and has been able to provide de-icing as well as anti-icing to many local and transient aircraft. This has been the first full winter of use for four new de-icing trucks. As with any new equipment, there has been a learning curve and effectiveness is steadily improving. We have also been able to train personnel from the local Tactical Fighter Squadrons (TFS) to operate the sprayer which allows our two person transient crew to combine with the TFS personnel and operate two trucks to conduct CF-188 de-icing operations.

Merry
CHRISTMAS

From the Executive of
395 Squadron Alumni
Association

Introduction - SWO 417 Squadron



Over the years, 395 Squadron Alumni communicates with the SWO of 417 Squadron. The Alumni looks forward to working with **MWO George Arnt. Welcome!**



Veterans Association Food Bank "Veterans Helping Veterans"

The VAFB "recognizes any person who is currently serving or has honourably served in the Canadian Armed Forces. The VAFB also recognizes and offers support to those currently serving, honourably discharged or honourably released Commonwealth Allies, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Peacekeepers, Merchant Marines, or Ferry Command (Coast Guard). Support will be extended to spouses, widows, widowers, and any dependent children in need. Proof of military service or affiliation required."



As with most food banks, food isn't the only assistance that is available. In addition to providing food hampers and gift cards, VAFB also offers services such as: intake support, peer support, VAC claims and medical referrals, emergency veteran assistance, workshops and training programs in partnership with other organizations, just to name a few.

The Veterans Association Food Bank Edmonton is located at 18508 111 Ave NW. Requests for food, finding support and connecting to community resources in Edmonton can be made by calling 403-FOR-VETS (403-367-8387). Staff is on call to assist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please call 911 if you require emergency assistance.

Reunion Update

We are 5 months away from the 77th year anniversary of our 395 Squadron Charter. We tentatively were planning for this event but everything is still on hold. Approximately 10 months of planning goes into putting on this type of an event. At this point in time we are not hopeful we can do this. Once the reunion date is identified, if you would like to volunteer on the executive or have ideas for Alumni activities, we would like to hear from you. Stay tuned.



Capt Dan Sereda (ret'd) 1950-2021



It is with regret we announce the passing of Dan Sereda. Dan was involved in 395 Squadron as a cadet and then as a Commanding Officer. By age 17, he had his pilots licence. In his name, The Captain P. Daniel Sereda Award is presented yearly to the Top 2nd Year Cadet. Dan was involved in the early years building Camp Wright. He spent many hours along with Art Skinner and Jim Trudel in constructing the camp.



Following a B.Sc. Degree from the U. of A., Dan attended Palmer Chiropractic College in Iowa graduating with Honours. He was a well respected Chiropractor in both Alberta and Iowa.



**395 Squadron Alumni
Steering Committee
Executive 2022-2023**

Brian Andrus
Chair/Treasurer

Karen Butkowski
Co-Chair/Admin Coordinator

Nick Nimchuk
Archives

Erwin Leowen
Archives

Raphael Mlynarski
Webmaster

Joe Luce
Event Coordinator

Nanette Booth
Graphic Design

Don Ste-Croix
Member at Large

Sylvia Loewen
Member at Large

Stacy Urwin
Member at Large

395 Alumni
c/o 7404 – 180 Street
Edmonton, AB T5T 2K8

395 Squadron Alumni
www.395squadron.ca/squadron-history

Email
395alumn@telus.net

Our Cadet Squadron

As the COVID slowly reduces over time, the units and cadet activities are slowly coming to life again. Cadets are allowed to meet face to face and activities such as outdoor activities, weekly parades, camping, familiarization flying and gliding are slowly moving forward. Summer camps are slowly reopening but not at the numbers pre pandemic. First time in two years, some gliding and flying scholarships occurred. Currently all cadets, including 395 Squadron on parade at HMCS Nonsuch. Now we have other health considerations besides COVID, the flu and RSV.

Familiarization flying in a glider is still trying to launch, Because there is a shortage of trained gilder pilots due to no training during to the previous summer. This has created a chain reaction, affecting the caudre of pilots. It may take up to two years to bring everything back to pre-pandemic levels once the flying is approved by DND.

