



Spotlight on ACL Female Volunteer & Former Cadet



This year marks an important milestone in the history of the Air Cadet Program—the anniversary of female cadets serving, training, and excelling within its ranks. As we celebrate the achievements of young women in uniform, it is equally fitting to recognize the women volunteers whose leadership, dedication, and service have helped shape the program's success across generations.

One such volunteer is P. Elizabeth Cormier (Volney), a new member of the New Brunswick Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada whose commitment exemplifies the vital role women play in strengthening the League at every level. Born in Aruba, and moving to Saint John, New Brunswick as a child, Elizabeth has volunteered for many years in several organizations, and we are proud to welcome her as a new volunteer with the Air Cadet League of Canada. Elizabeth will be a member of our Effective Speaking Competition Committee.

Elizabeth was a Cadet with 527 Simonds Squadron in Saint John, joining in 1973 after a friend invited her to attend. She enjoyed all aspects of being a Cadet partially because it had a band. Elizabeth learned to play trumpet and euphonium, along with a fife. Turns out she picked up music well enough to be asked to play the last post at local Remembrance Day ceremonies in her second year. Fun fact: Elizabeth's Mother Marjorie made all the female uniforms for the Squadron as a volunteer. Elizabeth maintained her interest in Air Cadets because it was fun and challenging, and the Squadron made several trips including Loring Air Force Base in Maine, and London, England. The Squadron also ran a local camp in the spring before regular camps started up – Camp Albatross. Elizabeth attended the Senior Leader's Course in Cold Lake, Alberta in 1978 (one of the first years for girls), and flew to Edmonton to receive her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from HRH Prince Philip. This experience was for her the most prominent memory of the Air Cadet program. She also won an Effective Speaking and an Instructional Technique award during the camp.

Elizabeth earned various volunteer awards in the community (including Woman of the Year in 1986), and during her involvement with the Horizon Health Network in New Brunswick. She currently volunteers with the Royal United Services Institute, Branch 69 of the Royal Canadian Legion, a local Service Veteran's group, the Salvation Army and just helps other people that just need a little hand up and assistance. She has also volunteered as a Judge for 527 Squadron's essay competition and Effective Speaking. Elizabeth credits her interest in service to the community because of her time with Air Cadets and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards program. She learned a sense of purpose and discipline, leadership and thoughtful execution of tasks. How to work smarter, not harder. Elizabeth's High School French Teacher taught her to "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are now".

Early in Elizabeth's professional career, she was Manager of the Better Business Bureau of New Brunswick for 6 years. She went on to work in the province's English health region (Horizon Health) as the Senior and Volunteer Coordinator, followed by Regional Director for Volunteer Resources, Auxiliary and Alumni – advocating for patient and family-centric care. Elizabeth earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of New Brunswick, followed by a Master's Certificate in Health Education while working at Horizon Health. She is now retired and lives in Saint John with her husband Bernard (Bernie), who is also a former 527 Air Cadet and is involved with many community organizations.



527 Simonds Squadron Fife & Drum Band contingent at a Loyalist Days Festival event in the mid-1970's



Recent 527 Simonds Squadron Effective Speaking event with Tom White, Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Air Cadet League of Canada & Mrs P. Elizabeth Cormier.