

# THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA  
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## Doors Open London and London Culture Days

FIFTY OF LONDON'S BEST HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL sites were chosen to be highlighted for the 2013 event and 427 Wing was one of them. The event ran September 28-29th. Wing Volunteers greeted nearly 400 guests of all ages, showing off our ballroom, hall and historical artifacts. London International Airport loaned us a number of panels to show the history and development of the airport. The ballroom was also enhanced with displays for the Spirit of Flight Aviation Museum, 201 Air Cadet Squadron, the Aeronca Project and multiple static displays produced by Historian David Smith. These displays were all manned by volunteers.

On the first day, Chuck Hardy visited the Jet Museum to invite the public to venture down the road to visit us. The second day, our signs were adjusted to make it clearer for people to continue down our way. There were interactive options for guests to participate in - two different flight simulators (one offered by the Cadets, the other the Museum). The location of these simulators was dictated by the availability of 3 prong outlets.

With the sale of food, drinks, pens, flashlights, regalia and with a few donations received, we took in \$354.00. The benefits of exposure to the public cannot be underestimated. It was a successful week-end and we hope to be invited back in 2014.

*-Mary Watson  
PR Chairperson*



**Top:** Cadet James Sealy greeted visitors over both days of the event  
**Bottom:** Youngsters trying out one of the provided flight simulators



**Visitors to Parkwood (left to right):** Peter Stoffer, MP Halifax (Official Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs, NDP), 427 Wing Members Hilda & Frank Smeltzer, Irene Matthysen, MP (London-Fanshawe, NDP), Deb Wiltshire, Director (Veterans Care Program at Parkwood), Brian Harris and John Howie of Victory Legion.

## Visit to Parkwood Hospital

ON SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2013, Frank and I, along with several Veterans representatives and Government Officials, took a two hour tour of the Veteran's Section of Parkwood Hospital. We saw many areas such as the dining rooms, arts and wood working rooms, recreation rooms and health care areas. We spoke to a number of the residents and all seemed happy with their living accommodations and the services provided to them.

After the tour, we had lunch in the boardroom, followed by a round table discussion about the services provided by Parkwood Hospital and similar residences for our Veterans. One topic of discussion was: How can services available to Veterans be made to all Veterans?

*-Hilda Smeltzer*

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (AFAC) MISSION STATEMENT

The AFAC is a national aerospace and community service organization to:

- Commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who served as members of Canada's Air Forces since its inception;
- Advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force; and,
  - Support the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program.

### 427 (LONDON) WING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (WEC) JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2013 – JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2014

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Treasurer	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	<a href="mailto:trushton@ody.ca">trushton@ody.ca</a>

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Nominations	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith	519-673-1515	<a href="mailto:691s@rogers.com">691s@rogers.com</a>
Tours	Armin Grunwald, COM, MSM	519-474-2194	<a href="mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com">wing427tours@rogers.com</a>

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Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430	
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive	
London Link Editor	Tanya Deaville		<a href="mailto:tanya427ed@gmail.com">tanya427ed@gmail.com</a>
CF Liaison Officer	Capt Ali Ullah		<a href="mailto:ali.ullah@forces.gc.ca">ali.ullah@forces.gc.ca</a>

**250 Feet<sup>2</sup> for Rent at 427 (London) Wing** – This includes two rooms with a bar, kitchen facilities and lots of parking. This clean, attractive setting is great for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you'd like to have. Holds 125.

- Rental rates start at \$200
- Catering **IS** an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



## Message from the President

THIS MONTH PROVES A CHALLENGE to send out a brief message. I will mention a few of the recent events and then suggest you go to our website, [www.427wing.com](http://www.427wing.com), for more details about other upcoming events.

We have a number of Remembrance Day functions coming up and look forward to many of our members participating.

Other items to look forward to are: The Knights of Columbus Christmas Turkey Fundraising Lunch on Nov. 15th. On Nov. 29th. we are presenting "Great Escape - the Canadian Connection" offered by Ted Barris speaking about a Canadian story related to this event. This is his latest book. And we also have Tyler Trafford presenting his new book "Almost A Great Escape".

We attended the RCAFA AGM in Saskatoon and it was a very successful event. More information will follow as the minutes are issued. We also attended the Air Cadet AGM Oct. 26 and are pleased to advise you that two of our squadrons received awards:

*Irvin ERB Trophy* - 201 Squadron, Dorchester, Chair Tammy Hooper and the Cadet Instructor

*Cadre Award of Excellence* - 862 Squadron, Lambeth, Captain Marilyn Turner

Congratulations we are very proud of these accomplishments!

One last item to close out our year is the New Year's Eve Dance. We look forward to a terrific celebration. Get your tickets early!

*- Rene McKinnon  
President*

## Per Ardua

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR when we find ourselves between two Thanksgivings: Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving in early October and, about six weeks later, our good neighbours to the south celebrate Thanksgiving in late November.

The very first Thanksgivings were celebrated many years ago and took the form of two or three days of celebration and prayer thanking God for various blessings, such as a good harvest or the end of war. Historically, both countries had paused to "give thanks" on certain dates but both had to change the dates from time to time because of conflicts with other events. Finally, on December 26, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt set the date for Americans to be the fourth Thursday of November. Sixteen years later on January 31, 1957, the Canadian Parliament followed suit, except that our government decided that the best day for Thanksgiving would be the second Monday in October. So if you were too busy or forgetful and missed your chance to give thanks last October 14<sup>th</sup>, you have a second chance on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Members and friends of 427 Wing reflecting on the past year might agree that they have much to be thankful about. For example, the Wing owns a building that is still standing nearly 75 years after it was built. It is still used for meetings and social events, thanks to regular and careful maintenance. The floors are solid, the roof doesn't leak, the windows are clear, the plumbing works, the kitchen is clean and tidy and the grounds are well looked after. Moreover, as an independent club, our Wing history and our membership date back in an unbroken line to 1947, something that – regrettably - many other and former Wings cannot claim. We have lost too many members to Father Time, but we also have managed to gain new ones and we currently stand at 170 Regular, Associate and Honorary members. During the past year our Wing has gained more recognition in the community because we have formed strong relationships with different groups in the city through our rentals, through our association with other Wings and the seven Air Cadet squadrons we support, and through our invitations to Londoners to attend our events along with the annual celebrations we offer to the public, such as the Battle of Britain dinner, Doors Open London and our New Years Levee. We have not neglected our military traditions while attracting new members with fresh ideas. One of these ideas – actually an old one brought to new life – began this year with the first steps that will partner the Wing with an on-site museum to detail and celebrate the inspiring history of civilian and military aviation in London.

And most of all let us give thanks for our volunteers who daily give their thoughts, time and energy for the Wing, for all of us, and for the vision that we share.

*-Reg Lownie, CD  
1st Vice President*



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## Diana's Details

### Battle of Britain Commemorative Dinner

SEPTEMBER 14TH DIDN'T DISAPPOINT weather-wise. The day was sunny and warm for our outdoor ceremony at 3 pm. An additional five stones were laid and dedicated in the Spooner Memorial Garden, with Rev. Frank Mantz officiating with a colour party of our Members and trumpeter Roderic Brawn playing the Last Post. It was, as always, a moving event.

From 4:00pm until 5:30pm guests were encouraged to mingle and greet old friends. Once again, a very nice meal was catered and served by Belmont Catering with cadets very ably assisting. We had only 51 attending this year compared to last year's 66.

Special guests Irene Mathysen, MP for London Fanshawe and Peter Stoffer, MP for Sackville-Eastern Shore, N.S. joined us for the day.

This year there was an addition to our Last Post. As well as the 4 Members of the Wing who we lost in the past year, we gave the names of the 22 young Canadians who lost their lives in the 67 days of the Battle of Britain.

Our special Guest Speaker, Dr. Joel LaMourre, gave a very stirring talk -"We Will Not be Beaten"- about the 'ordinary' people on the ground during those dark days

All in all, a successful event for 427 Wing and not enough thanks can be given to all the people who volunteered their time to make this a successful event. I cannot list all the names in case I should miss someone, but you all know who you are. Many, many thanks for the hours and minutes and ideas you contributed.

*-Diana Cuthbert  
2nd Vice President*

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## Membership Report

THERE ISN'T MUCH TO REPORT this month, but I did find the following statistics quite interesting. In checking my records, I see we have 25 members who are 90 and older, with our oldest member being 98. That's amazing! Out of a membership of 165, that translates to approx. 15% of members age 90 & over. If you were to include those in their 80's it would translate to approximately 1/3 of our members are over the age of 80. WOW!

*-Cathy Newman  
Membership*

## Treasurer Terry

SINCE I WAS ON VACATION, Chuck Hardy covered things from the end of September into mid-October. Members should know that he has done an incredible job of running the books and deserves ample recognition. There is far more to keeping track of everything than it appears. It is not as straightforward to take over as one might have assumed, and I'm still learning.

Revenues have been lower than expenses of late, but with the greatly increased activity of the darker months, revenues are also increasing. New "out-of-the-box" ideas for Wing activities continue to be received and are most welcome.

If you enjoy the Friday lunches, bring a friend.

If you know of someone who would enjoy coming but who needs a ride, let the executive know and we will try our best to help.

To all Air Cadet officers, CIC cadre and CI's of the eight squadrons the Wing supports, keep the Wing in mind as a suitable venue for many squadron activities. (Even if rental is at no charge, increased activity will affect revenue.)"

*-Terry Rushton  
Treasurer*

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## The Happy Gang

HELP IS NEEDED in the kitchen for Friday lunches from 10:30am to 1pm. No cooking required. For info or to volunteer, please speak to Flo Douglas. Donated items are always welcome to help make our lunches a continued success!



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## Notes From The Secretary

I WANT TO THANK Betty Rose, Shirley Askew, Ralph Askew and Sam Newman for attending the Wing general meeting on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>. The remaining 9 members who attended are members of the Wing Executive Council (WEC). Where were many other members needed to participate in the democratic process? It is not enough to just pay the membership dues you know and go home after the Friday lunch. The Wing needs many more members to attend meetings and to have a say in how 427 (London) Wing is managed and to hear and discuss plans for the future. The next general meeting is at

**1 p.m. Friday October 25, 2013**

Please attend if you possibly can. Thank you.

Some portions of The Wing By-laws require updating. After being posted on the notice board, as required, for 30 days, the following amendments briefly outlined below were approved at the general meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>:

**Article 10.13** WEC is now empowered to expend, on behalf of the Wing, money not exceeding \$1,500.00. (previously it was \$500.00)

**New Article 14.2** A projected budget for the next fiscal year and a draft planning calendar of events should be presented at the June WEC meeting each year to assist the new WEC.

Other proposed amendments to the bylaws will be presented at future general meetings.

Please visit the new Wing website at [www.427wing.com](http://www.427wing.com) and pass on to Edith your thoughts on this robust site. Also, Tanya would like to hear from readers on what they think about The London Link. You are all welcome to send her articles.

*-Chuck Hardy*  
*Secretary*

## Can Ye Sew Cushions

AS SUNG BY THE CAMBRIDGE SINGERS

O can ye sew cushions, and can ye sew sheets,

And can ye sing ba-la-loo when the bairn greets?

And hie and baw birdie, and hie and baw lamb,

And hee and baw birdie, my bonnie wee lamb.

I've placed my cradle on yon hilly top,

And aye as the wind blew, my cradle did rock;

O hush-a-by, babie, O baw lilly loo,

And hee and baw, birdie, my bonnie wee doo.

And hie and baw, birdie, and hie and baw, lamb,

And hee and baw, birdie, my bonnie wee lamb.

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## Women Serve their Country with Pride

*Excerpts from Cornwall Standard Freeholder Article by Cheryl Brink & Airwomen Reminisce at Reunion from the Cornwall Seaway News*

HAILING FROM LONDON, ON, 427 Wing Member, Betty Rose Lauble, served in the RCAF during the Second World War. She joined several other airwomen in Cornwall this past June for the 11th biennial RCAF Airwomen's Reunion, at NavCentre. For these women, it's like a family get together, a chance to rekindle friendships and reminisce on their years of service to our country.

At the age of 89, youthfully spirited Betty travelled all the way from London to Cornwall to reconnect with others who wore the Royal Canadian Air Force Uniform. Accompanying her on the excursion were Marlene Galloway, who served from 1955-1960, with the air force police, and Glenora Cole, who served in the RCAF from 1957 to 1963, in accounting, and as a flight attendant on the Yukon Air Craft.

Betty Rose joined the ranks in 1942, at the tender age of 18, to support efforts in WW2. Betty says, "I didn't care much for the navy or the army, but I had always been fascinated with the sky". Though she only flew a couple of times, she said it was still a thrill to be part of service. Once training was complete, Betty was stationed in New Brunswick, where she worked in a warehouse to ensure all the troops were well dressed and equipped. Too young to be permitted to fly overseas (you had to be 21 to travel), she was happy to be able to do what she could here on Canadian soil.

The trip this year to Cornwall marks Betty's third time attending the reunion, whereupon she was the only remaining participant from the Second World War-era. Betty says she hopes the next generation will be inspired to join the ranks and continue Canada's rich military tradition. "It's a disciplined life, but it teaches you to face the world and roll with the punches". Congratulations Betty, Marlene and Glenora on your opportunity to meet and reminisce with your fellow airwomen!



**Top:** Ms Betty Rose Lauble accompanied with a picture of herself during her service years

**Bottom:** Glenora Cole, Betty Rose and Marlene Galloway



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## In Remembrance: The Story of Lancaster UL-N PD235

THE LANCASTER UL-N serial no. PD235, pictured at right, was built by London Canada aircraft model builder W.B. Logan. The mid upper turret was motorized and the bomb bay doors opened to release miniature bombs. The Lancaster was converted to a static model and donated to the 427 Wing RCAF for display purposes.

### History

This aircraft was one of 200 Lancaster MK. 1s ordered in April 1943 from Metro-Vick and delivered from June 1944 to December 1944 with Merlin 24 Engines. PD235 was delivered to 576 squadron RAF July 30, 1944 flying out of Elsham Wolds England. Sixteen of its ops were flown by the air crew of Pilot Edward Bennett RAF, Navigator David Baker RAF, Air bomber Francis Peter Walker RAF, Wireless Operator Donald Purse RAF, Air Gunner Vivian Graham Price RAF, Air Gunner Jack Purcell Manser RAF and Flight Engineer Leonard G. Playfoot RAF. Their first operation flying Lancaster PD235 was August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944 targeting Pauillac France. Bennett's crew successfully completed fifteen operations flying Lancaster



PD235. September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1944 the target was Calais France. Quoting The Bomber Command War Diaries by Martin Middlebrook & Chris Everitt, "188 aircraft – 101 Lancasters, 62 Halifaxes, 25 Mosquitoes. The German positions were completely covered by cloud at 2,000 ft and only 126 aircraft bombed. Most of these bombed Oboe – aimed sky-markers, but some aircraft came below cloud to bomb visually and 7 Lancasters and 1 Halifax were shot down by light Flak, which was very accurate at such a height." Lancaster PD235 was one of the missing.

The air crew are buried in two different cemeteries. It is thought that some of the crew bailed out while others went down with the plane. Air Gunner

Vivian Price and Air Bomber Francis Walker are buried in Calais Canadian War Cemetery Leubringen France. Pilot Edward Bennett, Navigator David Baker, Wireless Operator Donald Purse and Air Gunner Jack Manser are buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery France. Flight Engineer Leonard Playfoot parachuted to the ground and was taken as a POW. He was freed a few days later by the allied troops and returned to England.

Thanks to Anne Law RAF Wickenby Memorial Collection and Chris Stanfield military researcher Colchester England.

*-David Smith  
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/  
History & Veterans' Memorial*



### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM AIR CREW OF LANCASTER UL-N PD235

#### Top Row left-right, in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

D. Baker (Navigator), J.P. Manser (Air Gunner), D.W.G. Purse (Wireless OP), E. Bennett (Pilot)

#### Bottom Row, left-right, in Calais Canadian War Cemetery, France

F.P. Walker (Air Bomber), V.G. Price (Air Gunner)



## In Flanders Fields, A Brief History



*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe :  
To you, from failing hands we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."*

**-Lieutenant Colonel John  
Alexander McCrae, MD**

JOHN McCRAE (30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1872-28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1918) was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. It is thought that he began the draft for his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' in the second week of fighting during the Second Battle of Ypres.

Though various legends have developed as to the inspiration for the poem, the most commonly held belief is that McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields" on May 3, 1915, the day after presiding over the funeral and burial of his friend Lieutenant Alex Helmer, who had been killed during the Second Battle of Ypres. The poem was written as he sat upon the back of a medical field ambulance near an advance dressing post at Essex Farm, just north of Ypres. The poppy, which was a central feature of the poem, grew in great numbers in the spoiled earth of the battlefields and cemeteries of Flanders. When McCrae finished five minutes later, he took his mail from Sergeant-Major Cyril Allinson and, without saying a word, handed his pad to the young NCO. Allinson was moved by what he read and stated the following:

"The poem was exactly an exact description of the scene in front of us both. He used the word blow in that line because the poppies actually were

being blown that morning by a gentle east wind. It never occurred to me at that time that it would ever be published. It seemed to me just an exact description of the scene."

In fact, it was very nearly not published. Dissatisfied with it, McCrae tossed the poem away, but a fellow officer retrieved it and sent it to newspapers in England. The Spectator, in London, rejected it, but Punch published it on 8th December 1915.

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### LAST POST

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**THORNE, James**

Thursday, September 26th, 2013



A long-time resident of London, ON, having served 35 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. Jim, along with his wife Joy, came every week to enjoy Friday lunches and socializing with 427 Wing members. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Joy and family.



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## **Richard (Dick) J. Thomas, A member of 427 Wing will be receiving his 35 yr Service Pin this year!**

DICKS' CAREER WITH THE MILITARY began with the local 27 RC (Air) CS where he joined from 1948 – 1952. Believe it or not, S/L Denis Hammond was his CO for part of those years (remember that name?! Dick joined the RCAF Reserve in May of 1952, and became an Air Frame Tech with 420 (Snowy Owl Squadron) for two years. It was after he retired from the Reserves that he got into the grocery business where he worked for 42 years. Notwithstanding, he returned to the DND where he was enrolled as an OCdt in 1978, and became involved with 27 Sqn Air Cadets. He spent 6 years as a Training Officer, followed as an Administrative Officer, and the last 4 years as their Commanding Officer. He was taken off the Supplementary Reserve list for the Summer Cadet camps in 1982, and served in Ipperwash Army Cadet Camp and Camp Borden, for a combined total of 18 summers. From 1988 – 1992 Dick served as CO at 741 (Elgin) RC(Air) CS and then was invited to command the 2414 (London) Army Cadet Corps from 1992 – 1994. Dick ended off his military career with 15 years as an Army Cadet League Rep. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Dick is to be presented with his Air Cadet Service Medal earned in 1952, but which he never received. He will be presented the Medal on the parade square "Deck" of HMCS Prevost, by his original Cadet Commanding Officer, S/L Dennis Hammond (who later became an Air Cadet League Director as well) along with the present Commanding Officer of 27 (City of London) RC(Air)CS, Capt Glenn Allaire and London Regional League Director, Sam Newman.

Dick certainly leaves a 'lofty' legacy for many people to read about, since he retired from the Army Cadet League just two years ago. Many of his family members and friends plan to be present at his Medal Parade.

*-Sam Newman, CD*



**Oh to be young again!  
Top picture:**

Dick back in 1953 in a Harvard training plane whilst on a training operation in Bagotville, P.Q.

**Staying Young!  
Bottom picture:**

Taken two months ago in a similar plane at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mt Hope (Hamilton, Ontario.)





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## Edward V. Rickenbacker

*(pt. 5 - cont'd from previous issue)*

### NEAR-FATAL AIRLINE CRASH

Rickenbacker often traveled for business on Eastern Air Lines flights. On February 26, 1941, he was a passenger on a Douglas DC-3 airliner that crashed just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Rickenbacker suffered especially grave injuries, being soaked in fuel, immobile and trapped in the wreckage. In spite of his own critical wounds, he encouraged the other passengers, offered what consolation he could to those around him who were injured or dying and guided the survivors who were still ambulatory to attempt to find help. The survivors were rescued after spending the night at the crash site. Rickenbacker barely survived. This was just the first time that the press announced his death while he was still alive.

In a dramatic retelling of the incident, Rickenbacker's autobiography relates his astonishing experiences. While he was still conscious, but in terrible pain, Rickenbacker was left behind while some ambulances carried away bodies of the dead. When Rickenbacker arrived

at a hospital, his injuries appeared so grotesque that the emergency surgeons and physicians left him for dead for some time. They instructed their assistants to "take care of the live ones." Rickenbacker's injuries included a fractured skull, head injuries, a shattered left elbow with a crushed nerve, a paralyzed left hand, several broken ribs, a crushed hip socket, a pelvis broken in two places, a severed nerve in his left hip and a broken left knee. Rickenbacker's left eyeball was also blown out of its socket.

It took many months in the hospital, followed by a long time at home, for Rickenbacker to heal from this multitude of injuries and to regain his full eyesight. Rickenbacker described his terrible experience with vivid accounts of his mental state as he approached death – emphasizing the supreme act of will that it took to stave off dying. Rickenbacker's autobiography reports that he spent ten days at the door of death, which he illustrated as "having an overwhelming sensation of calm and pleasure."

### ACE DRUMMOND

Rickenbacker also scripted a popular

comic strip called Ace Drummond from 1935–1940. He worked with aviation artist and author Clayton Knight. The strip followed the adventures of aviator Drummond. It was later adapted into a film serial and radio program.

### WORLD WAR II

Rickenbacker supported the war effort as a civilian. In 1942, he toured training bases in the south-western United States and in England. He encouraged the American public to contribute time and resources and pledged Eastern Air Lines equipment and personnel for use in military activities. Rickenbacker inspected troops, operations and equipment and served in a publicity function to increase support from civilians and soldiers. In 1942, with a sweeping letter of authorization from Henry L. Stimson, US Secretary of War, Rickenbacker visited England on an official war mission and made ground-breaking recommendations for better war operations.

### ADRIFT AT SEA

One of Rickenbacker's most famous near-death experiences occurred in



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*cont'd from pg. 10*

October 1942. He was sent on a tour of the Pacific Theatre of Operations to review both living conditions and military operations and also to deliver personally a secret message to General Douglas MacArthur from the President. After visiting several air and sea bases in Hawaii, Rickenbacker was a passenger in the B-17D Flying Fortress numbered 40-3089, which strayed hundreds of miles off course while on its way to a refuelling stop on Canton Island in the Central Pacific Ocean. The B-17 was forced to ditch in a remote and little-traveled part of the Central Pacific.

The failure in navigation has been ascribed to an out-of-adjustment celestial navigation instrument, a bubble octant, which gave a systematic bias to all of its readings. That octant reportedly had suffered a severe shock in a pre-takeoff mishap. This unnecessary ditching spurred on the development of improved navigational instruments and also better survival gear for the airmen. The B-17's pilot-in-command, Captain William T. Cherry, Jr., was forced to ditch his B-17 in the Pacific Ocean, rather close to Japanese-held islands, also. However, the Americans were never spotted by Japanese patrol planes and they were to drift on the ocean for thousands of miles.

For twenty-four days, Rickenbacker, Army Captain Hans C. Adamson, his friend and business partner and the rest of the crewmen drifted in life rafts at sea. Rickenbacker was still suffering somewhat from his earlier airplane crash and Capt. Adamson sustained serious injuries during the ditching. The other crewmen in the B-17 were hurt to varying degrees. The crewmen's food supply ran out after three days. Then, on the eighth day, a seagull landed on Rickenbacker's head. He warily and cautiously captured it and then the survivors meticulously divided it into equal parts and used part of it for fishing bait. They lived on sporadic rain water that fell and similar food "miracles."

Rickenbacker assumed leadership, encouraging and brow-beating the others to keep their spirits up. The U.S. Army Air Forces and the U.S. Navy's patrol planes planned to abandon the search for the lost B-17 crewmen after just over two weeks, but Rickenbacker's wife persuaded them to extend it another week. The services agreed to do so. Once again, the newspapers and radio broadcasts reported that Rickenbacker was dead.

A US Navy patrol OS2U-3 Kingfisher float-plane spotted and rescued the survivors on November 13, off the coast of Nukufetau in Tuvalu. All were suffering from exposure, sunburn,

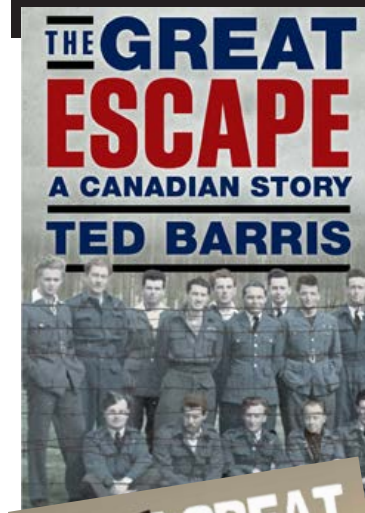
dehydration and near-starvation. Rickenbacker completed his assignment and delivered his message, which has never been made public, to General MacArthur. Rickenbacker had thought that he had been lost for 21 days and wrote a book about this experience titled *Seven Came Through*, published by Doubleday, Doran. It was not until later that he recalculated the number of days and he corrected himself in his autobiography in 1967. The pilot of the plane that rescued the survivors, Lieutenant William F. Eadie, USN, was awarded the Navy's Air Medal for his actions during the rescue.

*(to be cont'd next edition)*

## THE GREAT ESCAPE the Canadian Connection!

*Friday, November 29th, 2013, 7pm at 427 Wing*

Mesmerizing true stories behind one of the most daring feats of the Second World War



Join authors, Tyler Trafford and Ted Barris, for an incredible evening of stories so fascinating you'd swear they were fiction! In *Almost a Great Escape*, Tyler tells the story of his mother Alice, whose 'One Good Thing' was her relationship with WW2 pilot Jens Muller. Jens was imprisoned in the infamous Stalag Luft III POW camp. Alice promised to wait for his return. Their story is riveting. Renowned historian/author Ted Barris will talk about his new book *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story*, which offers a unique retelling of the Great Escape through first-hand recollections of the Canadians who experienced it.

**Tickets \$10.00. Available at the Wings' Friday lunch or call (519)455-0340 to reserve**

# BIRTHDAY BRATS



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

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*—George Bernard Shaw*



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## On the Lighter Side

- Never ask a two-year old to hold a tomato.
- Archaeologist – a person whose career is in ruins.
- Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in the dirt and cross the road again? Because he was a dirty double-crosser.
- Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?
- A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.
- When a kind heart comes smiling, an angel is never far behind.
- How come kids can enjoy two hours of sledding in the cold but only two minutes when shovelling?
- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment.
- People would enjoy life much more if, once they got what they wanted, they could remember how much they wanted it.
- It's clear, said the teacher, that you haven't studied your geography: what's your excuse? Well, said the student, my Dad says that the world is changing everyday so I've decided to wait until it settles down.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Remembrance Day Ceremony, Southwold Keystone Complex

**Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 9:30am.** Speaker will be Ted Barris. Arrive early, as this is a well attended event. 35921 Talbot Line, Shedden, ON

### The City of London Remembrance Day Service

**Monday, November 11, 2013**  
HELD OUTDOORS AT THE VICTORIA PARK Cenotaph, located on the northwest corner of Wellington and Dufferin Streets. The parade begins at 10:30am on the corner of Dundas and Waterloo streets and moves west through to the Cenotaph. Our members are welcome to join in the walk, meet up time is approximately 9:45am at the Delta Armouries Hotel.

### Lester B. Pearson School for the Performing Arts

**Monday, November 11th, 2013, 3pm**  
THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY Presentation by the Students in the gym. You will not be disappointed by the wonderful presentation by the students. Please see Sam Newman ASAP if you would like to attend.  
795 Trafalgar St, London, ON

### Upcoming General Meeting

A GENERAL MEETING will be taking place on Friday, November 22nd, 2013 at 1pm. All members are encouraged to attend in order to have their voices heard. This is your chance to have your say as the Wing soars into the future.

### New Year's Levees

**January 1st, 2013** (dress code in effect)

- 10am - 12pm HMCS PREVOST  
19 Becher St., London
- 12pm - 2pm Wolseley Barracks  
Officers' Mess  
701 Oxford St. East
- 2pm - 4pm 427 (London) Wing  
2155 Crumlin Side Road

### New Year's Eve Gala

**Tuesday, December 31, 2013, 8:30pm - 12:30am.** Advance tickets are \$35 and \$40 at the door, which includes buffet. John Noubarian will be providing the entertainment. Please contact Diana for more information.



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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## 427 WING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>Lunch MOVIE, PN</b>	2 <b>LVRC</b>
3	4	5 <b>RAA</b>	6 <b>Cards</b>	7 <b>WT</b>	8 <b>Lunch WEC</b>	9
10 <b>MAC SKC</b>	11  <b>VPC LPRD</b>	12 <b>MAC</b>	13 <b>Cards BCC</b>	14	15  <b>XMAS LUNCH</b>	16
17	18	19	20 <b>Cards</b>	21 <b>COM WT</b>	22 <b>Lunch GM</b>	23
24	25	26 <b>FO</b>	27 <b>Cards</b>	28	29 <b>Lunch TGE, WD</b>	30

### DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <b>RAA</b>	4 <b>Cards</b>	5 <b>WT</b>	6 <b>Lunch MOVIE</b>	7
8	9	10 <b>COM MAC</b>	11 <b>Cards BCC</b>	12	13 <b>Lunch WEC</b>	14 <b>RENTAL</b>
15	16	17	18 <b>Cards</b>	19	20 <b>Lunch MOVIE</b>	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27 <b>HOLIDAY CLOSED</b>	28
29	30	31 <b>NYE</b>	1 <b>LEV</b>			

### LEGEND

**BCC** British Car Club meeting at 7:30 pm  
**COM** Retired Commissionaires, 9am – 12pm  
**FO** Fanshawe Optimist's Club meeting at 7:30 pm  
**GM** General Meeting at 1pm  
**LEV** New Year's Levees, January 1st, 2014, details on pg. 13  
**LPRD** Lester B. Pearson Remembrance Day, details on pg. 13  
**LVRC** London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 7:30 p.m  
**MAC** Model Aircraft Club meeting at 7:30 pm  
**NYE** New Year's Eve Gala, details on pg. 13  
**PN** Pub Night  
**RAA** Recreational Aircraft Association meeting at 7:30 pm

**SKC** Southwold Keystone Complex Remembrance Day, see pg. 13 for details  
**TGE** Presentation by Ted Barris and Tyler Trafford, details on pg. 11  
**VPC** Remembrance Day Ceremony at Victoria Park, see pg. 13 for details  
**WD** The Women's Division join us every last Friday of the month for lunch  
**WEC** Executive Council Meeting at 1pm  
**WT** Wood Turners meeting at 7:30 pm  
**XML** Christmas Lunch, see advert on pg. 13



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