

# THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
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## Aeronca Aircraft Rebuild Project with Air Cadets

ON JULY 25, 2014, 21 AIR CADETS, ages 15-18 years, from seven Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadrons in London and area, plus 14 from various locations in Ontario, completed the sixth year, summer course on the Aeronca Aircraft Project.

The project--Aviation Technology and Maintenance Course--started in 2008 at the John Paul II Catholic Secondary School.

The project had been organized to help train young Air Cadets which will undoubtedly benefit the community.

The Aeronca Aircraft Project is an opportunity for young Air Cadets to enhance their skills in aviation technology and maintenance. All 21 Air Cadets who graduated earned a high school credit and a bursary.

Along with Danny Galante, the Aviation Instructor, the Air Cadets taking the summer course did safety, theory and hands-on work on the 1947 Aeronca 'Chief' Aircraft which was donated to the Air Cadet program in 2008. The funds to rebuild the Aeronca for parts, repairs and overhaul of the engine are raised by the Aeronca Aircraft Project Committee by private donations. The plan is that the rebuilt aircraft will fly one day. Remember, not all Air Cadets can become pilots, but pilots need technicians!

### *Aeronca Aircraft Project Committee:*

LCol (Retd) Armin Grunwald, Chairperson; Capt (Retd) Sam Newman, Vice Chairperson; Judy Grunwald, Secretary; Major (Retd) Al Szawara, Treasurer; Major (Retd) Chris Redfearn, Member; Danny Galante, Member, Instructor, Department Head of Technology / Aviation; Jack Schenck, Member, Technical Advisor; Major (Retd) John Scott, ex officio, non-voting Member, Chair OPC Strategic Aviation Committee



**above:** Danny Galante (far left) and Armin Grunwald with 21 Air Cadets, including: Mannar Alzureiqi, Kyle Bennett, Ryan Butts, Kichi (Daniel) Choi, Aaron Chu, Vlad Cojocarasu, Baily Frost, Isaac Guichelaar, Yarden Haddi, Brandon Keller, Craig Klein, Kallen R. Merrison, Devyn Onyschuk, Brady Parcels, Donald Post, Shawn Richardson, Marcus Schindhelm, Nathaniel Sparks, Arren Vincent, James Voisin, Liam Woolley.



**above:** Tuesday, 15 July 2014, the 21 Air Cadets toured 427 (London) Wing, with Sam Newman as their guide, and the Wing prepared a BBQ for the Air Cadets and supervisors.

# ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

The RCAFA 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> 2014 – JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2015

President	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	<a href="mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca">renemck@sympatico.ca</a>
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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Reg Lownie, CD	519-667-1989	<a href="mailto:rlownie@yahoo.com">rlownie@yahoo.com</a>
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Secretary	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer	Peggy Clark	226-448-5248	<a href="mailto:peggyclark@live.ca">peggyclark@live.ca</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

*Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports and Sgt-at-Arms – call Wing for info*

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Housing	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	<a href="mailto:don.clarke@hotmail.com">don.clarke@hotmail.com</a>
Housing Back-Up	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca</a>
Membership	Cathy Newman	519-452-1886	<a href="mailto:cathy.newman@rogers.com">cathy.newman@rogers.com</a>
Public Relations	Don Martin	519-289-5880	<a href="mailto:donmartin013@gmail.com">donmartin013@gmail.com</a>
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie/Sam Newman Hilda Smeltzer	519-539-5956	<a href="mailto:lgair@execulink.com">lgair@execulink.com</a>
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Regalia	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	<a href="mailto:trushton@ody.ca">trushton@ody.ca</a>
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Air Cadet Liaison	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
Lottery	Mike Ryan	519-455-1668	
Nominations	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
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## CLUB SERVICES

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London Link Editor	Tanya Deaville		<a href="mailto:tanya427ed@gmail.com">tanya427ed@gmail.com</a>
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**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.

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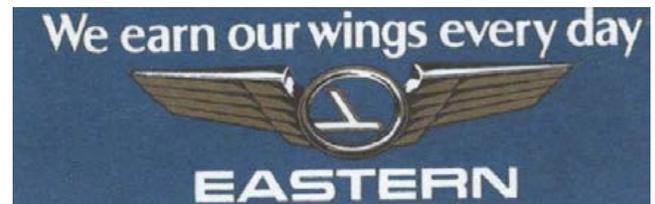
## Message from the President

FOR THIS EDITION OF OUR LONDON LINK I feel like a news reporter calling in a live story. On August 20th, Reg Lownie (our 1st. VP) and I were delivering the invoices to our Link advertisers. This is an annual event that gives us a chance to meet and greet our advertisers. As we were leaving J&B Trucks n' Stuff, John Brotzel, the President, mentioned he had an aircraft at one of his other locations. On the proverbial napkin he made a drawing of its location and suggested we might wish to go by and check it out. We did as suggested and found a 1930's era, two seat bi-wing aircraft stored in a large cargo container. You will see below a photo of the side of the aircraft and it's registration. It is disassembled and the engine has been removed. There are more photos at the Wing for those interested in having a more detailed look. The amazing thing is that the Wing was given possession of this aircraft eight days after first seeing it. It was an exciting moment. Our Wing's first aircraft!

So a question - what is the Wing going to do with an airplane? Well as you know we have started the process to have the Spirit of Flight Aviation Museum registered as a museum. Aside from our building, which is a significant museum artifact, we hope to be able to restore this aircraft and if permitted have it on static display on the grounds of the Wing.

There is a long list of items to be addressed and we are just starting. There has already been quite an exciting response from Wing members wanting to know how they will be able get involved in the project. A very encouraging sign. I am reminded of an advertising promotional slogan from my previous career at Eastern Air Lines. It is below at right, and I would like it to be the rallying call for all our members "We Earn Our Wings Every Day". With the necessary fundraising and permissions, we may have the aircraft on static display for the upcoming OGAGM (Ontario Group Annual General Meeting) that 427 (London) Wing is hosting here in London, May 2016.

*-Rene McKinnon  
President*



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## Notes From The Secretary

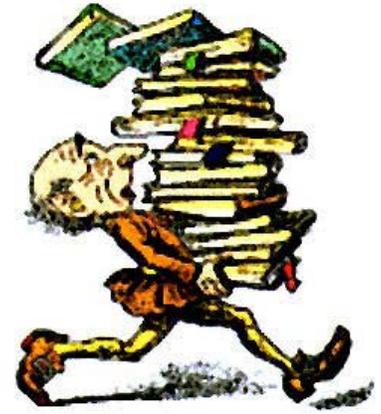
REMEMBER THE LOVELY TUNE BY ROGERS AND HART "I Could Write a Book?" I use this as a lead into this article about books. Stratford, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Owen Sound and Goderich have great independent bookstores that I always visit (read: take refuge in) while my wife Pat goes to the ladies' shops. All have great bargains on many subjects from fiction to autobiographies. I just read "Hard Choices" by Hillary Rodham Clinton about her term as Secretary of State. There was a good write-up yesterday on a book by Ben MacIntyre "A Spy Among Friends". This new novel, already on the top 10 list, about spying in WW2 and the Cold War, is \$32.00 Canadian. Want the book, but will wait for it to be discounted.

New books in mint condition have been added to the Wing's ongoing book sale. All are reasonably priced. Just added is one by former CBC reporter, Don Newman, entitled "Welcome to the Broadcast". He welcomed viewers to his political program with the title of the book for many years. That book was \$40.00. At the Wing you can buy it for just \$3.00. A good bargain indeed! Look for other fine books both hard cover and soft cover. I highly recommend the books by Anne Perry featuring Police Inspectors Pitt or Monk in the Victorian era in England. Look too for Rumpole of the Old Bailey and new book on tales of Sherlock Holmes.

Oh yes ladies, the Wing has recent and earlier period romance stories. Please look over the books on tables in the bar room, on the table as you go in for lunch and in other places in the Wing. Thanks to Marian and Ray for donating books on the opening day after the July break. The first member to buy a book – entitled "The Purchase" was Ken Lilley for his wife, Linda. Hope Linda enjoys the book Ken!

The Wing book sale is in its third year. Donations are welcome. Come shop anytime the Wing is open and tell your friends, relatives and neighbours. While e-books are convenient and novel, no doubt you, like me, prefer the feel and indeed the smell of a fine book. Comments on this article are most welcome. Thanks everyone.

*-Chuck Hardy  
Secretary*



## Diana's Details

BELOW IS SOMETHING I LEARNED SOME TIME AGO and have been telling my senior awareness groups just this same thing for years. It is quite true and confirmed by neurologists.

It is comforting for those older people who stand in front of the refrigerator wondering what the heck they wanted to get out of it, or who go upstairs and then forget why, to know that it's not because they're losing it but because they know so much! "The human brain works slower in old age but only because we have stored so much information over time."

There is plenty of published information available online. Have a look!

*-Diana Cuthbert*



## Euchre

EUCHRE WILL RESTART on the first Wednesday in Sept. that is Sept. 3. Still only \$1 and weekly prizes. This season the bar will be open (Thank you Flo!).



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## Per Ardua

MANY PEOPLE ARE FEARFUL ABOUT FLYING in aircraft and many others have terrifying dreams about falling. So it is not too difficult to imagine how Flight Sergeant Nicholas Alkemade must have felt on the night of March 24, 1944. Alkemade was the rear gunner in an RAF Avro Lancaster of Number 115 Squadron, taking part in a 300 bomber raid on Berlin. During the return flight his aircraft was attacked by a Ju88 night-fighter. Alkemade returned fire and saw the fighter burst into flames. His triumph was short lived however, as the Lancaster was now aflame as well and beginning to spiral earthward. Even worse, his parachute was burning and totally useless. As the fire increased, he quickly decided he would rather die by falling than burn to death. He dived from his gun turret into the open sky, 18,000 feet (5,500 m) above the earth. When he regained consciousness, he found his fall had been broken by pine trees and deep snow, and he suffered only minor bruises. Captured by the Germans and sent to a POW camp, he was later told they had found the burnt remains of his parachute in the crashed Lancaster. He was repatriated in May 1945 and died in June 1987 at the age of 65.

In January 1942, Ivan Chisov, the navigator on a Soviet Airforce Ilyushin II-4 bomber, was forced to leave the aircraft after an attack by German fighters. Chisov deliberately decided not to pull his ripcord until he was well below the enemy aircraft, fearing they would shoot him as he hung from the chute. He did not consider how thin the atmosphere would be at 23,000 feet (7,000 m) and passed out from a lack of oxygen. Falling at a speed between 190 to 240 km/h (120 to 150 mph), he struck the edge of a snowy ravine and continued to roll and slide down to the bottom. Soviet army forces had seen his fall and rushed to his aid, surprised to find him still alive and strapped into an unopened parachute. He suffered severe injuries, including a broken pelvis and spinal injuries. Remarkably, after several operations he recovered sufficiently to be able to fly again three months later, but that was denied and he finished the war as a navigator trainer.

Alan Magee was the tail gunner on a USAF B-17 Flying Fortress of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, flying his seventh mission over St. Nazaire, France, at an altitude of 22,000 feet (6,700 m). When the aircraft was attacked by German fighters, Magee was wounded by shrapnel and his parachute destroyed. He had no choice but to leap from the plane. He quickly lost consciousness because of the height and fell over four miles before crashing through the glass roof of the St. Nazaire railroad station. Astonished rescuers found him alive on the station floor, with several broken bones, severe damage to his nose and eye, lung and kidney damage and his right arm was nearly severed. He was given medical treatment and taken as a POW, but liberated in May, 1945. He died in Texas in 2003 from stroke and kidney failure at the age of 84. On January 3, 1993, the citizens of St. Nazaire honoured Magee and the bomber crew by erecting a 6-foot tall memorial to them.

Many people donate a variety books to the Wing. A few weeks ago I picked up a book titled “Wings of Glory” which included the story of a tail gunner in an RAF Lancaster bomber who departed the aircraft at 18,000 feet without his parachute - and survived. His amazing tale led me to equally miraculous escapes by two other airmen – one American and one Russian.

*-Reg Lownie  
1st Vice President*



## Tidbits from the Treasurer

JULY 1ST, 2014 MARKS THE START of our new fiscal year. Being closed for the month of July always hurts our bottom line; however, I am confident that the next year will bring successful events allowing our bank account to build. Donations are always welcome throughout the year. Thank you!

*-Peggy Clark  
Treasurer*

## Golf Tournament Participants from June 18th



See the July/August edition of the London Link for tournament results!

**Group #1** – Don Clarke, Len Truant, Peter Dejardin(Guest) Denise Duckworth (FSNA)

**Group #2** – Don Martin, Joan Clark, Sam Newman, Marilyn Tanner (Sarnia)

**Group #3 The Winners** – Fred Pettit, Keith Roden (Navy) Pauline Reaney (Sarnia) Diana Cuthbert

**Group #4** – Jack Clark, Shirley Kelly (Sarnia) Freida Stewart (Sarnia)

**Picture #5** – Harry Beukboom, Mike Sydorko, Mike Ryan

**Note:** On July 23 Fred Pettit and Diana Cuthbert entered the Sarnia Wing's Better Ball Tournament and won for 427.



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## Italian Campaign

MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS invites Canadian Veterans of the Italian Campaign to take part in ceremonies in Italy.

Reference **N14077E**

August 1, 2014 – Ottawa – Veterans Affairs Canada

The Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$2,000 in travel subsidy to Veterans of the Italian Campaign who want to attend commemorative events marking the 70th anniversary in Italy.

An official Government of Canada delegation, led by Minister Fantino, will include Veterans and will honour the sacrifices made by those who served, and participate in commemorative ceremonies from November 24-28, 2014.

Quick Facts: During the Second World War, more than 93,000 Canadians fought to liberate Italy, and almost 6,000 lost their lives. Commemorative ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the Italian Campaign will take place in Italy from November 24-28, 2014 at the Cassino War Cemetery, the Price of Peace Monument in Ortona, the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, and the Coriano Ridge War Cemetery.

Canadian Veterans of the Italian Campaign are eligible to apply for a travel subsidy and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible by contacting [1-866-522-2122](tel:1-866-522-2122), visiting [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca) or e-mailing [vac-italy-italie2014-acc@vac-acc.gc.ca](mailto:vac-italy-italie2014-acc@vac-acc.gc.ca) This year, the Government of Canada is marking a number of commemorative events, including the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the start of the Second World War.

## Spoooner Memorial Stones

LAST CALL TO ORDER YOUR LEGACY STONE at the Wing for this year.

Time is running out to ensure your Legacy Stone will be ready for its Blessing at our Battle of Britain Memorial Service 13 September. Should any member wish to purchase one of these Stones for a loved one, family member or just a friend, to be placed in our Spooner Gardens, please contact Sam Newman for further information at (519) 452 - 1886. Application forms may be found on the Bar Room Bulletin Board of our Wing. Prices start for a donation of \$125 and up. Quantities of more than 1, or special orders, may be negotiated.





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## Long-time Members Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



On Saturday, July 20th, 427 (London) Wing Members, Frank & Hilda Smeltzer, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the club. Above, they are surrounded by their beautiful family and were joined by many friends to honour such an important milestone! Congratulations Frank and Hilda!

## 427 (London) Wing at the SouthWest Ontario Air Show on August 23rd in Tillsonburg



With the help of volunteers, the 427 (London) Wing setup camp for the weekend at the SouthWest Air Show in Tillsonburg. Selling regalia and socializing with the day's visitors, the two days were a delightful success. You can catch a glimpse of one of the weekend's volunteers, Terry Rushton, in the picture, at right. Thanks to all who came out to help!



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## Strathroy Honours General Sir Arthur Currie

MONDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> MARKED THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the beginning of World War I. The town of Strathroy honoured a native son, General Sir Arthur Currie, the first appointed commander of the Canadian Corps during WW I with the dedication of a monument to him, located at the Strathroy Library and Museum.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Canadian Regiment assumed reversed arms at the Cenotaph followed by a parade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Cavalry Troop and the Canadian Great War Society WW I re-enactors representing the men and women who served in WW I.

Following this group, 4 platoons of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets (RCAC) from Blackdown Training Camp at Camp Borden, led by the RCAC Camp Blackdown Band playing WW I tunes, paraded to their positions facing the monument. Each platoon represented one of the divisions that fought at Vimy Ridge in WW I. The Battle of Vimy Ridge was the focus of the RCAC fund raising program that contributed over \$20,000 to the General Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Project. The Honourable David C. Onley, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, reviewed the RCAC.

Strathroy Mayor Vanderheyden welcomed the dignitaries and introduced the Master of Ceremonies, Professor Emeritus Jack Hyatt. Dignitaries contributing to the ceremonies included David C. Onley, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Brian Angyal, Project Chairman, Bev Shipley, MP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex and the Sculptor, Adrienne Alison.

The Currie Memorial Project Committee Members and the community of Strathroy are to be commended for honouring a native son, General Sir Arthur Currie.



**top:** 4th RCR Reversed Arms  
**bottom:** General Sir Arthur Currie

*-David Smith*

*War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/History & Veterans*

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## LAST POST

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### Quaife, Howard E.

Thursday, July 3rd, 2014



Howard, in his 89th year, passed away peacefully at the LHSC University Campus. He is remembered thoughtfully by his many friends here at the Wing.

### St. Lawrence, Agnes

Monday, July 7th, 2014

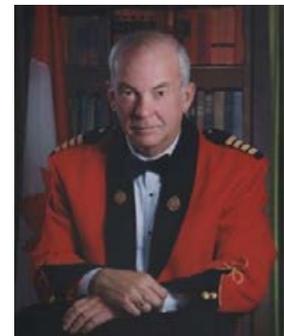


Agnes passed in the early hours of Monday, July 7, 2014 at North York General Hospital in Toronto. Multiple health issues conspired against her plans to celebrate her 98th birthday.

Her many friends and supportive neighbours in London, Ontario kept her going as did the camaraderie she enjoyed here at the 427 (London) Wing, where she was an active member for many years.

### Lawson, Tom

Monday, July 7th, 2014



Honorary Colonel Thomas Charles Ray Lawson, OSJ, CD. The Phoenix has lost its captain. Tom's contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces will never be forgotten.

## Good God, Olympic Gold!

Author: Les MacLaughlin, published in *Airforce, Spring 1998* (part 4, cont'd from previous edition)

Meanwhile, the Swiss officials were planning for every eventuality. They heard that the Canadian Parliament was debating whether or not to make O Canada the country's official national anthem. When Watson arrived in Zurich just a few days before the Olympics began; "I got a phone call from a fellow with the Swiss International Ice Hockey Federation. He asked me to come to a radio studio where a big surprise would await."

It was a surprise alright. A Swiss official told him they were aware of the new anthem and, at such short notice, had phoned the Canadian Embassy in Berne asking for the music. The embassy didn't have the music, but a secretary would sing it over the phone. As she did, the conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Switzerland transcribed her singing into sheet music. The morning before Watson arrived at the studio, the orchestra recorded the Canadian anthem. The song the secretary sang over the phone was The Maple Leaf Forever. She hadn't heard of the new anthem either.

"The Swiss were so proud of what they had done. I didn't have the heart to tell them this wasn't our anthem" says Watson with a chuckle. "So, I decided to let it stand and that the Maple Leaf Forever would be our national anthem." Perhaps it didn't matter anyway since hardly anyone thought they'd need to play the Canadian anthem at the end of the hockey tournament.

The crucial game against the Czechs was played on 6 Feb. It was a classic match. Czech coach, Mike Buchna, a Canadian, called it "real playoff hockey." Murray Dowey recorded his third shutout of the games. But the Flyers couldn't beat the Czech goalie either. Final score - a tie at 0.

"What I remember most of all," said Reg Schroeter, "is back checking, back checking, back checking. I had a good chance late in the game and said to myself, 'Oh God, why didn't that go in?'"

The Canadians were elated not only at the result of this game, but by a decision taken the previous night. The thorny question which had dogged the games was settled at a meeting of the IOC. Hockey would be re-instated as an official Olympic sport at the 1948 games.

Canada would now have to win its final two games - one against Austria and one against Switzerland, and then count on the Czechs to beat the Swiss in order to win the gold. In their match against Austria, Dowey recorded his fourth shutout in seven games. Final score 12-0. The next day, Czechoslovakia handed Switzerland its first loss of the tournament. The Czechs remained tied with Canada for first place. But Canada could win the gold on the basis of goals for and against, if they defeated Switzerland in their final game.

Meanwhile, Canada didn't only have S/L Sandy Watson as a manager, they had Dr. Sandy Watson as their medical officer. Dr. Watson recalls having his medical kit at the player's bench. If a

player was hit with a stick or a puck, Watson would sew in sterilized sutures as soon as the player came off the ice. No need to go to the infirmary like the Europeans.

"This helped us a lot," says Watson, "because we were only allowed to dress 11 players. If a player had to go to the hospital, we couldn't replace him."

Watson recalls that the European press thought he was a butcher for sewing up players with no anaesthetic. "Simply," says Dr. Watson, "if a player had a cut, it was numb anyway. I would stitch him up and coach Boucher would send him back in."

The final game against Switzerland was played before a huge and highly partisan Swiss crowd. The outdoor ice was slushy, press reports claimed the European referees favoured the Swiss and the fans in St. Moritz threw snowballs at the Canadian players. By all accounts, it was a rowdy affair. Goalie Murray Dowey didn't seem to mind. Final score Canada 3 - Switzerland 0. Dowey had his fifth shutout in eight games. But the only thing on the minds of the Flyers in Europe and the fans back home was "Good God, Olympic Gold!"

"It was a tremendous feeling of relief for all of us," says Reg Schroeter, "because we weren't expected to win. The press was so bad when we left, all I could think of was 'Thank God, we won!'"

With the strains of The Maple Leaf Forever echoing through the hills of St. Moritz, Capt. George Mara led his

*(continued on page 12)*



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Dave Van Kesteren, Chatham - Kent - Essex MP**



**Presentation**

**“Remembering the Crew of the  
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**Friday, October 17th, 2014  
at 1pm**

*427 (London) Wing  
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**Veteran Care**

Good morning,

Appended is the link to an excellent Global News report on availability of mental health crisis in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The article includes several interviews with serving and released members as well as an interview with Col Rakesh Jetley, the Senior Psychiatrist and Mental Health Advisor to the Surgeon General.

I have also appended two video clips produced by the CAF for serving members on mental health. The first video is about the need to address the stigma of mental health and includes interviews by serving members. The second video discusses the process of mental health treatment for serving members.

<http://globalnews.ca/invisible-wounds/>

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/video.page?doc=addressing-the-stigma-of-mental-health/htfhtue8>

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/video.page?doc=process-of-mental-health-treatment/hwiya30d>

If you are aware of a Veteran needing assistance help is available:

- For any emergency or crisis situation, call 911
- For all Veterans or their families who are in emergency situations or need help call the 24 hour toll free crisis help line 1-800-268-7708. This [CAF/VAC Assistance Service](#) is a 24-hour toll-free help line that can provide all Veterans and their families with short-term professional counselling and referral services, including support for mental and emotional health concerns.

Kind regards,

Andrea L. Siew, Veterans Advocacy Consultant  
1-855-304-4700



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# BIRTHDAY BRATS

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## SEPTEMBER

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Spike SPICER • Claude VIGEANT • Ken WATSON  
John WEBSTER

## OCTOBER

Gus CAMERON • Matt CRIGER • Tanya DEAVILLE  
Des DESSERT • Flo DOUGLAS • Armin GRUNWALD  
Bette HEXTER • Maxine JONES • Glen KNUPP  
Mary MANSON • Don MARTIN • Hugh POLLOCK  
Ernie REGAN • Thomas TABOROWSKI • Al WHITE

*“Old is always fifteen years from now.”*

*-Bill Cosby*

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### *(Olympic Gold, cont'd from page 10)*

gold medal team of RCAF Flyers to the podium. “When they raised the Canadian Flag, it fills you. You know, you can feel it and you become quite emotional,” recalls Ab Renaud. “I still am.”

“Per Ardua Ad Astra,” says coach Boucher, “through adversity to the stars. There was nothing else we could do but win it.”

The unexpected, indeed perhaps the unexplainable had happened. The reason for this fairy book ending for one of Canada’s most unlikely team of hockey heroes may never be known. No matter, Canadians were quick to show their gratitude. Telegrams poured in from groups and individuals across the land. Perhaps the most telling was from a senior diplomat in the Department

of External Affairs. “What you did was the greatest diplomatic feat of any group from Canada in my experience.” It was signed ‘Mike Pearson.’

On 1 Feb, in St. Moritz, F/O Hubert Brooks married Birthe Grontvend. The newly minted team of hockey heroes, dressed in RCAF uniform, with Olympic gold medals around the necks, formed the guard of honour. Canada’s figure skating gold medalist, Barbara Ann Scott was the bridesmaid.

This unlikely collection of military and ex-military men had become the darlings of the European sporting community. Their planned tour of European cities to play a series of exhibition games was a roaring success. “We were treated like conquering heroes by the fans,” says Ab Renaud. “The largest crowds we ever had back home might be a few thousand. In Paris,

against the Paris Racing Club, the best team in Europe, 19,000 people showed up. But it was a gruelling tour.”

When the exhibition tour ended, the RCAF Flyers had played in front of 250,000 fans. Their final record overseas was 31 wins, 5 losses and 6 ties. A large and enthusiastic crowd gave the Flyers a heroes’ welcome as they paraded through downtown Ottawa on 6 Apr 1948. “Unmitigated pride, you just felt proud of the whole bunch of guys,” recalls Reg Schroeter.

The team was disbanded on 10 Apr, after playing a benefit game in Ottawa against a team of NHL All-Stars which included Phil Watson, Frankie Eddols and Sid Smith.

The next Canadian Olympic gold medal was won in 1952 by the Edmonton Mercurys.

*-end*



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**63RD ANNUAL  
 WARRIOR'S DAY  
 PARADE**

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Saturday, September 6th,  
 at 11AM  
 on Dundas Street  
 Meet at Boyle Community Centre



We are proudly participating in  
 Doors Open London 2014!

Taking place the weekend of  
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**BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

74TH COMMEMORATIVE DINNER AT 427 WING  
 SATURDAY, SEPT 13TH

Guest Speaker <b>William (Bill) Cumming</b>	4:15 pm - Social Time 5:00 pm - Harvard Fly Past 5:30 pm - Dinner Served	For tickets, contact Jack Clark at 519-686-1303
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## 427 WING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>RAA</b>	3 <b>CARDS</b>	4 <b>WT</b>	5 <b>Lunch</b>	6 <b>LVRC WDP</b>
7	8	9 <b>MAC</b>	10 <b>CARDS BCC</b>	11	12 <b>Lunch WEC</b>	13 <b>BOB</b>
14	15	16	17 <b>CARDS</b>	18	19 <b>Lunch</b>	20 <b>RENTAL</b>
21	22	23 <b>FO</b>	24 <b>CARDS</b>	25	26 <b>Lunch GM/WD</b>	27 <b>DOL</b>
28 <b>DOL</b>	29	30				

### OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>CARDS</b>	2 <b>WT</b>	3 <b>Lunch</b>	4 <b>NDRA</b>
5 <b>NDRA</b>	6	7 <b>RAA</b>	8 <b>CARDS BCC</b>	9 <b>WT</b>	10 <b>Lunch WEC</b>	11
12	13	14	15 <b>CARDS</b>	16	17 <b>Lunch DVK</b>	18 <b>LFC</b>
19	20	21	22 <b>CARDS</b>	23	24 <b>Lunch/WD RCAFA GM OTT</b>	25 <b>MAC RCAFA GM OTT</b>
26 <b>RCAFA GM OTT</b>	27	28	29 <b>CARDS</b>	30	31 <b>Lunch</b>	

### LEGEND

<b>BCC</b> British Car Club, meeting at 7:30 pm	<b>LVRC</b> London Vintage Radio Club, meetings at 7:30pm
<b>BOB</b> Battle of Britain. See advert. on pg. 13	<b>MAC</b> Model Aircraft Club, meeting at 7:30pm
<b>COM</b> Retired Commissionaires, 9am – 12pm	<b>NDRA</b> Rental
<b>DOL</b> Doors Open London	<b>RAA</b> Recreational Aircraft Association, meeting at 7:30pm
<b>DVK</b> Guest Speaker Dave Van Kesteren, 1pm. See pg.11	<b>WD</b> The Women's Division join us every last Friday of the month for lunch
<b>FO</b> Fanshawe Optimist's Club, meeting at 7:30pm	<b>WDP</b> Warriors Day Parade, 11am. See advert on pg. 13
<b>GM</b> General Meeting at 1pm	<b>WEC</b> Executive Council, meeting at 9:30am
<b>LFC</b> London Flying Club Reunion	<b>WT</b> Wood Turners, meeting at 7:30pm



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