

# THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | [WWW.427WING.COM](http://WWW.427WING.COM)

## Parkwood Veterans Visit



ON NOVEMBER 20TH, 2015, the 427 (London) Wing was honoured to host Parkwood Veterans and their aides for our weekly lunch. It was great to see some familiar faces grace our hall again. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of those who helped facilitate this visit!

## New Years Eve Dance

I WANTED TO SEND OUT A MESSAGE to say how well the New Year Dance turned out and that no matter how many people showed up it would have been a disaster without the hard work from both Rene McKinnon and Reg Lownie.

The music was terrific and the dance floor was packed all night long. I believe we had close to 70 people in attendance. Rene and Reg handled everything else and did an amazing job. It is my first experience at any Veteran's club that the President and a Vice President were so active in doing all the work for an event. Thank you gentlemen!

Happy New Year everyone and we are off to a wonderful start.

*-Edith Fraser  
Website*



## New Years Levee



LONDON-FANSHAWE MP IRENE MATHYSSEN is pictured above with President Rene McKinnon. The two took part in our annual New Years Levee.

Thanks for coming out, Irene!

In recent years, Levee has evolved from the earlier, more boisterous party into a more sedate and informal one. It is an occasion to call upon representatives of the monarch, military and municipal governments and to exchange New Year's greetings and best wishes for the new year, to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the events of the past year and to welcome the opportunities of the New Year.

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. May 2016 bring you much love, peace and happiness!

# 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> 2015 – JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2016

President	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	<a href="mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca">renemck@sympatico.ca</a>
Past President	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Reg Lownie, CD	519-667-1989	<a href="mailto:rlownie@yahoo.com">rlownie@yahoo.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Howard Johnston	519-657-4299	<a href="mailto:hjohnston@rogers.com">hjohnston@rogers.com</a>
Secretary	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer	Tammy Collier	519-204-4635	<a href="mailto:tammycollier@hotmail.com">tammycollier@hotmail.com</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Web-Site	Edith Fraser	519-472-0729	<a href="mailto:thelondonwing@live.com">thelondonwing@live.com</a>
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			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie/Sam Newman Hilda Smeltzer	519-539-5956	<a href="mailto:lgair@execulink.com">lgair@execulink.com</a>
Fundraising	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	<a href="mailto:trushton@ody.ca">trushton@ody.ca</a>
Regalia	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	<a href="mailto:trushton@ody.ca">trushton@ody.ca</a>
Euchre Club	Des Dessert, CD	519-455-0430	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca</a>
Museum	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	<a href="mailto:hjohnston@rogers.com">hjohnston@rogers.com</a>
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>
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith Pablo Calcaterra	519-673-1515 519-690-0601	<a href="mailto:691s@rogers.com">691s@rogers.com</a> <a href="mailto:pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com">pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com</a>
Tours	Armin Grunwald, COM, MSM	519-474-2194	<a href="mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com">wing427tours@rogers.com</a>

## CLUB SERVICES

Bar Officer			
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			

**Over 1,000sqft 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.



## Per Ardua

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT THAT IT IS 1941 and you are a 24 year old Canadian man living in Toronto. Recently you were hired to work in the accounting department of the Ford Motor Company at their office on Danforth Avenue. Your future looks bright, but the war is on your mind. Several of your friends had joined the navy or the air force because volunteering meant you could choose your branch of service. You make the decision to join the air force and train as a navigator because of your accounting background. Of course, at the time, you didn't know how much that decision was going to change your life.

That decision, made by a real-life person named Walter Irwin, began nearly four years of adventures and dangers that at countless times could have cost him his life. Shortly after enlisting, he transferred to pilot category. After 2 and ½ hours of dual instruction on a Fleet Finch bi-plane he flew solo for the first time. His training continued on various aircraft - Harvards, then twin-engine Ansons, Oxfords, Whitleys, twin-engine Wellingtons and eventually he flew as the single pilot on the four-engine Halifax bomber. His Wings parade was held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1942, and in November of that year he boarded the Queen Mary to sail to an unknown destination on the west coast of Scotland.

After Scotland, Walt Irwin travelled to such far-away places as Tripoli, Cairo, Benghazi and Foggia, Italy. Along the way he was posted to No. 462 R.A.F.

Squadron, a bomber squadron, which had been supporting Montgomery's army in North Africa. Shortly thereafter, he and his crew were told that 462 Squadron had been selected to become the first Pathfinder squadron in the Middle East and had been reclassified as No. 614 R.A.F. Pathfinder Squadron.

Pathfinder aircraft fly ahead of and thousands of feet below the bombing aircraft coming behind them. Their job is to accurately navigate to the target and release coloured flares and other illuminating devices. This action allows the bombers that follow them not to waste time trying to identify the target, but to bomb on the visual markers. Often the falling bombs would scatter the target indicators on the ground and the pathfinder aircraft would have to circle back to the target area to replenish the markers. Often as not, pathfinders were the first to attract enemy anti-aircraft fire. Against an enemy equipped with brilliant searchlights and radar guided weapons, the chances of survival for pathfinder crews was reckoned to be about 50-50 at best.

Walt Irwin and the crew he led flew 40 missions and because of the shortage of trained Pathfinder crews, they volunteered unanimously to serve 20 more. After the war, he moved to London, Ontario, wrote his memoirs of the war from enlistment to retirement and joined the 427 (London) Wing. What you have just read is a small part of what he wrote. Now, thanks to the interest of two members of the Wing, his memoirs are to be published in book form and the book will be available for sale at the Wing early in the new year. This is a book that will tell you what life was really like for air crew members during the war. It also has bits of humour included to lighten the narrative of fear and danger. If you like stories of bravery, you won't be disappointed.



*Walt Irwin*

*-Reg Lownie  
1st Vice President*



**KROWN®**  
Rust Protection Company

565 Glasgow Street  
London, ON N5W 6E5  
Ph: 519-432-3337  
F: 519-432-9021  
[beu.krown@on.aibn.com](mailto:beu.krown@on.aibn.com)

**Owner: Mike Beukeboom**

**Protect.  
Maintain.  
Save.**



**IMPERIAL**  
COFFEE AND SERVICES INC.  
Coffee • Vending • Water Systems

**Jeffrey Schiller**  
4104 Blakie Road, London  
[jschiller@imperialcoffee.com](mailto:jschiller@imperialcoffee.com)  
[www.imperialcoffee.com](http://www.imperialcoffee.com)

P: 519-652-1159  
C: 519-494-4257  
1-800-404-8855  
F: 519-652-2953

## Notes from the Secretary

WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT TODAY AS IT IS ONLY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>.

Those of us who write articles on a regular basis would like to know if you enjoy reading their articles. What items do you want us to write about? Please provide feedback and or send Tanya an article yourselves.

The mild weather so far is something to talk about. El Nino does not occur as much as we would want it to. Let's see if the world leaders and their governments follow through on their pledge to reduce fossil fuel emissions following their two week meeting in Paris earlier this month. As for most of us personally, we may not be able to trade in our gas guzzling vehicles for the latest hybrid, but individuals need to help too. There are some good articles in the National Geographic Magazine about climate change and how to reduce carbon emissions in many countries going forward.

I'm somewhat of a political nut, mainly on world events, but also on Canadian national and local events. Beer in grocery stores, rapid transit and development of the Thames River project, and in the paper today, the City of London received close to a million dollars for events in 2014 held at the Bud. Pot in LCBO outlets? Don't think that would be wise.

May you all have a wonderful 2016!

-*Chuck Hardy*  
Secretary

## Attention Retired CF Members

YOU CAN CLAIM YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH CARE PLAN (PSHCP) & Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) on your taxes.

CF Pensioners receive a T4 from Specialized Services Division (Cdn Forces Pension Forces Cdn); however, the T4 DOES NOT include the premium paid to PSHCP or PDSP. Both premium payments ARE CLAIMABLE, therefore:

To learn how much you can claim, and to obtain a copy of the letter you will need in order to make a claim, please consider calling:

**PSHCP, for health care plan details, call [1-800-267-6542](tel:1-800-267-6542); or,**

**PDSP/Dental, for dental plan details, call [1-800-267-0350](tel:1-800-267-0350)**

The person answering will place your name in a database and send you a letter which is for use with your tax submission.

You can request it be back-dated if you've paid for years but have not claimed in the past.

This will also ensure in future years you automatically receive the letter without having to call again.

The call, once connected, takes about four minutes. This process has been validated by the Executive Director, Dean Black, as the RCAF Association



### JB Trucks'n Stuff

5075 Dundas Street  
4 miles east of London  
[jbtrucks.autotrader.ca](http://jbtrucks.autotrader.ca)

John Brotzel, President  
[john@jbtrucksstuff.com](mailto:john@jbtrucksstuff.com)  
Se Habla Español – B.B.B.

Dave Woodhead, Manager  
[dave@jbtrucksstuff.com](mailto:dave@jbtrucksstuff.com)

Mike The Closer, Financing  
100% Vehicle Finance  
[vehiclefinance123@gmail.com](mailto:vehiclefinance123@gmail.com)

**519 432-5000**  
Fax 519 268-2789



*Independently Owned and Operated*



**DAVE PIZZEY**  
Manager

---

**EVANS FUNERAL HOME** *Since 1927*  
648 Hamilton Road, London, Ontario N5Z 1T3  
Tel: (519) 451-9350 Fax: (519) 451-3828  
website: [www.evansfh.ca](http://www.evansfh.ca) email: [evansfuneralhome@execulink.com](mailto:evansfuneralhome@execulink.com)

**LOGAN FUNERAL HOME** *Since 1892*  
371 Dundas Street, London, Ontario N6B 1V5  
Tel: (519) 433-6181 Fax: (519) 433-2911  
website: [www.loganfh.ca](http://www.loganfh.ca) email: [loganfuneralhome@execulink.com](mailto:loganfuneralhome@execulink.com)



# 427 (London) Wing is Hosting 2016 Ontario Group Annual General Meeting

May 20-22, 2016

## Volunteer opportunities for the Convention

*For Wing members who would like to consider supporting this event we have opportunities for you to participate. The more we have the easier it will be to create an amazing event for all.*

Assistant Registrar – to assist in confirming delegates Friday afternoon and Saturday when they arrive.

Companion Program Leader – To be the tour guide on Saturday.

Delegate Packages and Welcome Bags – can be started now.

Dignitary Co-Ordinator – Welcome participants for all events.

Regalia Sales – Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Ticket Sales – Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Transportation – Saturday's Companion Program and Sundays  
Wind Down Party

Wind Down Party – Sunday (help decorate and set up)

For more information contact: Mary Watson

[mwatsond518@rogers.com](mailto:mwatsond518@rogers.com) or 519-204-8823



**Expo Insurance Brokers Inc.**  
5200 Dixie Rd, # 204  
Mississauga, ON  
L4W 1E4  
905-212-7007 or 1-877-312-7007



**On your side.**  
Your Best Insurance is an Insurance Broker.

**Proud to be the broker of the Air Cadet League of Canada (OPC)**  
Group, home and auto insurance program. Great rates, great service and great people.

[www.expoinbrks.com](http://www.expoinbrks.com)

**Together, we can make a difference!**

## History of the Wing

WITH THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, airmen returning home to London wanted to continue their interest in aviation both as flyers and friends.

**April 2, 1947** – the London Air Force Association was formed with a constitution and by-laws.

**March 15, 1950** – 427 (London) Wing received its charter from the RCAFA and, today, is one of the leading members of what has now become the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) with more than seventy Wings across this country.

**June 14, 1962** – Subsequently, 427 Wing was incorporated under the laws of Ontario and received its provincial charter and its liquor license in the fall of 1963.

...On that note, here is a bit of little known information about the building that 427 (London) Wing uses... The building that is currently home to 427 (London) Wing was erected during the frenzied construction period in the fall and winter of 1939-40. Its history reflects the intense military activity at what was then Royal Canadian Air Force Station Crumlin (London) during the period 1940 to 1960. It is the last representative and still usable building of its kind on the grounds of the London International Airport, and may be the last such in southwestern Ontario. The building and its surroundings are important for maintaining awareness of the major historical events and people related to military activities in and around London before, during and following WWII.

It was built to serve as an Airmen's and Airwomen's Canteen, a place to relax and refresh. The Second World War had begun, and thousands of recruits from most of the Allied nations would be coming to Canada to train. In the words of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Canada had become "the aerodrome of democracy." RCAF Station Crumlin was among the first to be part of that plan, and later carried on through the further fifteen challenging years of the "Cold War" and the subsequent demands of Canada's participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In September, 1948, Number 420 "Snowy Owl" Squadron, which had been adopted by the City of London during the war years, was re-activated as an Auxiliary Fighter Squadron at this base. The building is typical of the wooden frame construction type erected during the early days of the war. Each rectangular section is approximately fifty-four feet long and twenty-nine feet wide. Among the memorabilia displayed inside are various paintings and photographs, aircraft models and radio equipment, all providing evidence that documents the historical times, events and major elements with which they are related.

From the entranceway, one enters the southern room known as the Lounge. This room contains a bar area, with tables and chairs. The section to the right is the Ballroom, which is used exclusively for Wing meetings and social activities. As you stand in the entrance to these rooms today, it is easy to imagine the noise from the chatter and the clink of glasses to the left, the lilt of swing band music to the right, and the roar of aircraft overhead, those nearly constant sounds of many years ago.

---

## Art from the Heart

ON A RECENT VISIT TO THE BILLY BISHOP HERITAGE MUSEUM in Owen Sound, 427 Wing member in charge of War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial, David Smith, noticed a piece of needlepoint on display, accredited to one of our members, Sam Newman. David contacted Sam to verify if in fact it was his creation. Below is Sam's reply.

*"Yup, that's my work David! I used to needlepoint many Military Crests, Coat of Arms, and the likes in the early 70's. There is a Roundel needle-pointed by myself when I was first starting out. It's hanging on the East Wall in our Bar Room of the Wing. Group Captain Arnie Bauer and I were good friends in the Military and we got to know each other through the Association. He was very instrumental, as you are aware, no doubt, of the creation of Billy Bishop's museum in his Home Town. He showed me a picture or a sketch, not sure which, of what they wanted to have for their Museum Logo, so I went ahead and sketched it, and then created it with Needle Point wool. Looks pretty good, if I do say so myself!"*

While I didn't get a chance to track down David's picture taken at the museum before publication, at right is Sam's piece hanging in the bar here at the Wing. Perhaps a visit to the museum is in order?



## Military Police Reunion, Search for Dog Handlers (1963 - 1972)

MEMBERS MAY BE INTERESTED IN AN UPCOMING Military Police Reunion August 11 - 14, 2016, Canadian Forces Base Trenton. Also of interest is a project to complete a HISTORY OF THE RCAF SENTRY DOG PROGRAM. A project is underway to write the history of the Sentry Dog Program that took place in 3 (F) Wing, Zweibrucken, 4 (F) Wing BADEN-SOELINGEN, and 1 Wing LAHR, Germany, during 1963-72 and looking for Dog Handlers who participated in this program. For more information on either the reunion or the history project, please contact: Wayne Kendall, PO Box 27, Toledo, ON, K0E 1Y0, [wkendall@bell.net](mailto:wkendall@bell.net) or phone [613-791-7146](tel:613-791-7146). Please help promote these important military events, by sharing this message as widely as possible, with all your fellow military friends and with veterans you think might be interested. Thank you.

### “Gunner” Learns to Be a Canine Air Raid Siren

SPEAKING OF MILITARY DOGS, a six-month-old black and white male kelpie was found whimpering, having suffered a broken front leg, under a destroyed mess hut at Darwin Air Force base on 19 February 1942, following the first wave of Japanese attacks on Darwin, in Australia. Air Force personnel took him to a field hospital, but the doctor insisted he couldn't fix a “man” with a broken leg without knowing his name and serial number. The doctor repaired and plastered his leg after the air force personnel replied that his name was “Gunner” and his number was “0000”. Gunner entered the airforce on that day.

Leading Aircraftman Percy Westcott, one of the two airmen who found Gunner, took ownership of him and became his master and handler. At first, the dog was badly shaken after the bombing, but being only six months old he quickly responded to the men's attention. About a week after, Gunner first demonstrated his remarkable hearing skills. While the men were working on the airfield, Gunner became agitated and started to whine and jump. Not long afterwards, the sound of approaching aeroplane engines was heard by the airmen. A few minutes later a wave of Japanese raiders appeared in the skies above Darwin and began bombing and strafing the town.

Two days later, Gunner began whimpering and jumping again and not long afterwards came another air attack. This set the pattern for the months that followed. Long before the sirens sounded, Gunner would get agitated and head for shelter. Gunner's hearing was so acute he was able to warn air force personnel of approaching Japanese aircraft up to 20 minutes before they arrived and before they showed up on the radar. Gunner never performed when he heard the allied planes taking off or landing; only when he heard enemy aircraft as he could differentiate the sounds of allied from enemy aircraft. Gunner was so reliable that Wing Commander McFarlane gave approval for Westcott to sound a portable air raid siren whenever Gunner's whining or jumping alerted him.

Gunner became such a part of the air force that he slept under Westcott's bunk, showered with the men in the shower block, sat with the men at the outdoor movie pictures, and went up with the pilots during practice take-off and landings. When Westcott was posted to Melbourne 18 months later, Gunner stayed in Darwin, looked after by the RAAF butcher. Gunner's fate is undocumented.



*Gunner with his master  
Photo credit: P.L. Westcott*



Promoting People, Providing Promotions

**Steven W. Levschuk, MAS, President**

p: 519-659-5862 x222 f: 519-659-7052

[steveschuk@talbot-promo.com](mailto:steveschuk@talbot-promo.com)

384 Neptune Cres, London N6M 1A1

[www.talbot-promo.com](http://www.talbot-promo.com)



**LASER LIFE inc.**

Compatible Toner Cartridges • Printer Repairs  
Since 1987

*Jean Zavitz*

7 Edgemere Crescent  
London, ON N5Z 4M6

Ph: 519-659-7829

Fax: 519-659-8190

[laserinc@execulink.com](mailto:laserinc@execulink.com)  
[www.laserlifeinc.ca](http://www.laserlifeinc.ca)



Vimy Ridge Commemorative Tree Planting Program  
Project: 427 Wing Association



**427 (London) Wing**  
Royal Canadian Air Force Association



start here. go *anywhere.*



Opening ceremonies for the Vimy Ridge Commemorative Tree Planting.

Guest Speaker: City of London  
Deputy Mayor, Ward 5  
Maureen Cassidy.

Also in the photo Barry Sandler  
Executive Director  
VMP Community Program

Good afternoon. On behalf of Mayor Matt Brown, and London City Council I would like to thank you for inviting me to be a part of the First Vimy Ridge Commemorative Project. It is a profound honour and privilege to be here to commemorate the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the service our veterans paid to our country through the planting of the first 100 trees representing a "Living Guard of Honour". I love the symbolism of this project with trees from Canada, France and England. It's so meaningful.

Many historians consider the Canadian victory at Vimy to be a defining moment for Canada, when our young country emerged at last from under the shadow of Britain. After the war, when speaking of Vimy, Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared, "in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation." But we cannot forget the terrible cost of this victory with more than 10,000 killed and wounded. In recognition of this sacrifice, in 1922, the French government ceded Vimy Ridge, and the land surrounding it, to Canada in perpetuity. The Vimy Memorial still stands today as a poignant reminder of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who have no known graves.

As a niece of two WWII veterans, it is particularly meaningful for me to be here today to recognize the sacrifice of our soldiers. As Canadians, we are forever in debt to the contributions they made as they fought for our freedom and the freedom of so many others.

Thank you to the organizing committee, to the 427 Wing Association, to the veterans, scouts, guides and all the volunteers for working so hard for the success of today's event and for the success of this incredibly ambitious and meaningful project.



*Windows and Doors — Supply or Install*

SHOWROOM:  
535 First Street  
London ON N5V 1Z5  
www.homecastle.ca

tel. (519) 659-3550  
fax. (519) 659-5158  
1-800-747-7857  
inquiries@homecastle.ca

Dr. Carolyn E. Dalgity

**Chiropractor**  
**Reg. Trigenics Practitioner**

90 Riverside Dr.  
London, ON N6H 4S5

Tel: (519) 673-6666  
Fax: (519) 673-1913  
Web: www.drtdalgity.com

## Last Post

ON NOVEMBER 13TH, 2015, the Wing lost a dear friend and member, Rick Holland.

Rick was a long time member of the Canadian Forces, a member of the Wing, where he served as 2nd Vice President and worked in the kitchen. Rick also served in senior positions with the London Commissionaires. Our prayers go out to Linda and all the family.

As a tribute to Rick, we've included his commentary on the Cold War and Radar Lines, which was originally published in the March/April 2014 edition of the Link. We will miss you, Rick.

## Rick's Ramblings

HELLO AGAIN FELLOW MEMBERS OF 427 Wing. I hope everyone is enjoying the winter weather. Only a few more months and it should warm up. I hope this article will be of more interest than my last. My topic for this issue is "THE COLDWAR" and Canada's involvement. A person can spend hours researching this topic on the internet and some might disagree with some facts but hopefully (and remember I'm not a historian) my information is correct. All 3 Lines came under the control of NORAD and were manned by both American and Canadian Air Force personnel.

### Radar Lines

As a bit of a background, early in the 50's, the USA was very concerned that Soviet bombers could attack their country by flying over the Northern Route. That meant that they would fly right over Canada. The Americans devised a plan (with the coordination of the Cdn Government) of constructing some 58 DEWLINE (Distant Early Warning) radar sites in the far North from 1955-57. They all became operational in mid 1957.

### The Mid Canada Line

Also known as the McGill Fence was constructed across Canada and was operational in the late 50's until the mid 60's when they were disbanded. This line was an intermediate radar system to supplement the less advanced Pine Tree Line further to the South. It was designed as an early warning against

bomber attack but then changed as the threat became the use of Missiles (ICBM'S) as opposed to bombers.

### The Pine Tree Line

As part of the plan in the early 50's, 33 main stations with a few unmanned sites were built in Lower Canada and Upper USA with joint consultation between US and Canada. Construction began in the 60's to build 6 more radar sites. A total of 48 sites stretched right across the country. Most, if not all, were

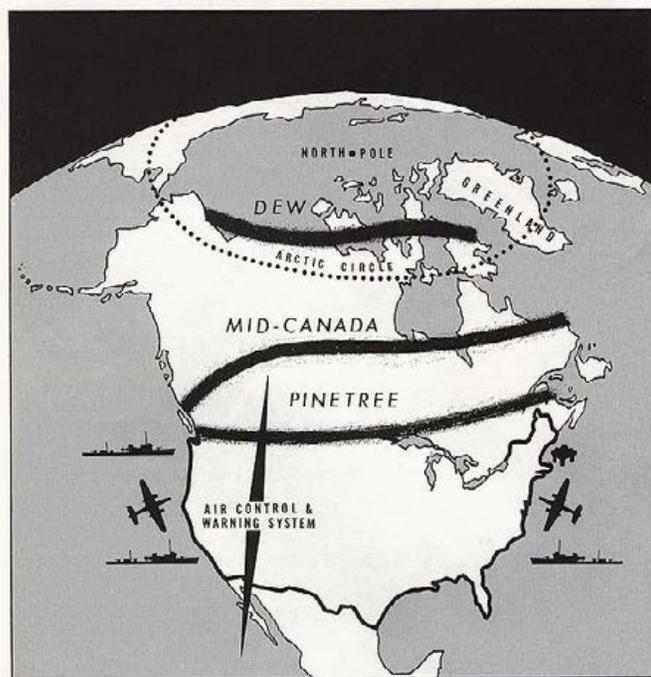
main system was 3 Pulse Radar Towers watching the skies 24/7, 365 days a year. At its peak, there were approximately 125 personnel of all trades stationed, including local civilians, on the Site. Support facilities consisted of several barrack blocks, PMQ'S (double wide transportable homes and some 60ft mobile homes), a junior school, a chapel and recreation facilities consisting of a gym, bowling alley, pool, tennis court, and a curling rink. In addition there was a full service combined mess, fire

hall, engineering bldg, tpt and supply bldg, heating plant and a HQ bldg. A total stand alone community. I mention this as I (along with my young family) was fortunate enough to spend a 3 year tour of duty there. It was like one big extended family. For those military members of 427 Wing that had the opportunity to serve on any of the Radar Sites, you will remember how closely knit life became. CFS Dana was closed in 1987 and became obsolete in 1988. After that period it had several owners that had big plans for the property but those plans didn't work out. The

buildings fell into a state of disrepair and the property was finally purchased and converted to a Buffalo Ranch as it is today.

Memories last a long time. I will never forget my time at CFS Dana. Until next time.

*-Rick Holland, CD*



deactivated in the 80's or early 90's. I would like to draw your attention to one site in particular. In 1961, Radar Sqn 45, RCAF Station Dana Sask started the build. It was located about 35 miles east of Saskatoon. The Radar Sqn (renamed CFS Dana in 1968 after unification) was manned by the RCAF, and became operational in 1962. Its

---

# BIRTHDAY BRATS

---



JANUARY

Natalie DAVISON • Brent ELGIE  
Danny GALANTE • Torben HAARBYE  
Calvin LAWHEAD • Garnet McDIARMID

FEBRUARY

Ralph ASKEW • Diana CUTHBERT • Ed DALGITY  
Edward EGLINTON • Ray HUTT  
Yvonne LOVELOCK • Murray MacKAY • Betty ROSE  
John SPIVEY • Bruce TAPP • Fay TIMBERS  
Len TRUANT

*“They say that age is all in your mind. The trick is keeping it from creeping down into your body.”*

*-Author Unknown*

---

## Dream to Fly

LARRY WALTERS IS AMONG THE RELATIVELY FEW who have actually turned their dreams into reality. His story is true, even though you may find it hard to believe.

Larry was a truck driver, but his lifelong dream was to fly. When he graduated from high school, he joined the Air Force in hopes of becoming a pilot. Unfortunately, poor eyesight disqualified him. So, when he finally left the service, he had to satisfy himself with watching others fly the fighter jets that criss-crossed the skies over his backyard. As he sat there in his lawn chair, he dreamed about the magic of flying.

Then one day, Larry Walters got an idea. He went down to the local Army-Navy surplus store and bought a tank of helium and forty-five weather balloons. These were not your brightly colored party balloons, these were heave-duty spheres measuring more than four feet across when fully inflated. Back in his yard, Larry used straps to attach the balloons to his lawn chair, the kind you might have in your own back yard.

He anchored the chair to the bumper of his jeep and inflated the balloons with helium. Then he packed some sandwiches and drinks and loaded a BB gun, figuring he could pop a few of those balloons when it was time to return to earth.

His preparations complete, Larry Walters sat in his chair and cut the anchoring cord. His plan was to lazily float up a ways, and then lazily back down to terra firma. But, things didn't quite work out that way.

When Larry cut the cord, he didn't float lazily up - he shot up as if fired from a cannon! Nor did he go up a couple hundred feet. He climbed and climbed, until he finally leveled off at eleven THOUSAND feet! At that height, he could hardly risk deflating any of the balloons, lest he unbalance the load and really experience flying! So, he stayed up there, sailing around for fourteen hours, totally at a loss as to how to get down. Eventually, Larry drifted into the approach corridor for Los Angeles International Airport. A Pan Am pilot radioed the tower about passing a guy in a lawn chair at eleven thousand feet... with a gun in his lap. (Now there's a conversation I would have liked to have heard!)

LAX is right on the ocean, and you may know that at nightfall, the winds on the coast begin to change. So, as dusk fell, Larry began drifting out to sea.

At that point, the Navy dispatched a helicopter to rescue him. But, the rescue team had a hard time getting to him, because the draft from their propeller kept pushing his home-made contraption farther and farther away. Eventually they were able to hover over him and drop a rescue line with which they gradually hauled him back to earth.

As soon as Larry hit the ground, he was arrested.

But as he was being led away in handcuffs, a television reporter called out to ask, “Mr. Walters, why did you do it?”

Larry stopped, eyed the man for a moment and replied nonchalantly, “A man can't just sit around.”

### LONDON FACTORY SUPPLY & EQUIPMENT

Serving the London area since 1964

TRAFFIC VESTS • HARD HATS  
RAIN WEAR • HARNESSSES • LANYARDS  
CONES • DELINEATORS • GLOVES

568 Glasgow St.  
London, ON

Ph: 519-433-5158  
Fax: 519-433-4429



**WELCOME TO...**

**Libro Credit Union.**  
Over 70 years in the making — cooperative banking, made in southwestern Ontario for life and business here.

1-800-361-8222 . [libro.ca](http://libro.ca)  
saving . borrowing . investing . sharing

f 519-659-7070 • [www.crumlincreek.com](http://www.crumlincreek.com) t



**PETER HENDERSON**  
Superintendent

Cell: 519-494-9220  
[peter@crumlincreek.com](mailto:peter@crumlincreek.com)

**1720 Crumlin Side Road, London, Ont. N5V 1S2**

## I Had a Bad Dream Last Night

IN IT WAS THE FAA, CREW SCHEDULING, bad schedules, bad management, self-serving union, un-serviceable aircraft equipment, changing weather, no extra holding fuel, ever-changing procedures, endless flight manual revisions, Jepp changes, deadheading in the middle seat, broken luggage, lost luggage, nasty passenger agents, jump seating, crabby flight attendants, continuous duty overnights, foreign countries, sleep deprivation, mergers, seniority squabbles, company threats, food poisoning, no food, cold coffee, bidding, away from family for days at a time, fleabag hotels, late cabs, maniac cab drivers, hotel crew bus, bidding vacation, waiting for gates, weather, low vis approaches, Cat III, Low Vis T.O., de-icing, below “0” degrees walk arounds, Snow, PCs, Gestapo check airmen, line check, medicals, commuting to & from work in unspeakable weather, parking lot from hell, parking lot buses, inter-terminal buses, spring break, Christmas rush, Thanksgiving loads, Easter rush, PA announcements, insurance, drug & alcohol testing, noise violations, customs lineups, dry cleaning, terrorism threats, TSA, security passes, rude security personnel, high gas/oil prices, pay cuts, rush hour traffic, that infernal alarm clock, crash pads, catching cold away from home, lackadaisical crew members, sexual harassment threats, flight attendants & co-pilots implying that they are a gift to aviation after being there three years, back biting, gossip, cell phones, beepers, aircraft cram courses, upgrade class, six month Simulator checks, procedural memorization, Annual Recurrent Training days, and a message to call the chief pilot. Then I woke up and joyously found myself still retired! Better get up and moving, the fishing boat leaves in a bit.

## Happy New Years Wishes

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the CRA.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May New Year’s Eve find you seated around the table, together with your

beloved family and cherished friends. May you find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been

watching, and may your cheque book and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say “I love you” at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, your siblings; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God’s love in every sunset, every flower’s unfolding petals, every baby’s smile, every lover’s kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

Happy New Year to All!!!



**LONDON**  
**AUDIOLOGY**  
**CONSULTANTS**  
HEARING CLINIC

387 Burwell Street  
London, ON N6B 2W3  
519.435.1899  
[www.londonaudiology.com](http://www.londonaudiology.com)

- Are you concerned about your hearing?
- Do you or someone you know need help with hearing or hearing aids?
- London Audiology Consultants has been providing hearing care for over 27 years.
- We help Londoners to hear better.
- If you are unable to come in to us, we provide house calls.
- We are a VAC registered provider.
- Please call for an appointment.

## 427 WING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 2016

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

### FEBRUARY 2016

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

### LEGEND

<p><b>BCC</b> British Car Club, meeting at 7:30 pm</p> <p><b>FO</b> Fanshawe Optimist's Club, meeting at 7:30pm</p> <p><b>GM</b> General Meeting at 1pm</p> <p><b>GS</b> Guest Speaker, watch for coming details!</p> <p><b>LVRC</b> London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 11:00am</p> <p><b>MAC</b> Model Aircraft Club meeting</p> <p><b>RAA</b> Recreational Aircraft Association, meeting at 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>SCO</b> Scottish Dancers</p> <p><b>VAL</b> Valentine's Dance, watch for coming details!</p> <p><b>WD</b> The Women's Division join us the 4th Friday of each month for lunch</p> <p><b>WEC</b> Wing Executive Council, 9:30am</p> <p><b>WT</b> Wood Turners, meeting at 7:30pm</p>
--	--



If you are receiving a pension as a result of your employment with the Federal government – military, RCMP or public service – the FSNA has something for you. Call 519-439-3762 or visit our website at [www.fsnalondon.com](http://www.fsnalondon.com) It's that easy.