

THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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The 427 (London) Wing Celebrates the RCAF's 92nd Anniversary



ON APRIL 1ST, 2016, the Wing celebrated the 92nd Anniversary of the RCAF. On the menu was a delicious ham dinner, prepared and served by our amazing volunteers. The cake, as seen above, was brought in from Melrose Bakery and at right, is MP Irene Mathysen ceremoniously cutting the cake. Thanks to everyone who joined us on such a great day!

Induction Ceremony

APRIL 8TH SAW FIVE NEW MEMBERS inducted into our membership. Cathy Newman and Rene were pleased to swear in the following members, starting at left:

Chester Counsell, Barry Sandler, Paul Gagnon, Wayne Chuter and Liyuan Shi.



We are pleased to have such a valuable addition to our Wing!

Quilts of Valour



ON APRIL 11TH, the Wing was invited to attend a presentation of a Quilt of Valour. The recipient was Flight Lieutenant Don Edy. Don flew Hurricanes in the Middle East where he was shot down. He was in an Italian POW and transferred to Stalag Luft 111 as a guest of the Third Reich. This is where the Great Escape occurred, although Don was not part of that escape. He has written a book of his experiences as a pilot and a POW "Goon in the Block". He is almost 100 years old and is currently in residence at Richmond Woods Retirement Residence in London. To date almost 7,000 quilts have been presented across Canada and are now being introduced to Armed Forces Members in Ontario.

Information on Quilts of Valour is available at www.quiltsofvalour.ca or by contacting Brenda & Don Oliphant at on-southwest@quiltsofvalour.ca.

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 1ST 2015 – JUNE 30TH 2016

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

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	thelondonwing@live.com
Housing	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	don.clarke@hotmail.com
Housing Back-Up	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Membership	Cathy Newman	519-452-1886	cathy.newman@rogers.com
Public Relations			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie/Sam Newman Hilda Smeltzer	519-539-5956	lgair@execulink.com
Fundraising	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	trushton@ody.ca
Regalia	Terry Rushton	519-472-2473	trushton@ody.ca
Euchre Club	Des Dessert, CD	519-455-0430	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Museum	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	hjohnston@rogers.com
Air Cadet Liaison	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	jackjoanc@gmail.com
Lottery	Mike Ryan	519-455-1668	
Nominations	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	jackjoanc@gmail.com
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith Pablo Calcaterra	519-673-1515 519-690-0601	691s@rogers.com pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com
Tours	Armin Grunwald, COM, MSM	519-474-2194	wing427tours@rogers.com

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		tanya427ed@gmail.com
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.



Message from the President

WE HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY to read this exciting issue cover to cover.

There are a variety of photographs from events and presentations we have attended or participated in. For the first time we have an article from the Air Cadets and this will now be a regular feature from the squadrons. Enjoy the variety of these fine articles.

The major event for the Wing is the up coming 67th. Ontario Group Annual GM on May 20 , 21st. and 22nd. The DoubleTree by Hilton is a great downtown location and we are looking forward to seeing many of you there. There is an excellent Companion Program and we are planning a great Wind Down Party featuring a “Guy Lombardo’s New Year’s Eve.” “Enjoy your self...” as the song goes with the “Sweetest Music this Side of Heaven.” If you wish to attend the registration closing date is May 17th.

Forms are on the website and available at the Wing.

*-Rene McKinnon
President*

This Month from the Spirit of Flight (SOF) Aviation Museum

LAST MONTH WE GAVE A BRIEF RUNDOWN on the Spirit of Flight Aviation Museum project for the benefit of those that do not have a chance to get out to the Wing often or not at all. I hope that this was useful in keeping abreast of our efforts.


Currently we have four cabinets in place that were purchased from the New Horizon’ Grant that are branded with the logo across the top of them “Spirit of Flight”. As well, we have information on the original founding of the London Flying Club (LFC), some pictures from one of the Flying Clubs early students (1930) beside the club’s Gypsy Moth and of his early log book entries. Gosh flights of only 14 minutes duration, hum!! We also have some memorabilia from the LFC, donated by past members of the LFC, and a few pictures of the hanger circa 1960-70.

Two other cabinets are presently devoted to displaying many of the various Aviation Stamps that Canada Post has put out as well as a card of two marked highlighting when London was a stop on the early Air Mail routes, in addition to more Aviation Memorabilia.

With respect to the two ads looking for “for volunteers” to help out with the SOF, listed in the last Link, it looks like we will have the help of a UWO student enrolled in the Art and Museums Studies, coming on board. This position will work with the SOF Executive Director/Curator on projects like Sponsorship funding for exhibits, and various other tasks that will give them work experience in what operating museums actually do day-to-day.

We still are looking for Volunteers to help with the Museum project. We could use a few helping hands with patching the holes in the walls of the rear building that was previously rented out to the Navy. We need this prep work done so we can give the walls a good sanding down in order to give the future home of the SOF exhibits a clean welcoming look to the public. Any takers? Drop Howard an email or give me a call if you are able to give a few hours of your time hjjohnston@rogers.com or call 519-657-2499.

*-Howard Johnston
2nd Vice President/Museum*

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Notes from the Secretary

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE to all readers of the London Link, Liyuan Shi. Liyuan moved from China to London last October with his wife. They have a three month old daughter. Liyuan applied to be a volunteer at the Wing through Pillar Non-profit organization earlier this year and is doing several projects including a long term project of cataloguing of books for the Spirit of Flight Aviation Museum (SOFAM).

He will be taking aviation courses through Fanshawe College at their training facility at London International Airport in the fall. Liyuan is now a member of 427 (London) Wing and looks forward to meeting as many members as possible. He worked in the petroleum industry in his homeland and has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Liyuan is looking forward to a long association with the Wing and to participate in many Wing events. Welcome aboard Liyuan.

As all readers know, food prices continue to rise. For instance a bag of milk has gone from \$3.97 to \$4.27. Fresh vegetables, meats and fruit are much more costly at area grocery stores. Flo is very frugal when shopping weekly for the Wing and she takes advantage of price matching when she can. Even with the generous donations of Wing members, the monthly food bill on average exceeds \$500.00. We do not want to increase the price of the good and varied Friday lunches. Please help Flo and the executive to keep the price at \$8.00. Flo always welcomes donations. Thanks for your consideration.

Finally, please visit the Wing website at 427Wing.com. Comments are always welcome.

See you in the next edition!

*-Chuck Hardy
Secretary*

Membership News

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE LINK you will also find your membership renewal notification. Those members who receive their bulletin by email will find the renewal notification in their email inbox, as it is being sent by snail mail. Now that spring is in the air and we don't have to worry about slippery roads, come out for a Friday lunch and bring your renewal cheque with you. That would be a win, win, win situation---a visit, a meal and your renewal taken care of. How wonderful is that? If you are part of the younger generation who don't carry cash, you can pay with your credit card or PayPal, either on-line, at the Wing or by phone.

I am sincerely hoping that all members will renew promptly, thus avoiding a late renewal penalty fee of \$5. All payments must be received prior to June 30th to avoid this penalty. I'd love to shock our National office by having a full membership renewal in prior to our deadline date. With your help I can do it! So, please, get your cheque book out and send in your renewal. Remember, the early bird gets the worm. Perhaps you don't want a worm, but in this case the reward will be NOT paying a further \$5.00 late penalty fee.

*-Cathy Newman
Membership*



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Per Ardua

A RECENT REPORT BY THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA estimates that in 2014 about 27.6 million Canadians made overnight trips outside the country, and almost three-quarters of that number carried private health insurance on their last outbound trip. Obviously, many of us are convinced of the importance of travel health insurance. We are all too familiar with the horror stories of travelers who are presented with very large health and hospital charges after suffering a health episode when abroad. What we are not so familiar with is the practice by insurance companies known as “subrogation.”

The dictionary definition of subrogation is “the substitution of one party for another as creditor so that the new creditor succeeds to the first creditor’s rights in law and equity.” As practiced in insurance claims, it means that if a member of a group health plan buys supplemental travel insurance from another insurance carrier, and later makes a travel-related claim from that second carrier, that second carrier can legally seek cost-sharing from the member’s group coverage, up to a certain percentage. This is also referred to as the “first-payer” clause and here is an example of how it can affect insured travelers.

George and Mary (false names), both 64 years of age, are insured under a group insurance plan with the ABC company. Their plan provides each of them with coverage for home, auto and health, including dental, vision, and physiotherapy, up to a lifetime maximum of \$400,000. They decide to take a two-week vacation to visit Disneyland in Florida. After checking the costs for travel health insurance with ABC, their group insurer, they decide to go with the XYZ company, who offers them the same coverage but at a slightly cheaper rate. While in Florida, George develops a severe kidney infection which will require an operation, ten days in hospital and an air ambulance flight back to Canada. He recovers about a month later and receives a bill for \$200,000 US. No problem - that cost is covered by their travel policy with XYZ.

Another month passes before George learns that XYZ has passed a large part of the cost - over \$98,000 - to their ABC group insurance company. This means that his lifetime maximum insurance coverage with the ABC group plan has now been reduced from \$400,000 to slightly over \$200,000, or nearly 50% of his lifetime coverage. George becomes concerned that in the future, his group insurance could be exhausted by anything that is not covered by the Canada Health Act. Should that happen, he would be without extended coverage for the rest of his life.

On checking the ABC group policy he discovers in the fine print that, “Any of our policies are excess insurance and are the last payers. All other sources of recovery, indemnity payments or insurance coverage must be exhausted before any payments will be made under any of our policies.” He also learns that had he taken travel insurance with the ABC company instead of the cheaper insurer, ABC would have paid the \$200,000 claim with no change to his lifetime coverage.

The moral of this story: You can save a lot of money by reading the fine print.

(from research provided by CBC and Frank Richter)

*-Reg Lownie
1st Vice President*

Leading Women Award

Congratulations to 427 (London) Wing member, Judy Grunwald, who has received a 2016 Leading Women, Building Communities Recognition Certificate. This Award acknowledges and celebrates women and girls who demonstrate exceptional leadership in working to improve the lives of others in their communities. Recipients receive a Certificate of Recognition and a congratulatory letter from the Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues. Peggy Sattler, MPP London West nominated Judy for the Award.

Congratulation, Judy!



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On the Road with Dean and Jerry – (alias Reg and Howard)

EARLIER IN THE YEAR several members of the Byron Kiwanis came to the Wing for a Friday lunch and to view the various items on display in the Wing. The fallout of that visit was a request for the Wing to come to one of their meetings to provide their members with a presentation on the Wing and the Spirit of Flight Museum project.

On April 14th, Reg and I attended a meeting of the Byron Kiwanis and between the two of us provided members with an overview of the Wing, from its past up to the present and where we are aiming for in the future, along with a visual tour of the Wing.

We both had a very enjoyable time, addressed quite a number of good questions following the presentation and meet a lot of dedicated volunteers. As it turned out several of their members we spoke with had, had lengthy careers in the RCAF, one being a past navigator the other involved with radar. Another had flight experience with the Mosquito.

*-Howard Johnston
2nd Vice President/Museum*

Upcoming - When the Bones Speak Book Launch

WHEN THE BONES SPEAK, written by Joan Clayton, is a work of historical fiction, in which one of the main characters is based on a World War II Air Gunner named Frederick, whose plane was shot down in Germany in 1943.

Through a strange coincidence, Dr. Clayton was given his log book which contained a photograph of Frederick, a letter written to his mother in Nova Scotia telling her that her son is buried in a mass grave in Ohlsdorf, and a London Free Press article about a man who survived because he missed the flight that morning when someone offered to cook him a warm breakfast. With this information, and through much reading, research and interviews with Air Gunners who had survived the war, Dr. Clayton has written a fictional love story to honor Frederick's life and death.

Dr. Joan Clayton is a Psychologist and Trauma Expert who began writing ten years ago. She is primarily a poet and playwright. She received the Kobzar Scholarship from the Shevchenko Foundation in Winnipeg in July, 2012, to attend the Humber School of Writing Summer Workshop. It was there that this book began. Her Non-Fiction Chapter on Immigration will be published in the Anthology, 'Coming Here, Being'

Here, by Guernica Press this November. When the Bones Speak is her first novel, and it will be for sale at the Book Launch, here at the Wing, coming this fall. Dr. Clayton will also discuss with participants how to write a historical story when you have limited information, but great enthusiasm and passion to honour the courageous decisions that people make in war time.


Spring Mardi Gras Dance

ON APRIL 16TH, the Wing experienced John Lloyd and The London Dixie Five and Friends.

We have highlighted the band and two of the contestants from the Spring Mardi Gras Party best costume contest. The lady on the left was the winner.

It was a great time with great Dixie Land music. We hope to have the band back.





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Remembrance Gardens Memorial Park, 2315 River Road at Veterans Memorial Parkway

OUR FIRST EVENT THIS YEAR WILL BE ON JUNE 4TH AT 1:00 PM, and we will be unveiling 3 large gardens with Memorial Stones to commemorate those who served in WW2, with the stones carved in Honour of the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Royal Canadian Air Force. Our event is called Remembering D-Day and we will also be unveiling a large boulder that will mark and memorialize the events on Juno Beach. We will be installing individual Memorial Stones to Honour Veterans from any conflict, and they will be lining the western edge of the large poppy garden. Anyone interested in purchasing an engraved stone to memorialize a loved one should visit our website to find out more about our Memorial Stone program. We also have 6 trees in the park left to dedicate with an engraved boulder. If you are interested in that please email me or call (226) 973-3150.

Kindest Regards,

Sean Wilson

The Remember November 11 Association www.RememberNovember11.com



Greetings from 862 Lambeth Lightning Squadron!

AS PER USUAL THE CADETS OF 862 LAMBETH LIGHTNING have been extremely busy, with the coming of spring it means time for promotions, upgrades, as well as more fitness training.

One event which the 862 Squadron will be participating in is called “gliding”. This event is primarily for the level one cadets (those in their first year of training). These cadets will be transported up to James T. Memorial Airfield in Centralia, ON., where they will get to partake in a flight in a glider. For those of you that do not know what a glider is, simply put, it is an aircraft in which there is no motor. The glider will be towed into the air by another aircraft. When the two aircraft reach their predetermined altitude, the pilot in the glider will pull the big red knob, which releases the glider from the tow aircraft and they are now “falling with style”. These flights usually last around 12 minutes each and are piloted by a senior cadet who has completed their glider pilot training throughout the cadet program. I’m sure the cadets who have signed up for this are more than excited to attend and we all hop they enjoy themselves.

Staying on the topic of flying, 862 Lambeth Lightning Squadron is very excited by the fact that they will be sending another cadet to complete their glider pilot’s license training this summer, as well as two other cadets who will be completing their private pilot’s license training. These cadets are very deserving of this opportunity as they have put in the last four to five years working on these achievements, attending group school regularly, writing entrance exams, as well as successfully going through an interview screening process to ensure the best choices get picked to attend these training opportunities as these will be the future pilots taking the younger cadets gliding in their gliding event days. We would like to wish these cadets the best of luck on their training courses this coming summer and we hope they truly enjoy themselves!

Thank you for reading and we look forward to bringing you more information on different summer training opportunities in next month’s issue.

*-Written by WO2 Johnny V.M. Charno
Originally published in The Forest City Connection, May 2016*

Rivers, Manitoba

DID YOU SERVE IN RIVERS, MANITOBA?

Did someone you know, or knew, serve in Rivers, Manitoba?

We need to hear from you! An upcoming issue of Airforce magazine will feature stories about serving in the Canadian Joint Air Training Centre (CJATC) and support units at Rivers, Manitoba. We would like to publish those stories for which we will have the room. Please consider writing us, e-mailing us, or phoning us, with your anecdote about your days in Rivers. Write or call the editor at director@rcfassociation.ca; or 866-351-2322 or 222 Somerset St. West, Suite 405, Ottawa, ON K2P 2G3.

Cold War Research, Help Needed

Dear RCAF Association Members,

I am preparing a presentation for the 2016 Canadian Aviation Historical Society Conference in Winnipeg in June. I hope to compare and contrast the experiences of the RCAF/CF and the Royal New Zealand Air Force during the Cold War (1948-1991). I need help with:

1. Identifying RCAF/CF air activity in the Pacific region.
2. Identifying RCAF/CF participation in air exercises in the Pacific, such as FINCASTLE, RIMPAC and COPE THUNDER (Philippines).
3. RCAF/CF and RNZAF participation in exercises hosted by other air forces, such as the USAF and RAF.
4. RCAF/CF and RNZAF involvement in exchanges, meetings, conferences and visits.

Any assistance would be appreciated. Thank you,

Robert Nash, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) CF, Winnipeg, MB
Home: (204) 416-8512 or Mobile: (431) 999-1924

COPD Presentation



On April 15th, the Wing had guest speaker and researcher, Erisa Deda, talk to our members about COPD. COPD stands for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). It is a lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. If you, or a veteran you may know, suffers from this condition, Erisa would like to hear from you. Information can be found at right.

Guest Speaker - Erisa Deda - April 15 1:00
An important message for all veterans. Wing 519 455-0430

427 (London) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Are you a veteran living with COPD?

If you are 65 years of age or older and a current smoker or someone who has quit within the last 5 years

We want to hear from YOU!

We want to hear about *YOUR* experiences with COPD and the health care services provided to you

COPD &

Description: My name is Erisa Deda and I am a Master's student at the University of Western Ontario. I want to learn more about the lived experiences of veterans with COPD and the services available to them. The study will encompass a demographic information which will take 10-15 minutes to complete and an interview lasting no more than 60 minutes. If you would like to know more about the study, please contact me at: ededu@uwo.ca and (647) 770-5356 or sign-up at _____


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RCAF National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas - Near Lichfield, Staffordshire, England

FIVE YEARS AGO, TWO STATIONS RAF Leeming and Linton-on-Ouse in the north of the UK launched a fundraising project to create a lasting memorial to the Canadian airmen and women who came to Britain's aid during World War Two. The RCAF contributed more than 130,000 aircrew to the war effort with 18,000 + not returning home.

Lafarge Canada donated granite for the building of the monument. The outer granite circle has 13 pieces representing the provinces and territories of Canada with the Maple Leaf and Monument.

The National Memorial Arboretum has over 30,000 trees on 150 acres of land and 300 memorials for the British and Commonwealth forces who have played a part through service and sacrifice for the United Kingdom in war and peace time.

Within the Arboretum is the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness where at 11:00 AM each day an act of remembrance takes place. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



Canadian Monument



Squadron Leader Ian Bazalagette RCAF VC DFC at 11:00 AM

Sara Ingleby-Mackenzie – sculptor



Overhead view of National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas, Near Lichfield, Staffordshire, England

DAVID SMITH, WHO PROVIDED THE ABOVE ARTICLE, also submitted the following email and picture he received from Chris Stanfield. As you might remember from a couple of years back, David provided an article and pictures that detailed the plight of a group of Airmen, three Canadians included, over Colchester, England during the Second World War. The crew of Lancaster UM-K2 lost their lives April 25, 1944. Three of the crew, pilot officer Murray Langtry McPherson, navigator Francis Gunn, and top gunner Robert Cameron were Canadians. A brick pillar monument was commemorated in April 25, 2013 in remembrance of this crew and more recently seven street names in a new community of homes across from the monument are named after the seven men who sacrificed their lives April 25, 1944.

“Dear David, We believe that some of the new residents from the development turned

up on Sunday which was nice. It wasn't a big gathering but enough to make the occasion respectful. Our former MP and now High Steward of Colchester, Sir Bob Russell, can't praise us enough, which is a bit embarrassing. We never set out to get recognition. It is the poor souls that died that need that. As Patrick says in the radio interview, for as long as the roads are in existence the men's names will live on.

I'm pleased we did what we did. And I don't lose sight of the fact that you helped us considerably. You are part of this history and I know we were lucky that you responded to the newspaper appeal over three years ago now.

Lofty was supposed to be interviewed by the Forces radio station today at the memorial site. As we have a large military garrison they have their own radio station. I will find out how this went tomorrow. He's had quite a day I should imagine. At 3 am this morning he was taking one of

his sons to our local airport which is about an hours drive from Colchester. Then he was having this interview late morning I think. I will post you a copy of the Order of Service in a few days time.

Best regards for now.”

-Chris



left to right: Sir Bob Russell, Bellway Homes sales rep, Peter Potter, Robin Bradley (relative of John Shell the British Air Bomber on the Lancaster), David Seaborn



Royal London Military Institute and 427 (London) Wing, AFAC

TOUR NO. 30

10 June 2016 - *Cost Per Person \$50.00

Sign up and payment deadline is 10 May 2016

Transportation is by bus only - no private cars

Please note when you sign up - give full name, address, telephone number and citizenship. To tour Kongsberg - you must be screened.

On 10 June, the day of the tours, have a government issued photo ID with you.

Non Canadians should bring their passports.



Kongsberg Protech Systems, London



Jet Aircraft Museum, London



***Dinner at Tony Romas
when you sign up
choose your Entrée
Pasta, Ribs or Chicken***



ITINERARY

12:15 p.m. Meet at the old Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess (WBOM)--park car (location may change)

12:30 p.m. Bus Leaves

1:00 p.m.

***Kongsberg Protech Systems Guided Tour** see www.kongsberg.com/en/kps/
Kongsberg Protech Systems is the world's leading supplier of Remote Weapon Stations providing flexible solutions that meet our customer's specific requirements. Through world class innovation, program execution and customer understanding, we aim to provide high tech systems for enhanced situational awareness and protection of personell and property in high-risk areas.

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As of 2013 the PROTECTOR has been chosen by 17 nations and KONGSBERG continues to be the worlds leading provider of Remote Weapon Stations.

General Dynamics Land Systems has notified KONGSBERG that the 'PROTECTOR' Medium Caliber Remote Weapon Station (MCRWS) has been selected as the 30-millimeter weapon system solution for the Stryker vehicles.

To register, please contact: Royal London Military Institute LCol (Retd) Armin Grunwald and Judy Grunwald, Tour Directors

Email: rlmi@Rogers.com

Telephone: [519 474 2194](tel:5194742194)

An Invitation to all 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association Members

DURING 2017, CANADA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY. In addition, our country will also commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The City of London has already commenced planning for these events. One of the Legion Branches here in London, the Vimy Branch 145, plans to celebrate the landmark Commemoration by sponsoring a VIMY Gala Dinner on 01 April, 2017 in the Grand Ballroom of the London Convention Centre. Some 800 – 1,000 attendees are expected.

The event is to be one of the largest undertakings of this kind in recent years. The evening is being organized in collaboration with the Vimy Foundation, and will involve not only the Legion, but the City of London, the London Area Military and Cadet Units, Police, Fire, Paramedics, Area Museums, Historical Societies, and the faculty members of Fanshawe Community College. All proceeds from the event will go to the Legion Poppy Fund, the purpose of which assists Veterans and their dependents, ex-Service personnel and their families in need of assistance.

We are awaiting confirmation of participation from the invited Distinguished Guests of Honour, His Excellency, David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada; Her Excellency, Sharon Johnston; the Ambassador of France, Nicholas Chapuis and Madame Chapuis, and of course, other notables are expected to be in attendance as well.

This Commemorative Gala Dinner is being planned to be a most enjoyable and memorable evening for all, and hopefully it will be “The Social Event of the Year”. It will truly recognize the important anniversary through rich military and musical pageantry, exceptional speakers, impressive historical displays and a very moving Remembrance Ceremony. All of this, combined with a delicious meal and after dinner dancing, enhanced by the realization that your attendance is supporting our Veterans. Those attending will receive souvenir Vimy pins, a keepsake Gala Program and replica period documents and imagery located at their tables. Finally, the Gala will also host a Silent Auction where period pieces and related items will be available for bidding. I will tell you that this will truly be a Black Tie event with Tuxedos, Mess Dress, Blazers, Business Suits, long gowns, and, of course, Medals and Decorations abound.

You are likely asking “Why am I telling you all this?” Well, I (the undersigned) have been tasked with inviting interested attendees to commit to this Gala Event, and making the necessary seating arrangements. True, it is indeed, quite early in the planning phases, but for the Legion’s own planning numbers, it is also important (as you can understand), to ascertain a commitment from those wishing to attend, and to have their intentions recorded and included in the planning. Already some two-thirds of our tables are spoken for, and have been reserved. As I write this column, (4 April) and from verbal circulation of invitations thus far to our Wing members and their friends alone, we already have 14 seats committed. What I do need from newcomers is your firm support and intentions (preferably in writing) accompanied by a cheque in the full amount or a minimum amount (in cash) for one half the amount of your total levy. Tickets are available \$100 p.p. and they are now on sale to the public.

Should you be one who loves the Pomp and Ceremony of a formal affair, you won’t want to miss out on what will truly be a ‘Once in a Life Time’ experience. Our neighbour Veteran sponsors look forward to a good representation and support from our members, and moreover knowing you will be present for such an auspicious occasion, along with friends of a Military or Civilian connection. Should you be genuinely interested in obtaining tickets, I would ask that you please provide your intentions early, as I don’t want anyone to miss out on this momentous opportunity. Should you have friends that you would like to invite and sit with, please let me know. Arrangements can also be made for an entire table (10 people) to suit your own party needs, should that be your preference.

I can be reached, at sfn.afac@rogers.com or contacted at 519-452-1886, home address 989 Apache Rd, London, N5V 2V7.

Cheques are to be made out to “VIMY BRANCH 145, RCL “ I can’t urge you strongly enough, in order to avoid disappointment, to kindly contact me soon. To be fair to all, it has to be on a ‘First Come, First Served’ basis!

-Sam Newman

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BIRTHDAY BRATS



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John GILL • Wayne HARRIS • Don HATCH • Sam HOOPER
Robert JOHNSON • Mike SEABROOK • Liyuan SHI
David SMITH • Chuck SPURGEON

JUNE

Wayne CHUTER • Bruce HUFF
Brian LOGIE • Sam NEWMAN
Tammy NEWMAN • John PIETRASZKO
Terry RUSHTON

“The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune.”

-English Proverb

The Ostrich

A man walks into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him. The waitress comes over and asks for their order. The man says, “I’ll have a double cheeseburger, large fries and a coke,” and turns to the ostrich and asks, “what about you?” “I’ll have the same,” says the ostrich. A short time later the waitress returns with the order. “That will be \$8.94 please,” and the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out exact change for payment. The next day, the man and the ostrich come again and the man says, “I’ll have a double cheeseburger, large fries and a coke,” and the ostrich says, “I’ll have the same.” Once again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change. This becomes a routine until late one evening, the two enter again. “The usual?” asks the waitress. “No, this is Friday night, so I will have a porterhouse steak, baked potato and salad,” says the man. “Same for me,” says the ostrich. A short time later the waitress comes with the order and says, “That will be \$22.86”. Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table. The waitress can’t hold back her curiosity any longer. “Excuse me, sir, how do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?” “Well,” says the man, “several years ago I was cleaning the attic and I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I’d just put my hand in my pocket, and the exact amount of money would always be there.” “That’s brilliant!” says the waitress. “Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you’ll always be rich for as long as you live!” “That’s right! Whether it’s a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact amount of money is always there,” says the man. The waitress asks, “One other thing, sir, what’s with the ostrich?” The man sighs, pauses, and answers, “My second wish was for a chick with long legs who always agrees with everything I say!”

The Good Samaritan

A man is in bed with his wife when there is a rat-a-tat-tat on the door. He rolls over and looks at his clock, it’s half past three in the morning. “I’m not getting out of bed at this time of night,” he thinks, and rolls over. Then, a louder knock follows. “Aren’t you going to answer that?” asks his wife. So he drags himself out of bed and goes downstairs. He opens the door and sees a man standing there. It didn’t take the homeowner long to realize the man was drunk. “Hi there,” slurs the stranger. “Can you give me a push?” “No, get lost. It’s half past three. I was in bed,” says the man and slams the door.

He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened and she says, “Dave, that wasn’t very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby sitter and you had to knock on that man’s house to get us started again? What would have happened if he’d told us to get lost?”

“But the guy was drunk,” says the husband. “It doesn’t matter,” says the wife. “He needs our help and it would be the Christian thing to help him.” So the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs. He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere shouts, “Hey, do you still want a push?” He hears a voice cry out, “Yeah, please.”

So, still unable to see the stranger he shouts, “Where are you?” And the stranger replies, “I’m over here, on your swing set.”



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UPCOMING EVENTS



“Canada 150”

A taste of what’s to come to the Wing by the Spirit of Flight project in 2017.

Stay tuned to the Link for continuing details!



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427 WING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2016

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

JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Lunch	4 LFC
5	6	7 RAA	8 Cards BCC	9 WT	10 Lunch WEC	11
12	13	14 MAC	15 Cards	16 COM	17 Lunch	18
19	20	21	22 Cards	23	24 Lunch WD/BBQ	25

Wing Closed, reopens for lunch August 4th

LEGEND

<p>AGM Annual General Meeting, 1pm</p> <p>BBQ Barb-que lunch, last lunch until August</p> <p>BCC British Car Club, meeting at 7:30pm</p> <p>COM Retired Commissionaires, 9am - 12pm</p> <p>FO Fanshawe Optimist's Club, meeting at 7:30pm</p> <p>GM General Meeting at 1pm</p> <p>GS Guest Speaker, see pg.11!</p> <p>LFC London Flying Club Reunion</p>	<p>LVRC London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 11:00am</p> <p>MAC Model Aircraft Club meeting</p> <p>OAGM Ontario Group Annual General Meeting</p> <p>RAA Recreational Aircraft Association, meeting at 7:30pm</p> <p>WD The Women's Division join us the 4th Friday of each month for lunch</p> <p>WDP Wind Down Party for OAGM, at the Wing</p> <p>WEC Wing Executive Council, 9:30am</p> <p>WT Wood Turners, meeting at 7:30pm</p>
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