

THE LONDON LINK

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director	Gus Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Director - Acting Chairperson	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Watts		mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Treasurer and Acting Secretary	Chuck Hardy		chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports – call Wing for info

Web-Site	www.427wing.com		
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Housing	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Marketing			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhs meltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Lottery			
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and Gus Cameron advising		
Tours			

CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive
London Link graphic artist	Cathy Wood	cathywood@gmail.com

**FRONT COVER AND PAGE 12:
Christmas Luncheon December 17.**

Over 1,000sq ft 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.

- Call for rental rates • Catering IS an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



BOARD REPORT *By Chuck Hardy*

We hope you had a good and safe Christmas and that you welcomed 2022 in good spirits.

Application Submitted for a Grant to Provide a Vertical Lift

Board member Linda Brimson worked many long hours shortly before Christmas to submit the application on behalf of the Wing. We will know in the spring if the application for the grant was successful. Bravo, Linda.

Wing Calendar

Linda Brimson notes that sales at lunches and elsewhere are brisk. Cost is only \$10.00 and is a great fundraiser for the Wing.

Positions Available

The need for help from members, is for the most part, not time consuming. Here is a summary of help needed by The Board:

1. Monitoring the email address of the Wing Secretary and passing

messages on to applicable Board members or Advisors to action.

2. Assisting with researching and completing applications for grants.
3. Aiding committees such as the museum, membership, health, and wellness, reviewing by-laws and house directives and other tasks.

Training for the above will be provided and most of the work you can do from home.

Your Board of Directors is small in numbers. Some Board members work full time elsewhere.

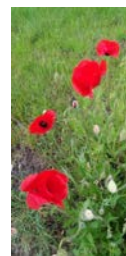
You will not regret helping the Wing. As is often said, helping others in need is a gratifying experience.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy reading the Link. The editor, Cathy Wood, welcomes articles. Your feedback about the Link is most welcome.



2022 Calendar. Thanks for supporting 427 Wing.

427 (London) Wing Royal Canadian Air Force Association



2022 Calendar

Thank you for your support. We Will Remember.

"Through adversity to the stars"



Just \$10.00. Lots of vintage photos, member photos and info. Please contact Linda Brimson at linda.brimson@yahoo.com or 519 659-0628 to order and arrange pickup or dropoff. Also available at the Wing by arrangement.



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Fundraiser for the 427 London Wing \$25 *per ticket*

***Only 100 tickets available
100% of the proceeds to the 427***

1/ First draw is for a signed Pete McLeod Canvas

(only 1 of 2 canvases printed and signed)

**2/ Second draw is for a Signed Snowbirds print
from the 2021 London Airshow**

**3/ Third draw is for a Signed #7 US Blue Angels Aircraft print
from the 2021 London Airshow**

(All photos taken and donated by Doris Weir)

Contact - Flo at the 427, 2155 Crumlin Road, London, Ontario 519-455-0430

Or

Doris Weir - 519-808-6197

Cash (at the 427) or e Transfer (Doris Weir) accepted

Draw will take place once all 100 tickets are sold



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Santa's Breakfast was a private event, overseen by Flo and Rene. Contact the Wing for information on renting the facility for your private event.

FIRST RE-OPENING LUNCH



BIRTHDAY BRATS

JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Brent Elgie, Torben Haarbye, Delores Lloyd, Dave
McCarter Ray Pritchard and Bob Swartman

FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Bruce Tapp, Fay Timbers, Tom Johnston, and Frank Mantz

"The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune."

~English Proverb



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LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June 17th.
September/October: August 18th • November/December: October 18th.

Please forward any articles that you consider of value to the Wing members and we will do our best to get it to print.
Sometimes submissions are of such a size that we then make them a two, or three part series.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your photos, stories etc with our members.

(For good reproduction at reasonable size, photos should be fairly high resolution)

"Sudden resolutions, like the sudden rise of mercury in a barometer, indicate little else than the variability of the weather."

David Hare

"Good resolutions are like babies crying in church. They should be carried out immediately."

Charles M. Sheldon

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What is a Sweetheart Brooch? *Contributed by Linda Brimson*

During WWI and WWII, servicemen leaving home for the front line had to say goodbye to those they loved, and often left gifts and keepsakes for those they'd be missing. One popular gift was a small brooch depicting the service crest or regimental badge of the soldier. This gift was intended for soldiers to show that their home and families would be in their hearts during their absence. The name "sweetheart" can be misleading here, as it suggests that the item was only given to those in intimate relationships, but this isn't the case. The sweetheart brooch was given to anyone the soldier would be leaving behind; this could be their wife, parents, siblings and even children. If it was given to a wife or a girlfriend, it was worn by that woman as a symbol of their pride and regard for their soldier.

The brooches were small and fitted with pins so they could be worn on a blouse or a lapel. Some were handmade and "homemade" by enterprising servicemen for others. As the brooches became popular, jewellers saw the opportunity for profit and started commercial production. These brooches were usually smaller and made of gold or silver rather than coloured base metals; some jewellers used precious stones.



Well, it's new variant day



AGAIN

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Above are some of the Wing volunteer crew at the first reopening lunch.



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A Royal Air Force Love Story

RAF member Bill Webster and his wife Helen shared a wartime love story. Bill was an active Royal Canadian Legion member and 427 Wing member. Bill and his family, Helen, son John and daughter Anne, made the wooden poppy crosses that travelled to war graves all over the world.

The romance started in Goderich when Bill was posted to Port Albert Air Navigation School in 1940, as an RAF LAC1 (electrician and gunner). His RAF base in UK had moved three times due to bombing. Even in Wales, the base did not escape Luftwaffe air raids.

As part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, Bill's entire base of training Anson aircraft and other equipment was dismantled and loaded on a fast ship to secretly sail unescorted across the Atlantic. Passengers on board did not know their destination. Bill thought they might be going to Africa. Arriving at the port of Montreal Canada was a big surprise and a well-kept secret! Further train travel allowed personnel and equipment to disembark at Goderich Ontario and travel by truck a few miles north to the new Port Albert training base. Bill and his service group were among the first arrivals.

Bill had many entertaining stories as a Brit getting used to Canadian winters and Canadian customs. Camp personnel would travel to Goderich from Port Albert base in an old bus heated with a wood stove! In better weather, the locals were always obliging to offer any serviceman a ride to town. The town bakery (now Culbert's) was a popular spot, as were diners and coffee shops. The late D. J. Curry and his son Arthur took over the bakery in 1906 and named it Curry's West Street Bakery. Mel Culbert took over the bakery in 1942 and for most years since, a Culbert family member has owned it. The delectable location is going strong today, as visitors can attest.

Bill was from Brighton, Sussex on the coast, just 50 miles southwest of London England. He met Helen in a Goderich coffee shop. Helen's mother was raised just one street from Bill's family home on Lynton Street, off Elm Grove in Brighton, England. That coincidence led to Bill receiving an invitation to come for an "English dinner" and he and Helen hit it off.

Unusually, Bill's posting at Port Albert lasted three years. As an electrician he was a "permanent" post as opposed to a trainee in the many air navigation courses. He maintained aircraft, helped repair damage from any "prangs" (crashes or bad landings); and took turns on the harbour boat. The boat was always on standby in case any aircraft ditched in Lake Huron.

Bill was young and had to ask permission of his parents to be married. Their wedding was June 1941. In late 1943, Bill was recalled to England and Helen as his wife, went by separate ship and lived with Bills' parents and sister Jean, in Brighton for the duration of the war. Helen had lots to learn and joke about, despite rationing, air raids, bomb scares, and the threats civilians and service men and women faced. There existed a wonderful camaraderie and the young people wanted to live in the moment. They enjoyed good music, great dances and everyone worked together. Bill's older brother Bert had survived being pinned down at Dunkirk and suffered hearing loss and emotional damage from that har-

rowing experience. The Webster boys and Jean's husband Ernie (posted in Europe and Africa) all survived the war.

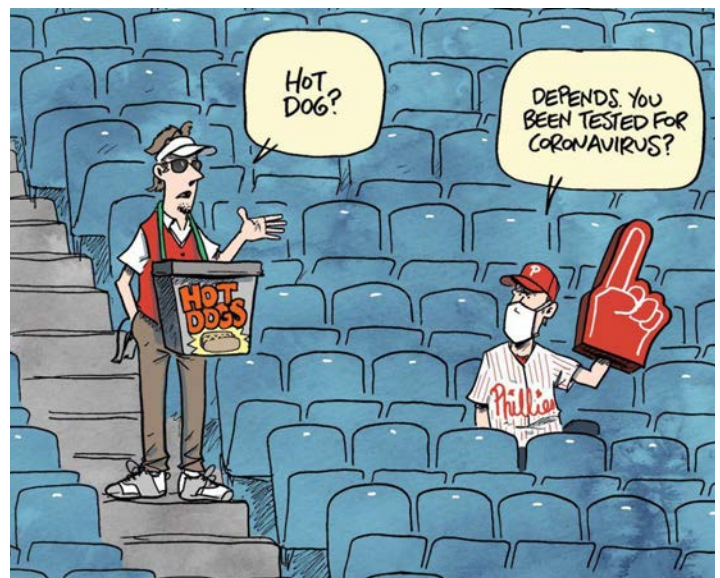
Bill's experience in Ontario Canada convinced him of opportunities available there after the war. In England, housing was scarce and rationing continued. Bill and Helen came to Canada in January 1948 and raised a family: son John, and daughter Anne. Bill enjoyed a long career as electrical supervisor at Victoria Hospital, London Ontario. Bill lost his dear Helen in November 2000 and himself lived to be 99, passing in November 2020.

History of Port Albert No. 31 Air Navigation School, Port Albert, Ontario

No. 31 Air Navigation School (ANS) was originally located in various locations in England, and lastly, at St. Athens, Wales. During the Battle of Britain, frequent aerial bombings from the German Luftwaffe made training in the United Kingdom dangerous. As a result, No. 31 ANS was relocated to Port Albert, Ontario, opening October 1940.

Training

Port Albert, located on the shores of Lake Huron, was an ideal location for navigational training as it gave students experience navigating over land and water. Typically, students at No. 31 Air Navigation School would first learn in a classroom how to read and use the astral compass and how to plot a course using landmarks. Next, they would train with the Ground Simulation Trainer. Finally, they would complete daytime and nighttime navigational flights, using the Link Trainer and Astral Link trainer. Most graduates were stationed in the United Kingdom and became members of Bomber Command. No. 31 Air Navigation School produced 1,964 student navigators and observers. The base closed on February 17, 1945.



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Chuck Hardy Chairperson

Obituaries

Since the last edition of the Link, we are saddened by the loss of ...

GWEN CLARKE

WHO PASSED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 6, 2021

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years Don. Gwen is missed by their children, and other relatives near and far.

As a Wing member for over 30 years Gwen was an extraordinary cook serving with the Ladies Auxiliary. She knew what the members and guests liked for the Friday lunches and assisted in the planning for some of the menus. Gwen was awarded with several awards including the Award of Distinction.

No one was happier than Gwen in getting the highest score in euchre and when she won the 50/50 draw or the snowball draw. She greeted people by name.

Gwen trained new members of the kitchen staff. She cheered them up when they felt overwhelmed. Because of Gwen, some of her co-workers in the kitchen continue to help Flo and her staff.



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JACK CLARK, CD, WHO PASSED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Jack passed away at Victoria Hospital with his wife Joan and daughter, Peggy at his side. He was the loving father of daughters Debra, Sheryl, Lori, and Peggy. He was adored by seven grandchildren. Jack and Joan had been married for close to 40 years.

Following his service in the RCN and RCAF, Jack worked for the Ministry of Transportation.

Jack served as President, Vice-President, and other roles during his many years as a member of 427 (London) Wing. In this tribute to Jack, we turn to his outstanding stewardship as Air Cadet Liaison Officer. What follows are extracts from the July/August 2020 edition of the Link.

His family organized a celebration of his 90th birthday. Family, friends, and colleagues sent birthday wishes by video because of COVID. The family turned to Squadron staff, Wing members and others to celebrate Jack's birthday in style with input from those who knew him best. Captain Graystone of 862 Squadron who worked with Jack for 15 years is one. This led to the creation of "The Jack Clark Leadership Award." The award will be presented annually to the Air Cadet who shows exceptional leadership by motivating and encouraging others to do their best. Jack was honoured to present the first award to WO 1 Paige Wakelin.

Jack mentored new members of the Wing executive encouraging them to do their very best. He organized elections at general meetings. He was the first to welcome guests and members at events such as the Levee, Friday lunches and other events.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



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Benefits Payment Calendar 2022

Below are dates for recurring Government of Canada benefit payments administered by Canada Revenue Agency. If you signed for direct deposit, payments will be made to your bank account.

CPP AND OAS: January 27, February 24, March 29, April 27, May 27, June 28, July 27, August 29, September 27, October 27, November 28, December 21

VETERANS DISABILITY PENSION: January 28, February 25, March 30, April 28, May 30, June 29, July 28, August 30, September 28, October 28, November 29, December 22

GST: January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5

ONTARIO TRILLIUM BENEFIT: January 10, February 10, March 10, April 8, May 10, June 10, July 8, August 10, September 9, October 7, November 10, December 9

DECEMBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2						8
9						15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

ALL JANUARY EVENTS
CANCELLED
DUE TO COVID

Visit our website or follow us
on Facebook for updates
for February

JANUARY 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	RAA 1	2	LARC 3	LUNCH 4	5
6	MAC 7	BCC 8	WOOD-TURNERS 9	10	LUNCH 11	12
13	14	15	16	17	LUNCH 18	19
20	21	22	23	24	LUNCH 25	26
27	28	1	2	3	Anniversary of the founding of the RCAF 4	5

FEBRUARY EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO PANDEMIC. PLEASE INQUIRE.

