

May – June 2022

Volume 53, Issue 41

# 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)



Historic and modern clips from a short film celebrating the 98th anniversary of the RCAF, which may be viewed at: <https://fb.watch/cgoYJWcUHg/>

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# ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

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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.

## THE LONDON LINK - PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Six editions each year beginning with the Jul/Aug edition.

Articles of interest to all readers including items about all components of the military both of a historic and more recent nature; articles written by Air Cadets of all Squadrons; regular Board articles; items from all readers as space allows.

To promote the Wing to the wider and diverse population with the aim of attracting new members and/or seeking volunteers who may not wish to join as members.

## 427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Web-Site	Simon Lemire		simonlemire@sympatico.ca
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhsmeltzer@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
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
Advisor	Howard Johnson		johnston.hojo@rogers.com
Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial, Tours	David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and Gus Cameron advising		

## 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

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## Greetings from the Board from Chairperson Linda Brimson

427 Wing is pleased to announce that we have received funding under the Government of Canada's *New Horizons for Seniors Program* for our vertical lift project. This federal grants and contributions program supports projects that are led or inspired by seniors who are making a difference in the lives of others in their communities. The funds will be used to purchase the vertical lift equipment.

Thank you to the Government of Canada's *New Horizons for Senior Program* for the funding support provided to 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association. It will make a significant difference in the lives of seniors in our community.

The lift will make it possible for mobility-challenged visitors to use the Wings' accessible washrooms.

### Looking Back and Déjà vu

Randy Warden, Wing member and Consultant surveyed Wing members and presented a summary of the 2012 situation and proposed that a Business Plan for the Wing might help meet challenges and assist in future planning.

Randy used a SWOT formula: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. In 2012, 70% of members replied to his survey that he mailed to all members. A full discussion took place for members attending a subsequent meeting and copies kept for reference.

**Strengths:** Air Cadets and dedication of the few volunteers;

**Weaknesses:** lack of volunteers, lack of meetings and no business plan;

**Opportunities:** public relations;

**Threats:** Complacency, aging membership, and declining membership.

There was follow-up by the 2012 Executive in December to try to determine a direction and action plan. It might prove valuable to review this document this year and share with current membership. 427 Wing survived COVID by a thread – due to public appeals to generous members and friends of the Wing who donated

money when our finances were precarious. In late 2020 we faced bankruptcy. A small number, 6-8 executive and advisers met weekly from late 2020, through most of 2021 to put out "fires" – crisis after crisis – and it took real dedication to carry forward positively when some voices were ready to quit. Look at the number of service clubs, Legions, and businesses that ceased to exist.

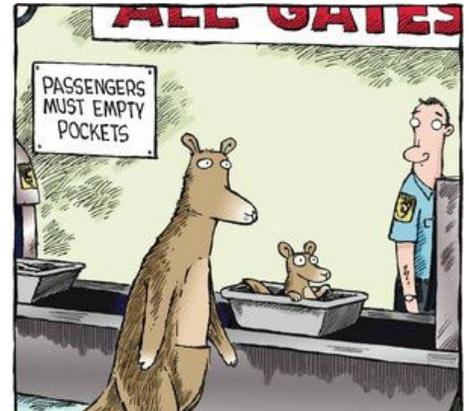
There have been real achievements during COVID – the overdue 2020 roofing debt of \$10,000 was paid. Significant building improvements re: fire alarm system, alarm system, new doors installed, storerooms cleaned out, book collection reorganized. A Veterans Affairs grant was received for eligible operational expenses. A Canada Summer Job hiree created a remarkable video for the Wing that captures the history and heart of the Wing. The Wing collaborated with Heritage Fair and London Historical Society to create displays. We liaised with Pillar Foundation and other non-profits for survival and success strategies. Spooner Memorial in-ground stones were all cleaned by member Gus Cameron. The Link newsletters continued, and we have social media via Facebook (thanks to Brent) and our website (thanks to Simon).

The troubling point is all the challenges of 2012 remain, now in 2022 – some are amplified as we lose more of our dear members and their spouses. Others are unwell, or caring for family members, no longer driving, or unable to fill any volunteer role.

Thank you to all who helped the Wing during COVID times. The Wing needs to have a General Meeting, possibly this autumn, as we are long overdue. The summer will be busy with (hopefully) Air Cadets on site July and August, and London Air Show Sept 9-11, when Flo and her crew host Emergency Services personnel and Air Show volunteers.

We need new members willing to help, in baby steps at first, with guidance and support from long-term members. There have been openings on the Board and Committee Chairs for a long time. Vacant positions include

Lottery Licenses, Spooner Memorial Stone Liaison, Entertainment, and Sports & Activities. I am sure there is volunteer fatigue among long-serving members. We need everyone to do what they can when they can.





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GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST  
GOLDSMITH – APPRAISER

**Jeffrey R. Poag**  
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## National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week was held April 24 - 30.

Volunteering can improve your mental and physical health. The theme this year is empathy in action. We have all been through a lot in the past two years. Volunteering helps develop empathy by connecting you to people and organizations in your community who are helping others. When you volunteer, you are giving to others, you are supporting something bigger than yourself. Volunteering helps lower blood pressure and contributes to a longer lifespan. At the Wing in the past few weeks, a number of new people have joined as members. We need to increase the membership and the number of volunteers.

### Crumlin Airport – November 1, 1940

The soon to be completed airport administration building is shown here near the Crumlin Airforce Training School, east of London. The nearly completed building was built to house Government and commercial offices related to the operations of the airport. The ground floor housed passenger accommodations with the control tower in the upper part.



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## REMINDER

### April 1st, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force

There are special fundraising initiatives and celebrations from national level being planned.

Follow 427 (London) Wing on Facebook for updates. There is remarkable history to celebrate and many great veterans to remember, along with wonderful aircraft. A century of service and achievement.



## 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

# X Elections Ontario

The Ontario provincial general election will be held on or before June 2, 2022.

Please become informed about candidates and issues. Exercise our right and privilege to vote that we sometimes take for granted.

<https://voterinformation.service.elections.on.ca>

*Father's Day is June 19.*  
Treat Dad to lunch (on the 17th) at 427 WING!

## Canada announces F35 contract

Like many Canadians, I firmly believe in standing steadfastly with and advocating for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. These dedicated men and women deserve the best equipment and support possible to carry out the difficult and dangerous work we ask them to do. Old and obsolete equipment must be replaced to ensure the safety of our Armed Forces. The need for new jets for the Canadian Air Force division of the CAF has been known for several decades. Efforts had been made but no new planes were on the horizon.

But after successive delays and the 2015 cancellation of the single-engine F-35 deal, the fighter jet competition was relaunched in July 2019, just before the 2019 federal election. The Canadian government has just announced it has signed a contract with Lockheed Martin for the next generation of F-35 fighter jets.

It is hoped that the fighter jet chosen for our Air men and women will be able to operate safely across all regions of Canada including the remote high Arctic. We have an obligation to patrol and defend our north as well as meet our commitments to our NORAD and NATO allies. The current CF-18 jets are long-passed their expected end-of-life and are costing the taxpayers millions in repairs to keep them flying. They simply are not capable to perform the missions required in 2022.

My colleagues and I are happy that a jet design has been chosen but we also wish that the winning design could be built in Canada using Canadian labour and materials to bolster the domestic aerospace sector and connected industries while providing good quality jobs for Canadian families. Canadians in the aerospace industry are most certainly highly qualified and could provide expertise in regard to a new jet aircraft. Hopefully Canadians will still be able to play a role in the roll out of the new jets.

As the defence Critic, I will continue to remain vigilant in regard to this military procurement and all future procurement because Canadians need to know that the safety of the Canadian Forces members will never be compromised.

Lindsay Mathyssen MP  
London-Fanshawe

## Proposed Bus Trip to Air Museum at Windsor Airport

Wing member Don Martin has proposed the following bus trip, for end of June 2022.

Will those interested, please confirm with Don ASAP. donmartin013@gmail.com 519-670-1265

The Canadian Aviation Museum is home to Windsor's own Lancaster bomber and Mosquito KB161. Located at the west end of Windsor International Airport, just south of Airport Road. The site occupies the original hangar of #7 Elementary Flying Training School, built in 1940 as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

### Tentative Schedule Date to be determined:

9:00 am

Leave 427 Wing Building, 2155 Crumlin Rd.

Short stop enroute if desired

11:00 - 11:15 am

Arrive Air Museum 2600 Airport Rd. Windsor

11:25 - 11:40 am

Arrive Caesars Casino Windsor 377 Riverside Drive East

2:25 - 2:35 pm Bus Leave Caesars Casino

3:00 pm Bus Arrives Air Museum

4:00 pm (to be confirmed)

leave Museum to drive home to Wing building, London

6:00 - 6:20 pm Arrive at Wing building

Transport is by school bus. A rest stop can be arranged. Cost depends on number of attendees.

46 people = \$31.00 each; 25 people = \$56.00 each; 20 people = \$70 each

Museum admission = plus \$11

Bonus: Veterans can enter the museum FREE!

Any snacks or meals are extra.

Driver's tip: at personal discretion



Learn more about the Canadian Aviation Museum at:  
<https://canadianaviationmuseum.ca>



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# BIRTHDAY BRATS

## MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Harry Beukeboom, Bob Brown, Joan Clark, Robert Johnson, Hazil Malone, Tom Pillon, Wayne Quick, Mike Seabrook, Liyuan Shi, and David Smith

## JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Nadine Abi Raad, Wayne Chuter, Mike Desjardins, Pilsuqua Lloyd, Les Prosser, Tammy Newman, CD, Sam Newman, CD and Terry Rushton

*“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)



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## Canada loses astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason

by Linda Brimson

Bjarni Tryggvason, one of Canada's original six astronauts who flew on board NASA's space shuttle, died April 5th at age 76. In announcing his death, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) stated "Bjarni applied the highest standard to everything he undertook." Bjarni was born in Reykjavik, Iceland and spent his youth in Nova Scotia and British Columbia before attending UBC and UWO.

Bjarni launched as a payload specialist in August 1997 on a 12-day space mission. His primary task aboard space shuttle Discovery was to operate and evaluate the Microgravity Vibration Isolation Mount (MMIM). This small, Canadian-developed instrument is designed to isolate payloads and experiments from any disturbances caused by thruster firings or crew activity.

Bjarni worked in London Ontario's International Test Pilot School, taught at London's Western and Ottawa Carleton Universities, was a guest research associate at Kyoto University in Japan in 1979, and at James Cook University in Australia. He had many international teaching and consulting positions. Bjarni was an airline transport-rated pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight experience, including 1,800 hours as a flight instructor.

Tryggvason was active in aerobatic flight and completed a captaincy check in a jet trainer with the Canadian Air Force. On his 70th birthday, his adult children, Mike and Lauren arranged with pilot friends, to bring their varied aircraft to Tillsonburg Airport. There Bjarni flew seven aerobatic flights on six different aircraft!

He was pleased to pilot a replica of Alexander Graham Bell's Silver Dart very flimsy, bare-bones aircraft in February 2009, to commemorate the centennial of the first flight in Canada and the British Empire.

Fellow Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield said this recently: "Lost a good friend today. Pioneer astronaut, engineer's engineer, proud parent, inventor, test pilot. A kind, funny, original man."

Bjarni had served on the Board for CHAA (Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association) and was currently President. Our friends at CHAA will feel his loss deeply. He was very approachable and happy to be a pilot for Harvard back-seat flight rides and memorial flypasts.

I was thrilled to have two Harvard flights with Bjarni. One was a formation memorial flypast over Brantford. The wind was up, and the flight was a bit choppy as the Harvard group hung off each other's wingtips. Back on the ground I mentioned the movement made me a bit nauseous and I asked how to cure that. Bjarni grinned and said, "That's easy. More flying."

I will remember Bjarni as a kind man in the blue flight suit with NASA and CHAA patches, talking to kids about space and answering their questions. He did not seek the limelight but would make time when I sent families and children over to him at a CHAA event "to meet a real astronaut." Blue skies Bjarni.



Bjarni Tryggvason and CHAA Member John Brown.  
(photo courtesy of Gus Corujo)

Canada Post issued a Canadian Astronauts series in 2003 with 48 cent postage value. The series featured Marc Garneau, Roberta Bondar, Steve MacLean, Chris Hadfield, Robert Thirsk, Bjarni Tryggvason, Dave Williams, and Julie Payette.



Design / Conception: Pierre-Yves Pelletier

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Printer / Imprimeur: Lowe-Martin



APRIL 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JUNE 2022

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# MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	LUNCH 6	7
Mothers Day 8	9	RAA 10	BCC 11	Woodturners 12	LUNCH 13	14
15	16	17	18	19	LUNCH 20	21
22	Victoria Day 23	24	25	26	LUNCH 27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

MAY 2022

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29	30	31				

JULY 2022

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31						

# JUNE 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	LUNCH 3	4
5	6	7	BCC 8	Woodturners 9	LUNCH 10	Private Rental 11
12	13	MAC 14	15	16	LUNCH 17	18
Fathers Day 19	20	Indigenous Solidarity Day 21	22	23	LUNCH 24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Canada Day 1	2

The Wing is closed to the public for Air Cadet power flight training July 01 - August 31.  
 The Wing is closed Sept. 01 - 09 for the Airshow London  
 Sept. 16 will be the resumption of the Wings Friday lunch.



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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Chuck Hardy Chairperson

The following members have received or will receive long service pins this year:

**5 Years:** Frank Birch, Brett Gilbank, Brad Keeler Rob Leroy, Shawn Lewis, Hazil Malone, Keith Mathysen, David McCarter, John Pederson, Tom Pillon, Charles Rath, Doug Rath, Helen Simpson, and Mike Watts.

**10 Years:** Kathy Brown, Pablo Calcaterra and Tammy Newman.

**15 Years:** Chuck Hardy, Al Szawara, and Thomas Taborowski.

**20 Years:** Don Berrill, Mike Seabrook, and Marilyn Turner.

**30 Years:** Wayne Quick.

**45 Years:** Sam Newman.

During the Friday lunches new members are being inducted into the Wing. Board Member Mike Watts performs this role cheerfully and without a lot of fanfare. New members are given a welcome package and are greeted by those in attendance.

### SAVE PAPER! SAVE STAMPS!

Sign up to receive the  
London Link on-line at  
<http://eepurl.com/dLIqJo>

## Obituary – Fay Timbers

Fay joined 427 (London) Wing in February 2009. She passed away on March 31, 2022.

For many years, Fay and her husband Donald lived in Melbourne. More recently she moved to London.

As a member of the Wing, she came to the Friday lunches as often as she could. Fay generously donated food and this helped in providing good meals and helped with food expenses.

Fay served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the 1950's.

**WE WILL REMEMBER HER**

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Go to <https://www.gofundme.com> and search for 427 Wing to make an online donation. Thank you!



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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

# Queen Victoria's Sponge Cake

by Linda Brimson

Let's remember Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24, 1819, with this tasty dessert, as we celebrate our Victoria Day weekend holiday.

Victoria Sponge Cake is considered the quintessential English teatime treat. Anna, the Duchess of Bedford (1788-1861), one of Queen Victoria's (1819-1901) ladies-in-waiting, is credited as the creator of teatime. The cake's name should really be *The Royal Victoria Sponge*, as its name harks back to Queen Victoria herself, who was said to enjoy a slice of the delicious cake with her traditional English afternoon tea.

After her husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861, Queen Victoria spend time in retreat at the Queen's residence (Osborne House) on the Isle of Wight. According to historians, it was here that the Victoria Sponge Cake was named after Queen Victoria.

In the early Victorian period, afternoon tea consisted of seed cake and fruit cake. For safety reasons, it was believed that children should not eat a cake containing pieces of fruit or seeds. The light, harmless Victoria Sponge was prepared as a teatime treat for them instead!

Victoria sponge cake is a British cake. It's a vanilla sponge cake that is sandwiched with jam and buttercream (or alternatively, whipped cream) filling. It is one of the different types of sponge cake. Others are not typically sandwiched with jam and cream filling.

Before we address ingredients, let's review some important baking considerations.

**What makes a cake light and fluffy?** Most cakes begin with creaming butter and sugar together. Butter can hold air and the creaming process is when butter traps that air. While baking, that trapped air expands and produces a fluffy cake.

**What ingredient makes cake spongy?** Cake flour has corn starch mixed in it and it makes the cake spongy. The reason sifting is important is that it adds air and makes the mixture lighter. Therefore, it is very important to sift the flour and baking soda. Sifting before adding them to the mixture makes your cake spongy and super fluffy

**What is the secret to a light sponge cake?** Always sift the flour into the cake mixture or mix the baking powder with the flour and then sift. Sifting adds air and thus lightness to a cake mixture. Use a cake flour if available; cake flour tends to be milled more finely, resulting in a lighter cake.

**Should you beat eggs before adding to cake mix?** Beating the eggs before adding them to the batter is very important. This step is often skipped though because many people think it is a waste of time. They just crack the eggs right into the batter and go about mixing. Please do not to skip the step of beating the eggs when a recipe calls for it.

**Can I use granulated sugar instead of caster sugar in cakes?** Can I substitute granulated sugar for caster sugar? Your cakes will still hold up if you use granulated sugar as both the flavour and water content are the same. Caster sugar, however, is much finer and dissolves much easier than granulated sugar which is coarser in texture.

**What makes a sponge cake tough?** Another possible reason is if the cake was over-baked. This generally causes a sponge to become dry, but this can then lead to it being dense and heavy. If you baked it for the recommended time, it may mean that your oven is running hot and that the baking time needs to be shortened slightly next time you make it.



## Cake Ingredients

1 cup cake flour (alternatively: use all-purpose flour)  
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
2 eggs, room temperature  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ cup milk, room temperature

## Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease an 8-inch springform pan.

Sift the flour and baking powder into a medium bowl and set aside.

Beat butter and sugar with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. The mixture should be noticeably lighter in color. Add beaten room-temperature eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to blend into butter mixture before adding the next. Beat in vanilla. Pour in the flour mixture alternately with the milk, mixing until just incorporated. Pour batter into prepared pan.

This cake can be served as is, just dusted with confectioners' sugar. Alternately, cut the cake in half horizontally and sandwich the layers together with jam and buttercream filling. For best results, leave the cake on the counter for 6-8 hours before using it in a cake. This will reduce the amount of crumbling when you split the cake layer in two horizontally.

## Buttercream Filling

3 ½ ounces unsalted butter, softened  
7 ounces icing sugar  
2 tbs milk

Beat the butter in a large bowl until soft. Add half of the icing sugar and beat until smooth. Add the remaining icing sugar and one tablespoon of milk and beat the mixture until creamy and smooth. Add the remaining tablespoon of milk if the buttercream is too thick. Spoon the buttercream into a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle.

Yields 6-8 servings. Enjoy and experiment with your favourite fruit, filling, and topping variations.

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