

THE **LONDON LINK**

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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**427 (London) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association
2155 Crumlin Road, London Ontario**

**Join us for our
*Christmas Luncheon***

Friday December 16, 2022

Served at 11:30 am

Home cooked turkey with all the festive trimmings.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Tickets: \$20.00 reservations in advance.

Tickets available at the Wing or call 519 455-0430 to reserve.

Ticket reservation cut off date: December 5

SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IF LESS THAN 80 TICKETS SOLD.

Kindly reserve ASAP to ensure this event is a go!

Bring a friend for a wonderful meal and fellowship.

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.

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 - Chairperson	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Watts		mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Ridley		roseharc@gmail.com
Secretary			
Acting Secretary	Chuck Hardy		chuck.hardy@sympatico.c

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@sympatio.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fmsmeltzer@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 Johnston		johnston.hojo@rogers.com

Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.

Heritage/ History & Veterans'

Memorial, 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	cathyrwood@gmail.com	

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

Recent and/or Ongoing Events

Battle of Britain luncheon was well attended. Tom Hennessey was guest speaker and effectively replied to the many questions.

Euchre is on Thursdays starting at 1:00 pm. Only \$2.00 per week. Includes snacks and a chance to win a prize. Easy game to learn. Lots of fun. Give it a try.

General Meeting was held on October 21st. See minutes and financial report on the notice board.

Attendance at Friday lunches is down. A full course meal and a chance to meet new friends. Please spread the word to people you know.

Please see the full page about the Christmas luncheon on December

16th on the front cover of this edition of the Link.

Other Items

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement is now on the letterhead of the Wing.

Volunteer Positions

The Secretary vacancy is a Board position. Duties outlined in the Wing bylaws include:

Preparing agendas and minutes for Board and General Meetings, control the safekeeping of Wing documents and coordinate incoming and outgoing correspondence.

For more information about the Secretary position, please contact Chuck Hardy at email address: chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca or phone the Wing at 519-455-0430.

We are looking for help in fundraising and writing of grant applications for projects The Board determines the Wing is eligible for. A one-person ongoing position is looking after the administration of the Spooner Memorial which includes the ordering of memorial stones for individuals and making arrangements for the laying of the stones. Please contact Chuck if you are interested any of the positions. These positions will not take up a lot of your time. The Wing provides a wonderful place to meet and socialize. The Wing in turn needs help in order to stay in operation for many years to come.

MEMBERSHIP by Chuck Hardy

Former member Robert Swartman passed away on October 8, 2022. He served in the RCAF and was a Wing member for four years. We will remember him.

New member Ben Baldassarro joined on September 30, 2022. Welcome Ben. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL AND MAY 2023 BRING YOU JOY.



NORAD Tracks Santa is an annual (since 1955) Christmas-themed program in which North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) simulates the tracking of Santa Claus, who is said to leave the North Pole to travel around the world on his mission to deliver presents to children every year on Christmas Eve.

Visit www.noradsanta.org/en/ starting December 1.



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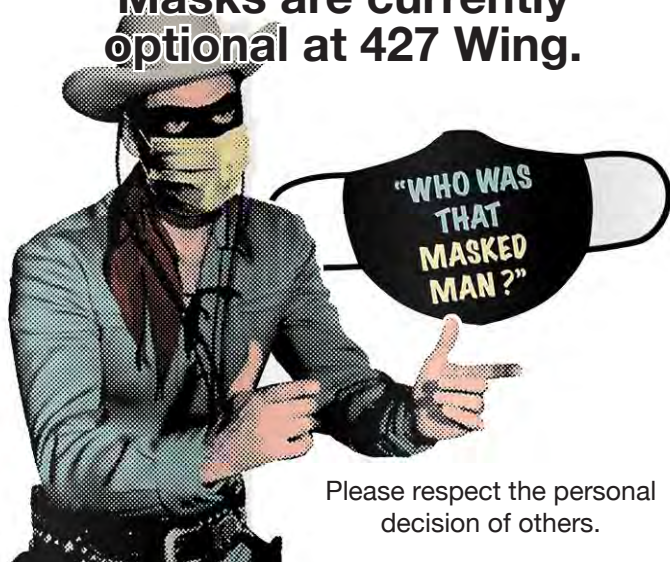
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Masks are currently optional at 427 Wing.



Please respect the personal decision of others.

Secrets of Radar Research

Are you a Second World War RCAF/RAF radar veteran who has been involved in the creation or operations of the Secrets of Radar Museum?

Are you a close family member of a veteran who has been involved with SORM?

Did you ever attend a reunion of WWII Radar veterans? Were you a board member, employee, or volunteer with the museum between the years 2001 and 2017?

If so, Maya would like to invite you to an interview. Visit: secretsofradar.com/PhDresearch

New Chocolate Outlet opens on Robin's Hill Road

Welcome to Annies Chocolates at their new location on Robin's Hill Road! Their quality, hand-made chocolates, fudge, candy, nuts, popcorn, peanut brittle and more (including some sugar-free options) are now made and available just around the corner from 427 Wing. Annies makes all your holidays – and every day – sweeter.

Making Everyday Sweeter



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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.

CALLING ALL FORMER SORM VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

INTERVIEW
PARTICIPANTS
NEEDED!



Maya Hirschman is doing research for her PhD dissertation! Visit: secretsofradar.com/PhDresearch



Remembering Queen Elizabeth and Welcoming a new King

The world mourned the longest-reigning British monarch, when Queen Elizabeth died September 8, 2022. She served 70 years as Queen of England, the British Commonwealth and the Realms. Her son Charles is expected to be crowned King Charles III on June 3 next year in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey, UK officials said.

Though not yet finalized, government officials said plans are converging on that Saturday near the start of the summer although discussions over which other days will become official holidays are still going on. Buckingham Palace declined to comment.



The coronation, almost 70 years to the day after his mother was crowned, will form the centerpiece of days of celebration to mark the beginning of the monarch's reign. Charles acceded to the throne and was named king last month following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

By June next year the king will be 74, making him the oldest person to be crowned in British history. It has been widely reported that the coronation will be a smaller, more modest version of earlier ceremonies, with space for representatives of different faiths and community groups in line with modern Britain's diversity. Charles will be crowned alongside his wife, the Queen Consort, Camilla.

When Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953 more than 8,000 guests from 129 nations traveled to Westminster Abbey in the center of London, with temporary platforms erected to seat the guests, including every member of the British aristocracy. Safety restrictions mean that nowadays the church can only hold about 2,000, providing a headache for planners.

The UK Foreign Office spent days devising the seating plan for the Queen's funeral, mindful of diplomatic hierarchies and protocol.

The coronation ceremony itself is rich in tradition. The king is seated on a throne known as Edward's Chair, holding the sovereign's scepter and rod -- to represent his constitutional control of the nation -- and the sovereign's orb -- to represent the Christian world. After being anointed with oil, blessed and consecrated by senior clergy, Charles will have the crown of St Edward placed on his head.

St Edward's Crown -- named for the last Anglo-Saxon king, Edward the Confessor -- is made of solid gold and features over 400 gemstones, including rubies, garnets and sapphires. The version which will be used next year was originally made for Charles II in 1661, is 30 centimeters tall and weighs 2.23 kilograms. It is usually kept under guard in the Tower of London.



Princess Elizabeth became one of the 250,000 women who were members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in WWII.

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Battle of Britain Dinner, Friday September 16, 2022

Retired FI-Lt Tom Hennessy was guest speaker for an informal question and answer session with guests. Padre Frank Manz and his wife Margaret were welcome guests at the head table. The Padre read the names of 27 Wing members who died during late 2019-Sept. 2022. Members observed a moment of silence at this sad loss of Wing friends.

Flo and her kitchen crew served a delicious meal and all enjoyed the question exchange and visiting.





MINUTES

Wing general meeting held Friday Oct. 21 – 1 pm

Submitted by Linda Brimson

Director Chuck Hardy opened the meeting with the opening prayer. 4 Directors and 13 people attended. Quorum was reached.

Acting Secretary Chuck Hardy circulated copies of minutes of February 28, 2020 meeting. Chuck moved minutes be accepted. Carried.

Treasurer Carolyn Ridley presented July, August, Sept income and expenses and Year-to-Date figures, gave details on any changes, and fielded any questions. The 50-50 lottery for Air Cadets will cease. A new Air Cadets bank account will be opened with the Wing contributing \$100 monthly. Carolyn moved, Don Martin 2nd, financial reports be accepted. Carried.

Chair Linda Brimson thanked members for attending and noted Directors have worked hard since last 2020 meeting, through Covid and reopening. Directors, advisers, grounds workers, kitchen staff have worked hard behind the scenes. Don Martin, Pablo, and a few other members contributed comments and ideas.

The Wing needs several positions filled; please consider helping with the following:

Secretary: takes meeting minutes, with assistance, sets agendas; attend once monthly zoom or in person meetings
Grant Writers: 2-3 people needed to search out grants (the Board gets lots of info) and help submitting the grant applications

Steering Committee/Fundraising: 2-3 people needed to prioritize Wing projects and concerns. Plan decisions about building projects, minor and major fundraising.

Spooner Memorial Stones: need a person to take requests for memorial stones, contact supplier with requested inscription; pick up stone in town and arrange for placement with family attending (not a significant time commitment)

Poppy Box help: ASAP Terry Rushton needs 1-2 volunteers to place poppy boxes at Argyle Mall for our liaison project with Dorchester Legion. Placement, refill and pick-up. Only for a short period, once a year.

Christmas Turkey Luncheon: Friday December 16th \$20 Reserve by 5th. Minimum 80 required.

Air Cadets: Brent Elgie provided a short update on 6 Air Cadet Squadrons the Wing supports.

Upcoming meetings: Next Board zoom meeting: Monday November 21, 2022 6 pm

Announcing:

Wing General Meeting: Friday February 24, 2023 at 1 pm. Need more Wing members to attend!

Closing prayer by Director Mike Watts.

Adjournment: 2: 15 pm



OCTOBER 2022

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30	31					

DECEMBER 2022

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	EUCHRE LARC LVRC	LUNCH	3
6	7	MAC	BCC	EUCHRE 1PM Woodturners	CLOSED FOR REMEM- BRANCE DAY	LVRC
13	14	15	16	EUCHRE 1PM	LUNCH	17
20	BOARD ZOOM MEETING 6pm	21	22	EUCHRE 1PM	LUNCH	23
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

NOVEMBER 2022

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27	28	29	30			

JANUARY 2023

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
27	28	29	30	EUCHRE 1PM LARC	LUNCH	1	
4	Deadline to reserve for Christmas Lunch	5	6	EUCHRE 1PM Woodturners	LUNCH	CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS	
11	12	MAC	BCC	13	CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON	PRIVATE RENTAL	
18	19	CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS NEXT LUNCH IS FRIDAY JANUARY 13				20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



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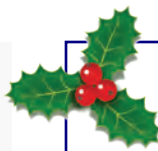
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Merry Christmas



and Happy New Year 2023

Best Wishes for Health and Peace



RCAF Womens Division, Christmas Dinner
December 23, 1942

Euchre Anyone?

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427 (London) Wing RCAF Association
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Did you know?

On December 25, 1944, 402 Squadron was stationed in Belgium. The squadron's Spitfires were out on a late mission when the pilots realized that they would not be back in time for Christmas dinner. Returning late in the evening, the pilots went to the mess hall, expecting to find cold leftovers. To their amazement and delight, they found the entire squadron waiting for their arrival. The dinner did not begin until everyone in the squadron was there.

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

BIRTHDAY BRATS

NOVEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Jennifer Brace, Al Horton, Brad Keeler, Lindsay Mathysen, Mike Meade, Jack Pettit, Carolyn Ridley, Al Szawara, Marilyn Turner, and Charlie Weir

DECEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Joanne Banyard, Terry Bendell, Linda Brimson, Len Fallowfield, John Funston, Howard Johnston, Rob Leroy, Ken Lilley, Keith Mathysen, Wenjun Song, Ann Smith, and Mike Watts

“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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We Pause and Remember – Reflections on Remembrance Day by Linda Brimson

Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth. It was originally called “Armistice Day” to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. – on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

We observe a two-minute silence at 11 a.m. on November 11 across the nation. We also observe a two-minute silence on Remembrance Sunday at services held on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day.

There will be televised services from our local Cenotaph in Victoria Park, London Ontario; and from Ottawa as the nation’s capital remembers the fallen and sacrifices of all who serve. The Last Post will be played in haunting simplicity.

Wing members observe the day in their own personal way. Veterans recall friends who were lost or injured, the shared camaraderie and how young they all were. Families recall sad send-offs at train stations, happy reunions for those who returned; or the dreaded telegrams bearing the sorrowful news of death, or missing-in-action or prisoner of war notifications.

Many of us did not experience the war years of separation, rationing, uncertainty, working to produce war materials – the feeling of not knowing what was happening in Europe. Fear of the unknown – how long would war last? Ordinary people doing extraordinary things – carrying on under enormous stress. Hand-written letters were so precious to bring news of home or from a loved one on other continents. This Remembrance Day, please take time to pause and reflect on the services and sacrifices those who served and continue to serve face each day.

For myself, I will attend the Royal Canadian Legion service at Parkhill, Ontario. There is a good turnout when schoolchildren and townsfolk attend the memorial park. Fewer veterans attend each year. At 1 p.m. a small Legion contingent and family members attend a second service at the crossroads of Lieury, Ontario. My Uncle Joe, Corporal Joseph Patrick Boland, has his name inscribed on both monuments, along with several neighbouring farm lads. They all volunteered for overseas service and didn’t survive long in post D-Day France. Beyond Caen, France, The Road to Falaise was hard-won territory and these young men from Ontario Canada, gave their lives. I’ve visited the Canadian war cemeteries and the markers seem endless. So many young lives cut short.

I pray that younger generations understand the sacrifices of past war years and those of current serving members are real. We need to be grateful and pray for their safety.

The war in Ukraine reminds us that horrible history can be repeated and freedom must always be defended.

In Flanders Fields – This poem was written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. At that time, he noted how poppies quickly grew around the graves of those who died in the battle, whenever earth was disturbed. According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it. In Flanders Fields was first published on December 8 of that year in the London magazine Punch.

In Flanders Fields



*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



Major John McCrae