

The London Link

January – February 2012

Volume 48, Issue 3



427 (LONDON) WING

Air Force Association of Canada

2155 Crumlin Side Road

London, ON, N5V 3Z9

Phone: 519-455-0430

Click on website: www.427wing.com



Wing Executive Council (WEC)

1st July 2011 – 30th June 2012

Executives:

- President: Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 renemck@sympatico.ca
- Past President Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 jackjoan@sympatico.ca
- 1st Vice President Nick Corrie 519-471-4372 nick_corrie@hotmail.ca
- 2nd Vice President Rick Holland, CD 519-453-8487 rholland4@sympatico.ca
- Secretary – vacant
- Treasurer Chuck Hardy, CD 519-452-1379 chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

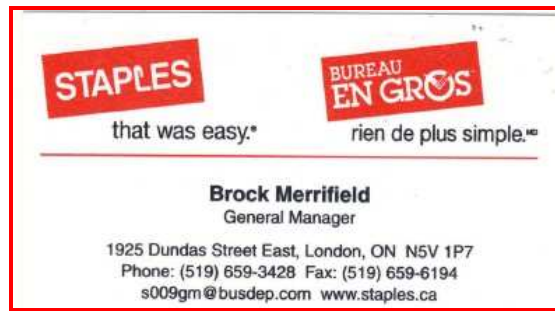
Chairpersons:

- Entertainment – vacant
- Housing Don Clarke 519-455-9350 don.clarke@hotmail.com
- Backup Chuck Hardy CD 519-452-1379 chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
- Membership Cathy Newman 519-452-1886 cathy.newman@rogers.com
- Public Relations Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 renemck@sympatico.ca
- Sports Joe (Des) Dessert, CD 519-433-4498
- Euchre Chuck Hardy, CD 519-452-1379 chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
- Wellness Hilda and Frank Smeltzer 519-657-5759
fhs meltzer@rogers.com
- Food Services Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 renemck@sympatico.ca
- Committee Member: Flo Douglas 519-455-2432
- Air Cadet Liaison Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 jackjoan@sympatico.ca
- Heritage and History David Smith 519-673-1515 691s@rogers.com
- Lottery Mike Ryan 519-455-1668
- Parkwood Veterans' Liaison: Hilda and Frank Smeltzer 519-657-5759
fhs meltzer@rogers.com
- Sgt-at-Arms – vacant
- Website Judy Grunwald 519-474-2194 wing427tours@rogers.com
- Nominations Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 jackjoan@sympatico.ca
- Past Presidents' Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 jackjoan@sympatico.ca
- War Graves/Poppies David Smith 519-673-1515 691s@rogers.com
- Fundraising – vacant
- Tours Armin Grunwald 519-474-2194 wing427tours@rogers.com
- Regalia – vacant

Club Services:

- Bar Officer Jack Finkbiner, CD 519-285-3926
- Bar Steward/Rentals Flo Douglas 519-455-2432
- Padre Frank Mantz
- Editor, *The London Link* Tammy Newman, CD tammy.simon@sympatico.ca
- London Veterans' Memorial and Graves Committee Representative
 - David Smith 519-673-1515 691s@rogers.com

Canadian Forces Liaison Officer: Lt Ali Ullah



Euchre Resumes, 4th January

- Wednesdays – Starting at 1:30 p.m.
 - Location – 427 (London) Wing, AFAC, 2155 Crumlin Side Road, London
- For more information, contact Joe Dessert (Des) at 519-433-4498 or contact Chuck Hardy at 519-452-1379 or at chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

NEW!!! Remembrance River Rocks Fund-Raiser



427 (London) Wing has a new fundraiser: the sale of Remembrance River Rocks with a red Remembrance Poppy or a yellow Support our Troops logo, for \$5.00 each. These can be used as a paper weight or a remembrance. 50% of the sales will be donated to the Wing by the designer, Custom Rock Creations. See the display in the Regalia cabinet at the Wing.

Hot Lunches

Hot lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. include soup, salad, entree, dessert, tea and coffee.

- Open – Fridays, 9 September 2011 to 24 June 2012
- Cost – \$7.00 per person for hot lunches

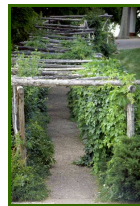
Fundraising Lunch for the 427 (London) Wing

The Knights of Columbus, Marian Council 9607, are sponsoring a lunch at 427 (London) Wing, AFAC, 2155 Crumlin Side Road, London. The Knights of Columbus are paying for everything. To make it a true fund-raiser, 427 Wing decided to increase the cost of this particular lunch to \$10. All other lunches will remain at \$7. Lunch will be served on Friday, the 20th of January, starting at 11:30 a.m. The cut off date for ticket purchase is the 13th of January.

Purchase your Fundraising Lunch tickets in advance at the Wing, at Euchre on Wednesday afternoons or at the Friday lunches. For more information, contact Jack or Joan Clark at jackjoan@sympatico.ca or by telephone at 519-686-1303.

Tour Survey – Armin Grunwald, Chairperson of the Tour Committee, would like your help. The following is a list of proposed trips. If you are interested, please mark “1” for one person and “2” for two people. If you have other suggestions, please add them.

- International Military Tattoo (Hamilton)
- Diamond Aircraft (London)
- War Plane Museum (Hamilton)
- Military Museum (Brantford)
- Elgin Military or Railway Museum (St.Thomas)
- NavCan (London)
- CFB Borden or CFB Trenton
- Labatt’s Brewery (London)
- Rush Fruit Winery (Aylmer)
- Quai Du Vin Estate Winery (St.Thomas)
- Playhouse (Grand Bend)
- Lunch/Dinner (Port Stanley or Port Dover)



If you have any questions or other suggestions, please contact Armin Grunwald at 519-474-2194 or wing427tours@rogers.com

FIFTY? That’s right; on June 14th, 2012, the 427 (London) Wing will turn fifty.

With the end of the Second World War, airmen returning home to London wanted to continue their interest in aviation both as flyers and friends.

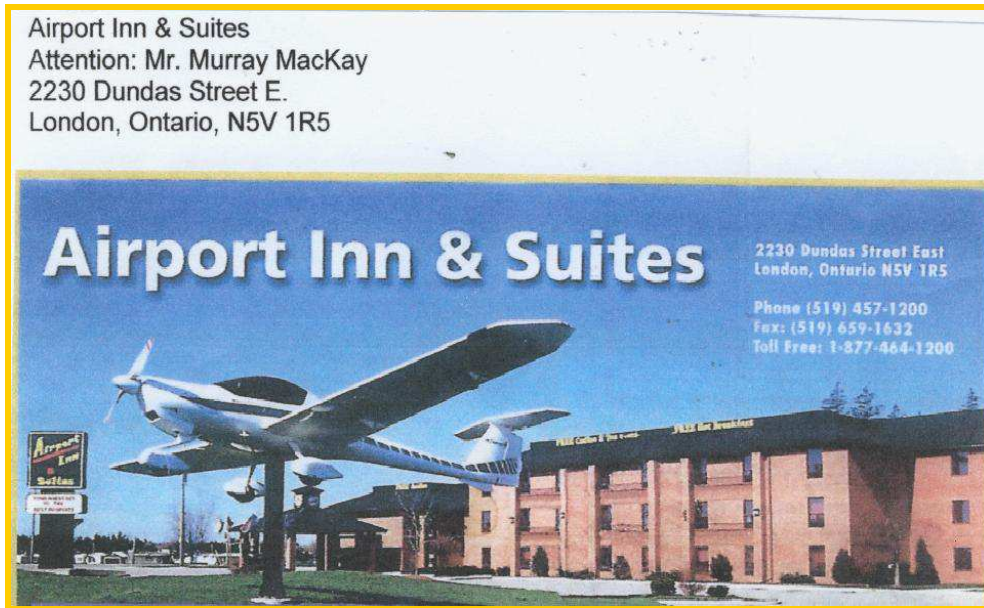
- April 2, 1947 – the London Air Force Association was formed with a constitution and by-laws.
- March 15, 1950 – 427 (London) Wing received its charter from the RCAFA and, today, is one of the leading members of what has now become the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC,) with more than seventy Wings across this country.
- June 14, 1962 – Subsequently, 427 Wing was incorporated under the laws of the province of Ontario and received its provincial charter and its liquor license in the fall of 1963.

One of the more interesting features about 427 Wing is the building that it occupies on the grounds of the London International Airport. Built in 1939-40 as an Airmen’s Canteen, a place where wartime personnel could be relaxed and refreshed, it is believed to be the last representative and still usable building of its kind in south-western Ontario. Post-war, it remained in use throughout the Korean and NATO eras until purchased by 427 Wing on September 1, 1959.

Watch out for next year...and remember it's our 50th....keep the ideas coming. Do you think we could get the Prime Minister, the Premier or who do you know that would make this a spectacular event for the Wing? And if the Wing would not be able to handle the crowds, where would we go to make it happen?

"Thank You" from the Kitchen of 427 (London) Wing, AFAC

Flo Douglas, of the Food Services Committee, tries to say "thank you" to all who donate items to the kitchen of the 427 (London) Wing. She knows that she misses people and wanted to ensure that everyone knows how grateful she is. If you wish to donate, items such as coffee, tea, desserts, meat, fruits, vegetables, breads and cheeses are always appreciated to help make it a success.



Meeting Reminders

Mark on your calendars the meeting dates for the 2012 Wing Year, Wing Executive Council (WEC) (composed of the Executive and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees) and General Meeting Dates (GM)

Time: Second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)


- Sunday, 15th January 2012 (WEC)
- Sunday, 12th February 2012 (GM)
- Sunday, 11th March 2012 (WEC)
- Sunday, 15th April 2012 (GM) (Nomination Meeting)
 - not 8th April because of Easter Sunday
- Sunday, 6th May 2012 (GM) (Annual General Meeting)
 - not 13th because of Mother's Day and not 20th because of Victoria Day
- Sunday, 10th June 2012 (WEC)
- No meeting in July 2012

Kitchen Duty – There is a NEED for a person to move kitchen pots on Thursday (0930 – 1100) and Friday (1030 – 1230) mornings. Please see President Rene McKinnon or Committee Member Flo Douglas to volunteer your help. Also, volunteer help is needed in the kitchen for Friday lunches from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These light duties will include making coffee, setting up self-serve tables, serving lunches and clean up. No cooking or dishwashing required. For further information or to volunteer your help, please contact Nick Corrie at 519 471 4372.

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Reminder – If You Move...

If you move or change your e-mail address, please let the Membership Chairperson, Cathy Newman, know your new mailing address or new e-mail address at cathy.newman@rogers.com or telephone at 519-452-1886.

INDEPENDENT
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Air Force Wisdom – Gratefully reproduced from the 428, Countdown Newsletter

- It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. – US Air Force Manual
- If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him. – USAF Ammo Troop
- Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight. – Basic Flight Training Manual

Empty Ink Cartridge Fundraiser for the 1947 Aeronca 'Chief' Aircraft Project

Box – There is a box located at the Wing in which to deposit all empty ink cartridges. For every cartridge you return, the Aeronca Aircraft Rebuild Project will receive a donation of up to \$2.50 to sponsor the Air Cadets. This donation money contributes toward fundraising for the rebuilding of the 1947 Aeronca 'Chief' Aircraft by Air Cadets. For more information, contact LCol (ret'd) Armin or Judy Grunwald, Fundraising Chairpersons, Aeronca Aircraft Committee at 519-474-2194 or agrunwald@rogers.com

- This project – the 1947 Aeronca Chief Aircraft Rebuild Project – has been organized to help train Air Cadets, which, undoubtedly, will benefit the Community;
- Cadets can earn a high school credit;
- This is an exciting opportunity for our local Air Cadets;
- The Air Cadet League of Canada has approved the sponsorship of this training project to enhance students' skills in Aviation Technology and Maintenance;
- In 2008, we began the rebuilding of vintage aircraft, which was donated to the Air Cadet Program; the Project will continue for a number of years.



Volunteerism, gratefully reproduced by 413 (Trenton) Wing "Talepipe"

Volunteerism! Funny, how that one word either makes one's face screw up or encourages you to go out and get involved. Certainly the Random Acts of Kindness campaign goes a long way in boosting the number of people out to help their fellow men. I think that doing something just because you can, should be reward enough.

Your Wing, run by volunteers, is a strange business model. No one is getting paid to do their job. The executive and the committee members, to name just a few, give countless hours to the running of the Wing and the continued success of our Wing. I wonder when was the last time any ordinary member went and thanked one of our hard working volunteers or told them that they were doing a great job.

I feel sure you all get the point! Volunteers do so because they like doing something for someone else, not because they want a thank-you, but because they see value in the job. To all of you in the Wing that do all those little things no one sees, we would not be the same without you. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

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DAVE PIZZEY
Manager

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Treasurer's Report: the Next Flight – Future Survival, by Chuck Hardy CD

Let's step beyond financial reporting for a while and look to the future. Many members know that we wanted to have a welcoming place to socialize after serving in the military. We had a familiar bond, something in common. Here at the Wing and at many other service clubs, it worked for many years. There was always good company and plenty of activities. A lot of the work was done by fellow members, whether that was in the kitchen, doing maintenance or serving on committees.

Time moves on. More and more, there is a need to look for new ways to keep 427 (London) Wing flying proudly. Forming partnerships is already happening. Visitors from the London Branch of the Federal Retirees have come to lunch and to the Nearly Christmas Dance on November 26th. Fifty members of London Flying Club came to lunch earlier in November. The Argyle Seniors group is becoming interested in our activities. Also, one of the Knights of Columbus Branches in London, at no charge to the Wing, will prepare a nice roast beef luncheon as a fund raiser for the Wing on Friday, January 20, 2012. Mark your calendar for this one folks. Other opportunities are in the hangar.

These days most people do not join clubs, but opt to do the occasional bit of helping a charity, walking for a cause, donating to the Salvation Army, etc. Even serving and retiring women and men in the military do not have the time in this schedule pressed world. The Wing receives more applications for associate membership than regular ones and increasingly looks for volunteers from our fine associate members. We must apply for government grants and hire tradesmen for major renovations that were previously done by work parties of our own members when they were much younger.

Financially, so far this fiscal year through November, income exceeds expenses by \$2,500.00. Donations helped out a lot to offset a big loss in July when the Wing was not flying. At the Nearly Christmas Dance, members represented only about 25% of those in attendance. Many factors came into play here. Membership is down. We are not open enough at present. Events at night and transportation issues present a big concern for folks. Also, financially, membership renewals help our Wing, however, a good portion of regular membership dues must be sent to AFAC.

There are positive signs in the air. New ideas continue to flow. Contact any member of the executive shown on page two of this Link to pass on any suggestions you might have. Your thoughts are important for the continued survival. No thought or suggestion will be disregarded. Overwhelm the committee and help keep the airplane flying. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and sing it from the highest steeple.

How to tell your family is too military:

- You go to a barbecue and insist that your family feed in a tactical chow line at five meter intervals.
- Before you hit the road on vacation you conduct rehearsals, back briefs, Actions on, and cover your convoy checklist.

- Your kids call the yard their AO.
- Your kids call their mother "9er Domestic."
- Your doorbell sounds off with the current challenge and password.
- You give the command "Fix Bayonets" at Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Your kids show their meal cards at the kitchen door, except the oldest, who is on separate rations.
- Your son fails the third grade but tells everyone he was "recoursed."
- Your kids walk to school using field formations.
- Your kids understand, and use, tactical hand signals in public.
- Your family drives a POMV.
- You don't have a wife and kids. They are all dependants.
- Kit inspections before deploying to the unit battle position (Camping).
- Your kids know that their school is 1,723 metres from your front door and they know how many clicks they'll need on a 120mm mortar to drop a round on the principals car, but your eight year old daughter thinks the 81mm mortar is 'prettier' and makes a stink about it.
- Your kids always check their six.
- You refer to your wife as the RSM (Residential Sergeant Major).
- You leave on exercise and your eldest is acting 2IC, whether (s)he likes it or not...
- You put in microwave popcorn and a minute later your kids yell "Cover!"
- You ask your kids to go clean their room and a half hour later you hear them yell "Ready for inspection Sgt Major."

January

Ed Deschaine,
DFC, CD
John Stephens
Marg Miele
Kathy Gilleno
Tom Lawson,
OSJ, CD
Mike Taylor
Torben Haarbye

Birthday

Brats

February

Ralph Askew
Diana Cuthbert
Ed Dalgity
Ray Hutt
Irene Kennedy
Doris Kensit
Connie Legg
Yvonne Lovelock
Murray Mackay
Linda McClean
Cec Rittinger
Betty Rose
Ron Stewart
Bruce Tapp
Fay Timbers
Len Truant



Second Words, by 2nd V/P, Rick Holland, CD
Veterans Week, the 5th to 11th of November, ended on Remembrance Day. Medals are back in their plastic cases and put away on the shelf. We must, however, continue to remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice, not only in the 2nd week of November but every day of the year. Some 427 Wing members were involved with activities like the Poppy Drive and many attended a variety of Legion parades, schools and other gatherings at Cenotaphs around the local area to pay their respect to our Veterans, both past and present.

President Rene McKinnon and several other members attended a very moving service in Shedden, near the #4 Bomber and Gunner School site in Fingal. Ted Barris was the key-note speaker and gave a talk on the Canadian involvement at Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. As wreaths were being laid, under sunny skies, the Harvard Association from Tillsonburg did a "Lost Airman" Fly Past salute, followed by a fly-over of COPA's flight #75. It was a very touching tribute to all of Southwold Township's fallen veterans.



The above photo shows members, Lorne Spicer (centre) and our Cdn Forces Liaison Officer Lt Ali Ullah (right) chatting with the veterans, before marching on for the Remembrance Day service.

It has been a very busy time at the 427 Wing over the past few months. Our Friday hot lunches have been going well. Special thanks go out to the volunteer kitchen helpers and also to all those that donate items for our kitchen. Without your support, we would not be able to provide the services we do. Our resident executive chef, Flo, always puts on a great meal, so... if you haven't been out in a while, drop in some Friday between 1100-1300 (meal hours are 1130-1230) for a nice meal and friendship. You won't be disappointed! Your calendar in the Link will advise you of dates when meals are not available.

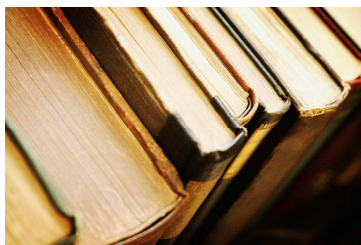
The traditional Christmas turkey lunch on November 25th went off with great success, with over one hundred members and guests attending. An added bonus after the meal was a Country and Western musical presentation by the very talented Cathy Truelove. Thanks go out to the Christmas decorating crew for their hard work in adding the Christmas spirit to our clubhouse. Unfortunately some proposed events have had to be cancelled, but, without support from members, most will agree that it is better to cancel an event rather than take a financial loss.

Best wishes go out to 427 (London) Wing members and their families as well as the entire AFAC family for a very Merry Christmas and the Best for the New Year.



Continuing Book Sale – MORE books needed

Chuck Hardy, Treasurer, launched a Book Sale at 427 (London) Wing in June 2011 as a fundraiser for 427 (London) Wing. It was a great success! Now we need more books to sell for the continuing Book Sale.




Several Wing Members and guests have mentioned that they have plenty of books they could donate to the Wing for the ongoing Book Sale, but have not done so yet. The Wing has not marked prices on the books, but relies on those persons purchasing the books to make a reasonable donation to the Wing for both hard and soft cover books covering many topics.

If you want to donate, please drop them off at the Wing during Friday lunch or on Wednesday afternoon at the Euchre / Card games. If you need someone to happily pick them up, please contact Chuck Hardy at chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca.

January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Various levees	2	3	4 1:30 – cards	5	6 Hot lunch	7
8	9	10	11 1:30 – cards	12	13 Hot lunch	14
15 WEC	16	17	18 1:30 – cards	19	20 FR lunch**	21
22	23	24	25 1:30 – cards	26	27 Hot lunch	28
29	30	31				

- **January 1st, 2012 – Various Levees** – Open to the public; dress code in effect 427 (London) Wing, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
 - HMCS Prevost, Naval Centennial, Becher Street, 10:00-12:00 p.m.
 - Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess, 701 Oxford Street East, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- **January 20th – FR (Fund-raising) lunch**** – see article (pg 3) for more explanation.

February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30 – cards	2	3 Hot lunch	4
5	6	7	8 1:30 – cards	9	10 Hot lunch	11 Dance**
12 GM	13	14 	15 1:30 – cards	16	17 Hot lunch	18
19	20	21	22 1:30 – cards	23	24 Hot lunch	25
26	27	28	29 Leap Year 1:30 – cards			

- **February 11th – Dance**** for Saint Valentine's Day at the 427 (London) Wing. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with entertainment from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.: Music by Nippy Watson. Cost is \$10.00 per person and it includes a late, light lunch. You can purchase tickets at the door. You can also purchase tickets in advance at the Wing during Friday lunches or by contacting Jack or Joan Clark at jackjoan@sympatico.ca or by telephone at 519-686-1303.
- **February 14th ** – Saint Valentine's Day