

## The London Link

July – August 2012

Volume 49, Issue 1



### **427 (LONDON) WING, Home Wing of Charley Fox, DFC**

Air Force Association of Canada

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## Wing Executive Council (WEC)

1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### Executives:

- President: Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 [renemck@sympatico.ca](mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca)
- Past President Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 [jackjoan@sympatico.ca](mailto:jackjoan@sympatico.ca)
- 1st Vice President Reg Lownie, CD 519-667-1989 [rloynie@yahoo.com](mailto:rloynie@yahoo.com)
- 2nd Vice President Diana Cuthbert 519-455-1126 [tdcuthbert@rogers.com](mailto:tdcuthbert@rogers.com)
- Secretary – vacant
- Treasurer Chuck Hardy, CD 519-452-1379 [chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca](mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca)

### Chairpersons:

- Entertainment – vacant
- Housing Don Clarke 519-455-9350 [don.clarke@hotmail.com](mailto:don.clarke@hotmail.com)
- Membership Cathy Newman 519-452-1886 [cathy.newman@rogers.com](mailto:cathy.newman@rogers.com)
- Public Relations Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 [renemck@sympatico.ca](mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca)
- Sports - Golf – vacant
- Euchre Joe (Des) Dessert, CD 519-455-0430
- Wellness and Parkwood Veteran's Liaison: Hilda and Frank Smeltzer  
519-657-5759 [fhseltzer@rogers.com](mailto:fhseltzer@rogers.com)
- Food Services Rene McKinnon 519-471-8003 [renemck@sympatico.ca](mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca)  
and Flo Douglas 519-455-2432
- Air Cadet Liaison Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 [jackjoan@sympatico.ca](mailto:jackjoan@sympatico.ca)
- Lottery Mike Ryan 519-455-1668
- Sgt-at-Arms – vacant
- Website Judy Grunwald 519-474-2194 [wing427tours@rogers.com](mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com)
- Nominations Jack Clark, CD 519-686-1303 [jackjoan@sympatico.ca](mailto:jackjoan@sympatico.ca)
- War Graves/Poppies David Smith 519-673-1515 [691s@rogers.com](mailto:691s@rogers.com)
- Fundraising – vacant
- Tours Armin Grunwald 519-474-2194 [wing427tours@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto:tammy.simon@sympatico.ca)
- London Veterans' Memorial and Graves Committee Rep and Heritage and History  
Chairperson – David Smith – 519-673-1515 [691s@rogers.com](mailto:691s@rogers.com)

**Canadian Forces Liaison Officer:** Lt Ali Ullah [ali.ullah@forces.gc.ca](mailto:ali.ullah@forces.gc.ca)

**Reminder** – If you move or change your e-address, please let Cathy Newman know.



### **AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA MISSION STATEMENT**

The Air Force Association of Canada 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.

**Message from the President 427 (London) Wing, Home Wing of Charley Fox, DFC,**  
Mr. Rene McKinnon,

I wish all of you a safe, happy and exciting summer – swimming, golfing, camping, vacations and whatever else you may enjoy doing. We have had a great spell of good weather to get us started.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Wing receiving its Ontario Charter will soon be upon us. One part of that celebration, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be awards that were presented to a number of our members at the recent Ontario Group Annual General Meeting held at 404 K-W Wing in Waterloo. We will also have our Member of Parliament – Irene Mathysen – here as our guest. We are pleased to accept a framed portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. This is courtesy of Irene and we thank her for that.

If you are out to Wing you will notice it is spruced up and looking great with all the flowers and tender loving care it is receiving from our summer gardening members. This edition of the London Link will have some changes to the format we are using which is the result of suggestions from members. Continue, please, telling us what works for you and what doesn't.

A topic that has been talked about for some time now concerns adding the name Charley Fox to our Wing title. On page 14 in this issue of the London Link, there is a separate message with more information on this matter. The Executive made a decision to, on a trial basis, add "Home Wing of Charley Fox, DFC" to our current 427 (London) Wing name. The Executive will review this matter in October. You are asked to look at it, consider it and to pass you comments and or concerns on to me. We look forward to hearing from you. See you back at the Wing for lunch on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks,

**Last Post:** It is with our deepest sympathy and condolences that we take this opportunity to inform you of the passing of:

May 1, 2012	Emanuel (Red) Brotzel
May 26, 2012	Dorothy Matilda Newell
June 8, 2012	Basil (Bas) Daniel



**Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.**

**Spooner Memorial Garden**, by Diana Cuthbert, incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

On several occasions last summer as I was doing some work outside our building, I noticed people coming into the Spooner Memorial Garden. Some of these people looked around and then walked up to each plaque and read it quite thoroughly. Not just a glance, but took the time to read each one. Some people seemed familiar with the space and sat on the benches in the shade and some (obviously workers from the area,) ate their lunch, careful not to leave litter.



All, without exception, were quiet, almost reverent. They all stayed a while, seeming to enjoy the quiet peacefulness of the spot, despite the noise of aircraft, which seemed quite appropriate. I thought at the time, what a shame it is that we, the members of 427 Wing, are perhaps too familiar with our garden to really notice it any more. It is such a lovely, peaceful place we have here in our Spooner Memorial Garden; a perfect location to spend a relaxing hour in the shade of the trees, remembering.

**Euchre** – Wednesdays at 427 (London) Wing, AFAC, 2155 Crumlin Side Road, Starting at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Des Dessert or Chuck Hardy

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**"Thank You" from the Happy Gang 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 wants to ensure that everyone knows how grateful she is. Donated items such as coffee, tea, desserts, meat, fruits, vegetables, breads and cheeses are always appreciated to help make it a success.



**Air Force Wisdom: Fighters vs. Transports** – A couple of A-10's are escorting a C-130 Hercules and their pilots were chatting with the pilot of the transport to pass the time. Talk fell on the subject of relative merits of their respective aircraft. The fighter pilots thought their planes were better because of their manoeuvrability, weaponry and the like. The C-130 pilot replied "Yeah? Well I can do a few things in this old girl that you'd only dream about." Naturally, he was challenged to demonstrate. "Just watch," he told them. The C-130 continues to fly straight and level, and after several minutes the Hercules pilot returns to the air and says, "There! How was that?" Not having seen anything, the fighter pilots say, "What are you talking about? What did you do?" He replied, "Well, I got up, walked around to stretch my legs and got a cup of coffee."

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**Air Force Wisdom: Fighters vs. Bombers** – An F-117 was flying escort with a B-52 and generally making a nuisance of himself by flying rolls around the lumbering old bomber. The message for the B-52 crew was, "Anything you can do, I can do better." Not to be outdone, the bomber pilot announced that he would rise to the challenge. However, the B-52 continued its flight, straight and level. Perplexed, the fighter pilot asked, "So? What did you do?" "We just shut down two engines."



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**Beer Run – Spitfire Style** (editor's note: I have checked many sources to verify the truth of this story and I found nothing to discount it. If I missed it, I'm sorry.) In the lighter moments of World War II, the Spitfire was used in an unorthodox role: bringing beer kegs to the men in Normandy. During the war, the Heneger and Constable Brewery donated free beer to the troops. After D-Day, supplying the invasion troops in Normandy with vital supplies was already a challenge. Obviously, there was no room in the logistics chain for such luxuries as beer or other types of refreshments.



RAF Spitfire pilots came up with an idea. The Spitfire Mk IX was an evolved version of the Spitfire, with pylons under the wings for bombs or tanks. It was found that the bomb pylons could also be modified to carry beer kegs. If the Spitfire flew high enough, the cold air at altitude would even refresh the beer, making it ready for consumption upon arrival. The bottles didn't bust at altitude because there was enough heat from the engine to prevent freezing, but they came in really cold!

A variation of this was a long range fuel tank modified to carry beer instead of fuel. The modification even received the official designation Mod XXX. Propaganda services were quick to pick up on this, which probably explains the “official” designation. As a result, Spitfires equipped with Mod XXX or keg-carrying pylons were often sent back to Great Britain for “maintenance” or “liaison” duties. They would then return to Normandy with full beer kegs fitted under the wings.



As expected, the British Revenue of Ministry and Excise stepped in, notifying the brewery that they were in violation of the law by exporting beer without paying the relevant taxes. It seems that Mod. XXX was terminated then, but various squadrons found different ways to refurbish their stocks. Most often, this was done with the unofficial approval of higher-ups.

Less imaginative techniques involved stashing bottles wherever space could be found on the aircraft, which included the ammunition boxes, luggage compartment or even in parts of the wing, with varying results. Champagne bottles in particular did not react well to the vibrations they were submitted to during such bootlegging trips.

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**Happy Gang Needs** – There is a NEED for a person to move kitchen pots on Thursdays (9:30 – 11:00) and Fridays (10:30 – 12:30.) Also, help is needed in the kitchen for Friday lunches from 10:30 to 1:00. These light duties will include making coffee, setting up self-serve tables, serving lunches and clean up. No cooking or

dishwashing required. For further info or to volunteer, please look at the Happy Gang sign-up sheet at the entrance to the kitchen.



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**Membership** – Cathy Newman would like to say thanks to those who have sent in their renewals so far. She would like to remind the remainder to get the cheque in before the end of June to avoid a \$5 late payment fee.



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**Tokens from the Treasurer**, by Chuck Hardy, CD

A big thank you goes out to members for renewing their memberships and for supporting the Wing in other ways, including buying books and donating to the coin jar. As the saying goes, “every penny counts.”

We are hoping to end the fiscal year with a small profit following five months of loss. Attendance at the Friday lunches has been low lately. For instance, we fed only 28 and 33 people respectively on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a friend or relative if you can. We need more folks attending. The idea is to have your friends tell their friends and then everybody wants to come to lunch and, hopefully, join the 427 (London) Wing.

A fellow member who works quietly behind the scenes goes well beyond the call of duty. He brings straight forward common sense to meetings. His motto could very well be “just cut to the quick and let’s get the job done.” Cutting the grass and doing yard work, serving in the kitchen and donating food, thus reducing food expenses, are some of the ongoing things this gentleman does for the betterment of us all. The Wing housing committee is fortunate to have his handyman talents. He leads the Wing with timely and interesting Link articles, receiving praise from our editor, Tammy. Rick Holland leaves the Executive but his dedication to the Wing and its members continues.

Who do you turn to for information on anything at the Wing? Who plans, buys and cooks the great meals? Who volunteers many hours freely of her own time? Who knows what happened 17 years ago or as recently as today? Who knows the members both past and present? Who has a lovely story and greets everyone cheerfully? You know that person is Flo Douglas!! Enjoy the July break and come back refreshed in August.

<p><b>July</b>  Kevin Acs  Eric Boe  Pablo Calcaterra  Nick Corrie  Norman Gillen  David Henderson  Rick Holland, CD  Roland Joselyn  Art Lee  Reg Lownie, CD  Jean McGinnes  Cathy Newman  Joan Ross  Jack Schenck  Jennifer Shaw  Bill Shepard  Agnes St Lawrence  Jan Sydorko  Ali Ullah  Jack Viau  Bill West  Charles Wright  Joe Wyatt</p>	<p><b>Birthday</b></p> <p><b>Brats</b></p>	<p><b>August</b>  John Brotzel  Larry Calver  Janet Carr  Gwen Clarke  Don Clarke  John Dewit  Bob Fenn  Chuck Hardy, CD  Tom Hawkins  Lynda Holmes  Diane Marriott  Rosetta  McGlinchey  Terry Sapelak  Percy Toft  Grant Vanderweyst  John Webster</p>
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**Editor’s Note:** Since last Fall, 2011, I have received e-mails, phone calls and faxes thanking me and acknowledging the work I have done on the London Link for the last year-ish. I would like to thank all of you who did that. Positive feed-back is certainly a

great way to encourage people to keep on trying to do what they do. I would love to hear more from you... comments, suggestions and, of course, articles. Thanks again.

**Continuing Book Sale – MORE books needed to continue being successful**

Since June 2011, this has been a great fundraiser. 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. There are no prices marked as the Wing is relying on the purchaser for a reasonable donation. These books are both hard and soft cover and include many topics. To donate, please drop them off at the Wing during Friday lunch or on Wednesday afternoon at cards or contact Chuck Hardy.

**Second Words**, by Rick Holland, outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Elections have come and gone and there are a few new faces on your Executive. Congratulations to all those elected or acclaimed. You have a very dedicated team to lead your Wing over the next year. Your committee Chairs are to be commended for continuing their hard work over the year to help make things happen. Due to personal reasons, I have stepped aside as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP to take care of those issues. Diana Cuthbert will fill that position and will be a valuable asset to the team. I have enjoyed my term and, rest assured, you have not seen the last of me. I will still be a contributor to the Link and you will see me in the kitchen from time to time and helping out with housing.

In this article, I would like to mention the businesses that advertise in our London Link. You will notice that business cards and a variety of other advertisements appear in each and every issue. Those businesses pay for advertising with our newsletter so, in order to let them know we appreciate their involvements, when you purchase a product or use a service they offer, please mention that you saw their ad in the London Link. This word of mouth advertising is like gold and lets them know that they are getting good value from their investment. (Plus it is nice to hear a kind word about their business, I'm sure.)

You might think that July is a slow month for 427 (London) Wing. The fact that Friday lunches are suspended and the Wing Quarters are closed for the month doesn't mean every thing ceases. Activities behind the scenes are already getting geared up for next year's activities, like the Battle of Britain parade, entertainment events and a wide variety of other events. Your committees are hard at work, even when the rest of us take a short holiday away from the Wing. Watch the calendar for upcoming events. Enjoy the summer and see you in August.

**Pennies Plus Fundraiser** – Do you have pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters lying around in jars, piggy banks, drawers, or in your pockets? The next time you are at the Wing, would you consider dropping them into the Donation Jar? **OR** ...if you would like ...you can drop in a loonie or a toonie, a \$5, a \$10 or even a \$20!!



July 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Golf	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Golf	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Golf	18	19	20	21 CHAA fly day
22	23	24 Golf	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Golf				

August 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Golf	8	9	10 Lunch WEC	11
12	13	14 Golf	15	16	17 Lunch	18
19	20	21 Golf	22	23	24 Lunch	25
26	27	28 Golf	29	30	31 Lunch	

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**Tour Survey Results** – Armin Grunwald, Chairperson of the Tour Committee, would like to thank all 427 (London) Wing Members and the Royal London Military Institute (RLMI) Members for participating in the Tour Survey. The following are the results:

Event	Wing	RLMI	Total
International Military Tattoo (Hamilton)	12	16	28
Playhouse (Grand Bend)	6	13	19
Lunch/Dinner (Port Dover)	0	15	15
Warplane Museum (Hamilton)	3	11	14
CFB Borden	7	6	13
Lunch/Dinner (Port Stanley)	2	11	13
Labatt's Brewery (London)	2	10	12
Quai Du Vin Estates Winery (St. Thomas)	2	8	10
Diamond Aircraft (London)	1	7	8
Military Museum (Brantford)	3	3	6
CFB Trenton	2	4	6
Elgin Military Museum (St. Thomas)	2	1	3
Elgin Railway Museum (St. Thomas)	0	3	3
Rush Fruit Winery (Aylmer)	2	1	3
NavCan (London)	0	2	2
<b>Suggestion: Ruthven Park (Cayuga)</b>	1	0	0

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### Best Wishes

427 (London) Wing is home to Ted Shaw, one of the youngest members of the Air Force Association. He first came in 2007 with his mother, Jennifer. They came all the way from Goderich, ON to attend our meetings. At that time, he was twelve years old and enjoying his time with 532 (Maitland) Air Cadet Squadron. Always interested in our activities, he offered to be part of the Colour Party which opened and closed our meetings. For a younger member, his enthusiasm was infectious. He joined our Wing in a Western Fair Warrior's Day Parade and twice in the Battle of Britain Parade.

Due to cadet and educational responsibilities,



427 (London) Wing wants to express our best wishes to Ted and we wish him good fortunes with his aero-space engineering studies and his desire to serve Canada. Our thoughts and our prayers will accompany you, Ted!

Ted's presence at the meetings dwindled, but this did not affect either his interest in the Air Force or the Military in general. Recently, he enjoyed being at the same dinner table with General (ret'd) Rick Hillier, former CDS, one of the perks attained for being chosen as Goderich's top cadet.

Ted leaves 532 Squadron as the Cadet Commander, with both his glider and power wings. He has been selected to attend Royal Military College (RMC) in the fall. He will attend RMC St. Jean for training before his attendance at RMC Kingston begins.

### **Empty Ink Cartridge Fundraiser for 1947 Aeronca Chief Aircraft Project –**

There's a box at the Wing in which to deposit all empty cartridges. For each one, the Project will receive a donation of up to \$2.50 to sponsor the Air Cadets. This money contributes toward fundraising for the rebuilding of the Aeronca Chief by Air Cadets. For more information, contact LCol (ret'd) Armin or Judy Grunwald.

- This 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.



### **Cadet Annual Reviews**, by Jack Clark, CD, 427 Wing Air Cadet Liaison Officer

427 (London) Wing helps support seven Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadrons, namely:

- 201 Dorchester Squadron, Dorchester
- 614 Forest City Squadron, London
- 27 London Squadron, London
- 741 Elgin Squadron, St. Thomas
- 3 Striker Squadron, Strathroy
- 862 Lightning Squadron, Lambeth
- 599 Marc Garneau Squadron, London

I have had the honour of being invited to attend and participate in all seven Air Cadet Squadron Annual Reviews, from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 9<sup>th</sup>. Having visited these squadrons during the past year, I was genuinely impressed with the progress each squadron had made. The first year cadets showed what hard work and commitment can accomplish. Each squadron's parade was one that, to me, demonstrated the cadet's pride in their squadron. I take this opportunity to thank all members that represented our Wing at all seven Annual Reviews this year and hope that we can increase our numbers next year.



Glenn Sullivan – husband of former Wing President, Joan Sullivan – with Air Cadet, Cpl Lukas Zara holding the Joan Sullivan Award as the top cadet in Level One.



Colonel S. A. Howden, CD – the Reviewing Officer – is giving his address to the gathered assembly of cadets and their friends and family.



Jack Clark – Air Cadet Liaison Officer – giving the Air Cadet Aging Out Certificates to FSgt Alexandra Danylencko and FSgt Boughdan Gibbons

**Notice to All Members about the Charley Fox Initiative:** At the last Wing Executive Council the recurring item of a possible name change for the Wing was brought up and after a lengthy discussion, the Executive passed a motion on this matter. It was decided that as of June 08, 2012 all new letters, and items put out on the website would now be shown as: 427 (London) Wing, Home Wing of Charley Fox, DFC

We will continue to use this format until October. This will give all our members' time to look at the change and provide me (personally or by email or regular mail) with some feed back, positive or negative. The reason for this change is to promote the Wing to the London community, where Charley Fox has been recognized by the city as the representative for all our active, reserve and veterans military forces. We hope that by making the connection with his name to ours we will raise our profile and attract more recognition for the Wing and hopefully gain more members. I strongly encourage you all to look at this opportunity. The Executive will review this program in October. Thank you, Rene McKinnon, President 427 (London) Wing, Home Wing of Charley Fox, DFC

### **Military Intelligence**

- "If you're faced with a forced landing, fly the thing as far into the crash as possible." – Bob Hoover (renowned aerobatic and test pilot)
- "There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime." – Sign over squadron ops desk at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
- "A pilot who doesn't have any fear probably isn't flying his plane to its maximum." – Jon McBride, astronaut
- Advice given to RAF pilots during WWII: "When a crash seems inevitable, try to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity as slow and gently as possible."
- "The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you." – Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)