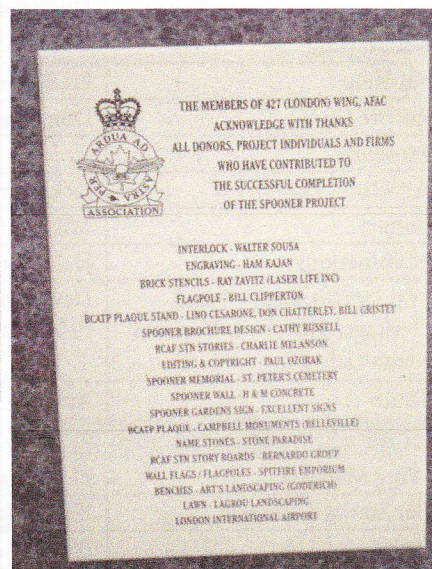
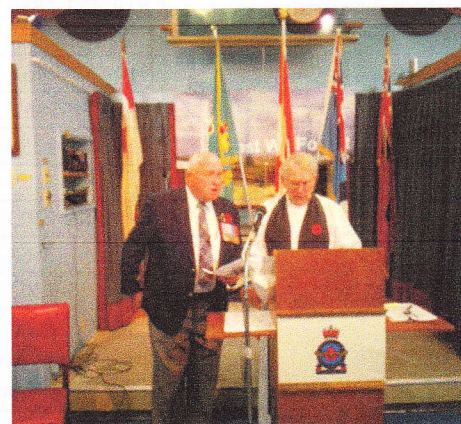
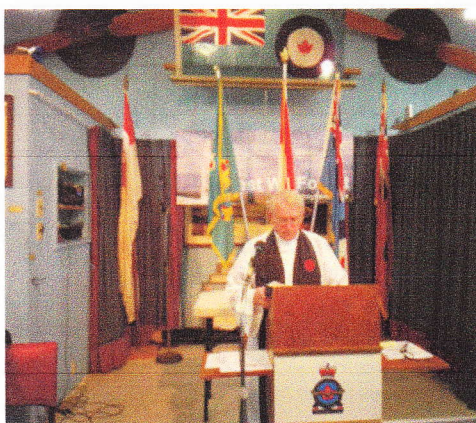


THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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SPOONER MEMORIAL CEREMONY

See page 11 for story and more pictures.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

The RCAFA is a national aerospace and community service organization to:

- Commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who served as members of Canada's Air Forces since its inception;
- Advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force; and,
- Support the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program.

427 (LONDON) WING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (WEC) JULY 1ST 2018 TO JUNE 30 2019.

President	Barry Sandler	519-494-1053	bsandler@sympatico.ca
Past President	Terry Rushton	519-472-0268	trushon71@bell.net
1 st Vice President	Gus Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
2 nd Vice President	Tom Pillon	519-660-8099	ve3hor@gmail.com
Secretary	Faben Wossenew	226-378-6936	Fabenyw@hotmail.ca
Treasurer	Liyuan Shi	226-977-6128	UPCSLY@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS REG LOWNIE 226 926-7808 519 667-1989 JULY 13

Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports and Sgt-at-Arms – call Wing for info

Web-Site			
Membership	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Public Relations	Reg Lownie	519-667-1989	rdownie@yahoo.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie, Sam Newman Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-452-1886	sfn.afac@rogers.com
Fundraising	P. Hart, R. McKinnon, G. Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Museum			
Air Cadet Liaison	Jack Clark	519-686-1303	jackjoanc@gmail.com
Lottery	Mike Ryan	519-455-1668	
Nominations	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	jackjoanc@gmail.com
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith Pablo Calcaterra	519-857-6468 Beating the heat at the Airshow	691s@rogers.com pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com
Tours	Armin Grunwald, COM, MSM	519-474-2194	wing427tours@rogers.com

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Padre	Frank Mantz 519 473-3962	MARGARET SEWELSTAMUNDT-LONDON ON N6K1X9	
London Link Editor	Cathy Wood 519 777 5452		cathywood@gmail.com
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Message from the President

As usual, spring has seen more activity at the 427 (London) Wing. Elsewhere in the Link you will find articles about the recent acceptance by the Wing of the Silver Cross Medal presented to RCAF Cpl Fred Granger. Cpl Granger lived in London prior to joining the RCAF during the Second World War, and died in India in 1945. His story and a photo of the medal is on page 9. The Wing also received a donation and the Spirit of Flight Museum of two cameras used by photographer Ron Nelson, who instructed Air Observer students under the British Commonwealth Training Plan at RCAF Station Crumlin during WW II. You can read about these cameras on page 6 and they are on display in a cabinet at the Wing. And a well-attended Memorial Ceremony took place on May 11, when about 60 Wing members and friends were present to take part in the annual Spooner Memorial Legacy Stone Laying, conducted by our Wing Padre, Frank Mantz. Photos and a write-up are available on page 11. On May 11th a ceremony was held to commemorate the laying of an additional 30 stones at the Spooner Memorial. (See page 11.)

Our fund-raising has been showing great progress as many members have stepped up and made significant donations, but we have many upgrades to keep our 80-year old wartime treasure in shape. Beside sealing our leaking roof we are engaging an engineering firm to do a structural study to point our repairs in the right direction.

As usual, 427 (London) Wing will be present at the Great Lakes International Air Show, as well as at the London Airshow in September. We will also participate again in Doors Open in September.

This year 427 (London) Wing is working with Diamond Flight Center, who will be training twelve air cadets in the Power Flight Training Programme. 427 (London) Wing will provide dinners for two week nights as well as use of the facilities for some non-flight training.

Please welcome and show support for the new executive of the 427 (London) Wing for 2018-2019:

President: Barry Sandler, 1st Vice Pres.: Gus Cameron, 2nd Vice Pres. Tom Pillon, Treasurer: Liyuan Shi, Secretary: Faben Wossenew, Past Pres.: Terry Rushton. They bring a fresh injection of new energy to the team, and deserve our full support.

– *Terry Rushton - (out-going) President*



Celebrating 90 Years of London Airshows



Notes from the Secretary:

A decline in sales over the past few months has led to the decision to donate most of our items to a local charity. Many thanks to all who donated and helped.

The intention is to continue with weekly book sales.

Some Membership Memos

With a lot of help and patience, Cathy Newman, your Membership Chairperson for more than 10 years is teaching me the “ropes” of the Membership World.

Question: Is membership less time consuming and easier than Secretarial duties?

Feeble answer: no and no – but Cathy is a very good teacher.

Learning Microsoft Access is main challenge. Easier than Microsoft Excel (once it is conquered) is more useful in doing reports such as the birthday brats list, special report for RCAFA headquarters, and others for local needs.

Some new and energetic members who are also working full or part-time. To mention just two, the President of Diamond Flight Centre, Bill Welsh, rejoined. The Accountant of Diamond Flight Centre, Mike Desjardins also joined in early June.

Enjoy your summer everyone,

– *Chuck Hardy - Secretary*

Per Ardua

A couple of weeks ago I was at the Wing and after lunch I decided to take a little closer look at some of the photos on the border that runs along the top of the bar room. There is a great variety of scenes – different faces, different places, but one that caught my eye was about two or three frames from the back door.

It was a colour photo of a trip taken 18 years ago by about 60 or 70 Wing members, on April 19-20, 2000. The trip was organized by then Wing President Charlie Melanson who, I imagine, had a little help from volunteers. They rented a comfortable bus, arranged for the motel, checked out restaurants in the area and wrote to their destination to warn them that a group of aircraft enthusiasts would be coming to visit. The travel time to from London was about 6 hours, so with an early start there would be enough time remaining to visit for several hours, then an overnight stay at a nearby motel and the return to London the following day. .

The destination was the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, and nobody that took the trip was disappointed by what there was to see and do, such as standing close to a B52 bomber which has a wingspan of 185.0 feet (56.4 metres), about half the length of a Canadian football field. You may recall the B52 starring in a satiric 1964 movie titled “Dr. Strangelove.” In fact, the museum at Dayton is spread over 64 acres, with over 360 aircraft on display, plus many other exhibits and things to see and enjoy. Lots of walking, but no charge for parking or entrance.

Dayton may be the best aviation and space museum in the USA, but there are others, in particular the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, which, if you have the time, is about 7 hours to the south and east of Dayton. The Smithsonian has two locations: the first is the Air and Space Museum located in downtown Washington, D.C. and the second is the Udvar-Hazy Centre, about 45 miles west of Washington in Chantilly, Virginia. The Washington museum exhibits include the 1903 Wright flyer, the Spirit of St. Louis, a planetarium and an IMAX theatre. At Udvar-Hazy is the high-altitude, high-speed strategic reconnaissance SR-71 Blackbird and the famous B29 “Elonka Gay,” the aircraft that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

But Canada also has aircraft museums to visit, large and small, from coast to coast. You can find them simply by typing list “Canadian aircraft museums” into your browser. Of the fifteen air museums listed for Ontario, the two major ones are: the National Air Force Museum of Canada at CFB Trenton and the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa. And if you’re travelling this summer, there are more than 50 listed across the country, from Comox, B.C. on the west coast to Gander, Newfoundland on the east. There should be one pretty close to wherever you’re going. Enjoy your summer.

-Reg Lownie



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...and now a prayer
for the roof fund!

Repairs have been made to our roof but our 80 year old building is still in urgent need of other repairs. Every dollar counts, and every donation over \$20 will give you a tax deduction when it's tax time in 2019.

Please contact Flo or any member of the executive on how you can donate and make your donation part of your tax credit at the same time.

Call 519-455-0430.

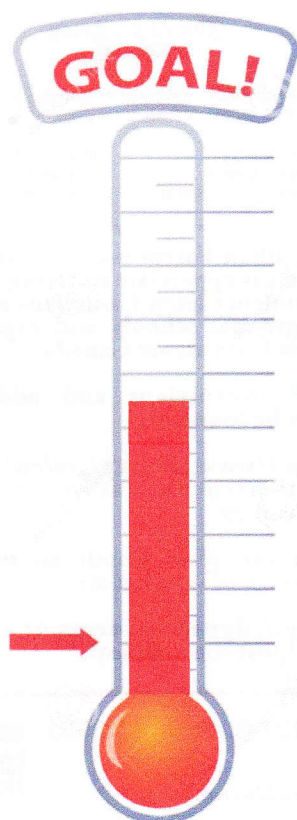
CELEBRATING RCAFA 94th ANNIVERSARY and 427 (London) Wing's 2018 Fund Raising Drive

We have made significant renovations, and hope to do more, which is why we have embarked on a building fund campaign. We have raised over \$3,700 so far, but hope to raise \$20,000 to make much-needed improvements.

Donations may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

Mr. Gable had a leak in the roof over his dining room, so he called a repairman to take a look at it. "When did you first notice the leak?" the repairman inquired.

Mr. Gable scowled. "Last night, when it took me two hours to finish my soup!"



\$10,000.

**April 15, 2018
\$7,000.00.**

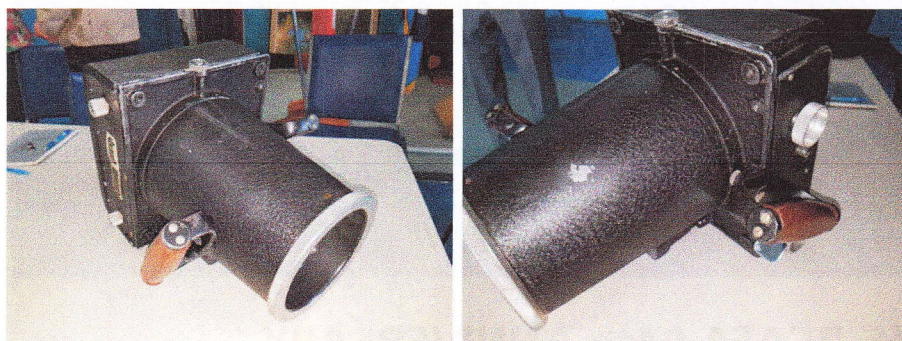


Fairchild F-56

Not the name of an old airplane, but the model of a big, heavy camera used for aerial photography. In April it was donated to the wing by the family of Ron Nelson, a well-known London photographer, who passed away 25 years ago. He had been an instructor in the Air Observer School, part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, at Base Crumlin, near the present London Airport, during WWII. A second, big but less unwieldy camera was also donated.

Ron also produced a colour documentary film for the Leavens Bros. firm, which had contracted with the RCAF to provide much of the technical training on communication for the BCATP. The Wing has had the occasional use of the film, which depicts twin-engine Anson training aircraft flying from RCAF Crumlin and around the area.

Mr. Nelson also had an interest in aviation, having obtained his private pilot's licence before the war at the London Flying Club.



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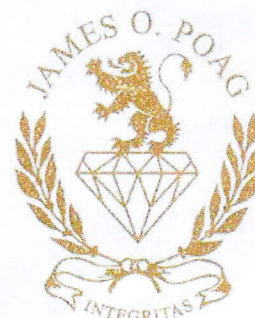
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Any of you know someone who would like to play euchre on Tuesday afternoons?

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Euchre Club closed for summer, opens again on Tuesday, September 11 at 1:15 pm



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Canadian Forces members serving overseas appreciate receiving correspondence from Canadians as well as groups, schools and organizations from across Canada.

Full instructions and addresses may be found at:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/write-to-the-troops/mailling-instructions.page>

You can also submit an on-line message of support at:

<http://dgpaapp.forces.gc.ca/en/wrt/post-message.asp>



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Contact L.Col (Retd) Armin Grunwald and Judy Grunwald at 519-474-2194 or agrunwald@rogers.com



BIRTHDAY BRATS



JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

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Reg Lownie, Jean McGinnes, Cathy Newman, Jack Schenck, Pete Schussler, Helen Simpson
Eve Sutherland, Jan Sydorko, Jack Viau, David Wallace, Bill West and Joe Wyatt

AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

John Brotzel, Larry Calver, Gwen Clarke, Don Clarke, Geoffrey Corfield
John DeWit, Bob Fenn, Chuck Hardy, Irene Mathysen, and Rosetta McGlinchey

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

-English Proverb

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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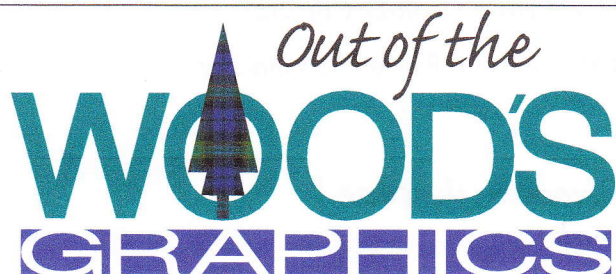
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From the left: VP Western Region, Ontario Group, Rene McKinnon; and the Wing's new executive: Treasurer Liyuan Shi; 1st VP Gus Cameron; Secretary Faben Wossenew; President Barry Sandler; and 2nd VP Tom Pillon.

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**427 Wing
Secrets of Radar Museum
London Amateur Radio Club
Play Away Indoor Park
Jet Aircraft Museum
Katana Kafe
Crumlin Creek Golf**

Memorial Cross Comes Home

Dave Thomson found an advertisement on eBay for a Memorial Cross that had belonged to Cpl. F.H. Granger listed for US\$299. He thought "It is all about getting his valour off the auction block. Get his valour back home. He deserves that, doesn't he?" Granger was raised in London and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War, but died in India on May 6, 1945.

Thomson, a medal hunter, has been instrumental in returning over 900 medals to the families and friends of service members over the last 12 years.

About \$500 in donations was raised from the public to buy and return the medal to the family. The medal was purchased and presented to Granger's cousin Betty Murray who then gave it to the 427 (London) Wing.



Betty Murray, cousin of Frederick Granger who served in the RCAF and died during the Second World War present his Memorial Cross to Terry Rushton of the 427 (London) Wing Museum



The Memorial Cross (often referred to as the Silver Cross) is awarded to mothers and widows (next of kin) of Canadian soldiers who died on active duty or subsequently died after such duty.



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RCAF Association announces 2018 Biennial General Meeting in Calgary

Mr. Stephen MacDonnell, Chairman of the National Executive Council and National President of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association is pleased to give notice of the (biennial) general meeting of the RCAF Association.

783 (Calgary) Wing and the General Meeting Host Committee are looking forward to meeting all of the delegates and Regular members of the RCAF Association. The 2nd Biennial General Meeting of the RCAF Association will be held in Calgary, Alberta 12 to 14 October 2018. The meeting will be held at the Hotel Arts, located at 119 12 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G8, over the dates 12 to 14 October 2018, inclusive, with a full day of business meetings on Saturday 13 October 2018 and a formal Remembrance Ceremony and visit to the Bomber Command Museum of Canada at Nanton, Alberta on Sunday 14 October 2018. The Hotel Arts is located in the downtown core, near to shopping and other amenities.

A detailed agenda for the aforementioned two days' of activities will be released no later than 21 days prior to the opening of the first business session on Saturday 13 October 2018 at or about 8:30 AM (MST); On the agenda will be an election of directors to the National Executive Council. For a list of the current directors, and members of the RCAF Association Trust Fund, please refer to the Table of Contents page for issue 41 no 4 of Airforce magazine. Any Regular member of the RCAF Association interested in serving on the RCAF Association Board of Directors (National Executive Council) may nominate themselves simply by writing to the Executive Director and including a photograph and biographical sketch. Any Regular member of the RCAF Association may nominate another Regular member of the RCAF Association for a directorship on the National Executive Council. If you choose to nominate a fellow member, you must advise the member and inform them of their obligations to confirm in writing (to the Executive Director) their willingness to accept the nomination.

WestJet is offering Coupon (Promo) Codes that will save you 10% on Econo and 15% off Plus base fares for related travel to and from Calgary between October 5 and October 21. If you are interested in attending, please contact any member of the 427 (London) Wing executive so that we may have an idea of how many of our members will be at this Biennial General Meeting. The website for the Biennial General Meeting is <http://rcfassociatin.ca/calgary2108>



**Join the Royal Canadian Air Force Association
427 (London) Wing!**

For the camaraderie, the special events, the museum and to support our veterans and air cadets...all from our local community (members and non-members) are welcome.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraising dinner sponsored by The Ladies' Auxiliary



CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!

Turkey dinner with all the trimmings
Cocktails 6:00pm. Dinner 6:30 pm.

Saturday July 14, 2018

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 533 (Byron)
1276 Commissioners W, 519-472-3300

Adults - \$14 Child (5-10yrs) - \$8
Kids under 5 eat free. **Kids need a ticket to ensure a place setting.**

Donations for Food Bank Accepted

Public welcome. Tickets available for purchase at the Bar (pre-sale only).
Last day of sales is July 7/18. Limited number of tickets available. Non-refundable.
All proceeds used to send Ladies to Convention



427 (London) Wing will be closed during the month of July. The first Friday Lunch is Friday, August 10th

Battle of Britain Luncheon on September 14.
More details to be announced

Next General meeting dates are
Friday, September 28 and November 2

427

August 17-19

B29 Super Fortress

Check the 427 (London) Wing Facebook page for updates.

September 7,8,9

The London International Air Show

The Wing will be open all three days and will be offering food and beverages in air conditioned comfort; You must have an pass for the Air show to visit with us.

**September 15, 16
Doors Open London**

The Wing will be open for our regular Friday Lunch at 11:30 and then on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for sale during your visit. No passes are necessary and parking is free.

Our Memories of Heroes

Around 8 o'clock in the morning, four young men, all student navigators based at RCAF Station Crumlin (now London) Ontario, completed their pre-flight preparations, boosted themselves into an aircraft and prepared for their navigation training flight. The date was Friday, May 14th, 1943. RCAF Crumlin was one of the training bases for the British Commonwealth Training Plan (BCATP), and pilots, navigators and other aircrew trades were urgently needed overseas.

The four students were Sgt. W.J. Brown, Leading Aircraftmen (LAC) J.A. Curtis, LAC R.H. Bailey and LAC K.G. Spooner. The aircraft was an Avro Anson, likely built in Canada, and commonly used as an aircrew trainer by other countries under the BCATP. Waiting for the students inside the Anson was their pilot, Sgt. Nelson, a native of Nova Scotia. It was customary to have two pilots on training missions but this was 1943, it was wartime and pilots were needed everywhere.

Shortly after takeoff, Sgt Brown collapsed over the controls and despite desperate efforts by the crew he could not be revived. None of the four students had ever flown an aircraft, but within a few seconds, LAC Spooner was the first to react and took the controls. He was able to level the aircraft long enough for the other three students to bail out before the aircraft crashed into Lake Erie. Spooner and the pilot were killed.

Subsequently, the testimony of the survivors led to Spooner being awarded the George Cross, equal of rank to the Victoria Cross, but awarded for "an act of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in actions not in the face of the enemy."

Since 2002, 427 (London) Wing has celebrated Spooner's heroic act with the erection of a monument and later the creation of a Memorial Garden. Wing members and interested others were invited to add engraved flat stones in memory of relatives or friends. The engraved stones were placed in the ground to the east side of the Wing building and a ceremonial blessing would take place. This year, as in the past, our Wing Padre Frank Mantz, contacted those who contributed the stones, in order to provide at the ceremony some explanation of the person or event in whose honour the stone was being blessed.

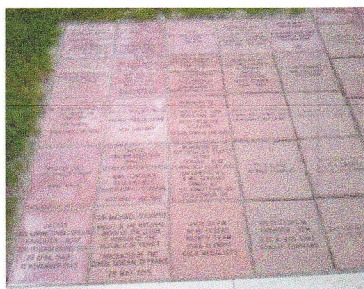
This year, some personal comments by contributors that followed the ceremony included these:

"I felt very welcomed and emotional at times during the service. Hearing the stories of various people, together with learning about Spooner himself... made me feel so special because I became a part of the service, even in a small manner."

"In memory of our parents who are gone and are so missed, we now have a tribute to them...we share the remembrances of those who gave so much to protect our future...keep our freedoms..."

"Thanks for remembering those who toiled on our behalf, but came from foreign soil...their contributions on our behalf also make memories everlasting for the families who took up citizenship."

"The whole service...all made for a memorable day!"



Among the more than two dozen sponsors of the Spooner Legacy Stones were Margaret Brac and Mary Demelo, of London Audiology, pictured here with 427 (London) Wing member, Sam Newman.



Your Benefits Payment Calendar for 2018

In the chart below you will find dates for the Government of Canada's recurring monthly payments. If you have signed up for *direct deposit*, payments will be automatically deposited in your bank account on these dates.

Canada Pension Plan Old Age Security Veterans Affairs Canada Disability Pension

June 27	June 27	June 28
July 27	July 27	July 30
August 29	August 29	August 30
September 26	September 26	September 27
October 29	October 29	October 30
November 28	November 28	November 29
December 20	December 20	December 21

Note:

- (1) CPP includes the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) retirement and disability, children's and survivor benefits.
- (2) OAS includes Old Age Security Pension (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.
- (3) Information at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/calendar.html>



L. to R.: George Hrisikos in his Pittsburgh Penguins' sweater, Sam Newman of 427 (London) Wing in his 1948 replica sweater for the RCAF Flyers who won the Hockey Olympics that year, Mayor Brown, and the ValueMart store owner, Drew Brundritt, who was wearing his cherished George Bray Minor Sports Assoc garb. Value Mart supports their activities. All in fun, in support the day's local cause, to visually honour those lost in the Humbolt sad events!



Peter, Hilda, Jackie, John, and Gus at the St Thomas air show on Saturday, June 16th.

ADVERTISE IN THE LONDON LINK

**Support 427 (London) Wing
while reaching your local market!
Call 519-455-0430 for details!**

Wing takes part in developing Memorial Parkland

This past May 26 weekend, the Wing took a small but much appreciated part in the creation of a new memorial park at the south-west corner intersection of Hamilton Road and the Veterans Memorial Highway.

The Srishti Canada Foundation is a non-profit society organized back in 2012 for the Indo-Canadian community and culture here in London, Ontario. The word "Srishti" in Sanskrit means "Creation" and the society's goal is to build a more vibrant, giving sense of selfless service in future generations. The Foundation is open to everyone and offers information on their many plans and programs at:

<http://www.srishticanada.org/contact-us/>.

The objective of the memorial park is to draw attention to the expenditure and sacrifices made by over a million Indian soldiers who took part in the First World War. That number was more than all the Allied troops combined. Challenges of cold weather, difficulties in communicating in different languages, and the unfamiliar and hostile surroundings contributed to the loss of 75,000 Indian troops in that conflict. But as partners of the British Commonwealth they willingly served in Europe, Mesopotamia, China and Africa from the beginning to the end of the war. They also won praise for their efforts at Vimy Ridge and were awarded 11 Victoria Cross medals.

The nearly 200 volunteers and members of the Srishti group, taking part in this first phase of the Memorial Park, met their goal of planting one hundred and eight trees, before heading off to the Wing for a well-deserved luncheon that lasted for more than two hours. A few local politicians and Wing volunteers were also on hand to assist with the planting and to serve the food and drinks. The trees were supplied by the not-for-profit enterprise "Trees for 3 Dots Planting Inc." under the direction of Barry Sandler, a familiar face at 427 (London) Wing.

Plans for the future of the Memorial Park, the first of its kind in Canada, include placing a large stone monument from India on site, with benches and walking trails winding through the "living guard of honour."

Shown below is one group of the approximately 200 volunteers who planted trees on May 26th to create a living memorial for Indian soldiers killed during the First World War. The site is located on the south-west corner of Hamilton Road and the Veterans Memorial Parkway.



VP Western Region, Ontario Group Rene McKinnon chats with mayoralty candidate Tanya Park as they take a break from the tree planting efforts at London's memorial to Indian forces in WW I



As planting continued at the new Memorial Park, a drone made several passes overhead.



July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	CLOSED FOR JULY HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! 				14
15	16					21
22	23					28
29	30					

August 2018

NOTE:
Cold lunches in August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 BCC	9 FLAG (noon)	10 WEC LUNCH +Cadets Lunch	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 WEC LUNCH +Cadets Lunch B29 Super Fortress in London	18
19 B29 Super Fortress in London	20	21	22	23	24 LUNCH WDs	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 LUNCH	

AGM Annual General Meeting, 1pm
BBQ Bar-b-que lunch, last lunch until August
BCC British Car Club, meeting at 7:30pm
COM Retired Commissionaires, 9am - 12pm
FO Fanshawe Optimist's Club, meeting at 7:30pm
GM General Meeting at 1pm
GS Guest Speaker
LFC London Flying Club Reunion

LVRC London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 11:00am
MAC Model Aircraft Club meeting
OAGM Ontario Group Annual General Meeting
RAA Recreational Aircraft Association, meeting at 7:30pm
WD The Women's Division join us the 4th Friday of each month for lunch
WDP Wind Down Party for OAGM, at the Wing
WEC Wing Executive Council, 9:30am
WT Wood Turners, meeting at 7:30pm