

THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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**See
Pages 6-8**

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 2019 TO JUNE 30 2020.

Director - Chairperson	Barry Sandler	519-494-1053	bsandler@sympatico.ca
Director -	Reg Lownie	519-667-1989	rjlownie@gmail.com
Director -	Gus Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Director - Secretary	Tom Pillon	519-660-8099	ve3hor@gmail.com
Director -	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	johnston.hojo@rogers.com
Executive Director			

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Web-Site	www.427wing.com		
Sopwith Chairperson	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	johnston.hojo@rogers.com
Housing	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Public Relations and Museum	Reg Lownie	519-667-1989	rjlownie@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie, Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	Fssmeltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising	B. Sandler, 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	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	johnston.hojo@rogers.com
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Lottery	Tom Pillon	519-660-8099	ve3hor@gmail.com
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
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

CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430	
Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430	
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive	
London Link graphic artist	Cathy Wood		cathywood@gmail.com

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.



Director-Chairperson's Report

Another year at the wing has ended a few days ago. It not only ends an operational year, but it is the end of an era. We will begin the new year, with a change in our governance model. No more presidents, vice-presidents, etc. but we now have a board of directors and an administrative team. I believe that the challenges that the wing faces in the coming years, will be better handled by this arrangement.

It is a fact of life that we all age. With age comes wisdom, but it also comes with physical challenges as well; our bones and joints creak a bit more, and our hearing and eyesight is not as good as it once was. Our building is no different. It is rapidly approaching its nineties and although it is in pretty good shape for a temporary building built in the 1930s, it needs some work.

A large part of the roof will be replaced soon; we are discussing the installation of a necessary wheelchair lift between the two halves of our building, the ball room floor is going to need replacing, and we need some additional work on our forest to turn it into the vision of a WWI memorial we all had we started planting.

All of this is going to take money. We were able to get a grant which will pay for most of the roof repairs, but not all of it. We have applied for a federal grant to help with the lift. There is a City of London pool of funds that we should be able to access to help with the memorial. It all helps but it usually does not cover the complete costs. And we don't know how much the floor renovation is going to cost because we are still in the engineering assessment phase. What this all means is that we are going to have to focus on fund-raising for the next few years.

It is not all doom and gloom. We continue to attract more and more participants in our Friday Lunch program. We developed closer relations with the Garrison Community Council to the point where they are considering holding some of their meetings here on a regular basis. We won this year's Wing of the Year award; we are a significant part of the Cadet Training program again this summer; we have worked with local businesses and the airport to create the "Airport District" and get it officially recognized as a tourist destination by Tourism London. And last but not least, we have implemented (with a lot less fuss and bother than other wings), a new administration model is that not only compliant with government regulations, but is better suited to manage fund-raising activities.

So there are challenges ahead, but it is my firm believe that we as a community will be able to not only meet them but rise above them. It is important that we do so, so that an important part of the Royal Canadian Airforce's history in the City of London is not lost.

As part of the new governance model, we need to recruit an Executive Director (ED) or Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). This individual is responsible for the day to day management of the wing, including the staff. They attend board of director meetings but are "Ex-Officio" meaning that they do not have a vote. Having said that, their opinion matters a great deal.

Renee McKinnon has taken on the task of recruiting an ED/CAO. Anyone who is interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Renee directly.

I want to thank all the members of the executive, the committees, the volunteers, and the staff for all the excellent work over the last year. I also want to thank those individuals who stepped in for me when I was inconvenienced and kept things running.

See you all in August.

Barry Sandler, Past President (the last)
Director and Chair of the Board of Directors
427 (London) Wing RCAFA

Notes from Chuck Hardy:

The Wing as of this writing July 2nd is in between Secretaries. Charlene O'Donnell as the former Secretary is going to assist Hilda Smeltzer and Hazil Malone on the Wellness Committee. On behalf of the new Board of Directors, I thank Charlene for an excellent job as Secretary of 427 (London) Wing. If you visit Fanshawe Pioneer Village this summer, visit the country store there and you will likely see Charlene there to serve you.

The Board selected Tom Pillon as the new Secretary. Tom has been the Second Vice President and has done and continues to do many chores in and outside this World War II heritage building. Yes, that includes mowing the lawns.

As Membership Chairperson, thank you to all the members who have renewed their membership for 2019/2020. For those of you who have not renewed yet, please do so and add \$5.00 late fee to your renewal payment.

To all readers of the Link, enjoy the summer. The first lunch is on August 9th. Besides the Friday lunches, please let the new Board of Directors know what events you would like the Wing to have throughout the year.

Happy holidays.

Per Ardua by Reg Lownie

**Where have all the pilots gone?
Long time passing
Where have all the pilots gone?
Long time ago
Where have all the pilots gone?
Gone commercial every one
How can we keep them home?
How can we keep them home?**

(Sung to the tune of: Where have all the flowers gone?)

A report by Canada's Auditor General, published in November, 2018, stated that the RCAF had significant shortages of the pilots and technicians it needed and was therefore unable to meet the requirements set by Ottawa. The figures don't lie- 40 left between April 2016 and March 2018, and another 17 announced they intended to leave. Since April 2016 the air force was able to find only 30 new pilots to replace them. There are similar shortfalls for navigators and sensor operators who work onboard different types of aircraft, as well as for the mechanics who keep the aircraft in the air.

"If CF-18 pilots continue to leave at the current rate, there will not be enough experienced pilots to train the next generation of fighter pilots," the report concluded, adding that the shortages could possibly impact on the commitments Canada had made to both NATO and NORAD.

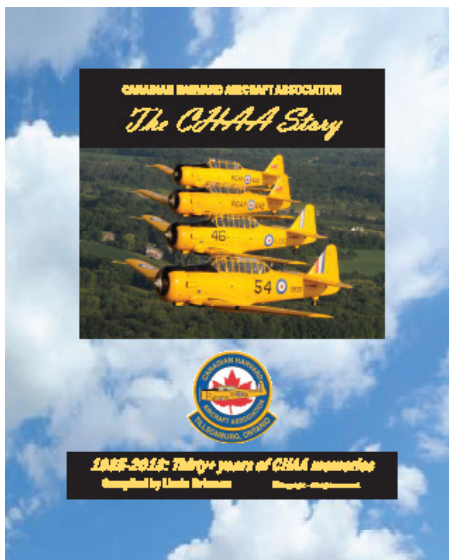
Canada is not the only country thus affected and better pay is not the only reason for the gaps in our defence system. The USAF reported a shortfall of about 1,200 fighter pilots and 2,000 pilots in total, and there are similar examples in the American navy, Marine Corps and Army. The UK has had problems keeping its Apache attack helicopter personnel and

has started sending student pilots to the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program in the U.S. Some pilots and servicing staff are leaving because of the longtime deployments to overseas operations and want the more stable family life and pay that commercial flying offers them. On top of that, estimates are that just to keep up with the demand, the overall Canadian aerospace sector will need an additional 7,000 to 8,000 pilots within the next few years.

There is no shortage of ideas on how to correct the situation, but most of the solutions are expensive. One idea is that the RCAF will create a new training program which will allow the air force to increase the number of new pilots to be trained in any given year. The current system allows only 115 new pilots to be trained each year. Another initiative aims to cut non-flying responsibilities to maximize the amount of time experienced pilots will spend in the air as they train new recruits on current aircraft, participate in the various missions in or out of Canada as required, or train on new aircraft that will be introduced in the near future. The increased use of new technology, such as flight simulators, is also being considered.

Apart from the attention being given to new training and increasing personnel, both in the air and on the ground, there are changes in policy in the works that will include strategies such as the creation of a fleet of new armed drones. Armed and unarmed drones can be used in a variety of roles, such as conducting surveillance over Canadian territory or taking part in military missions abroad. Other plans for retention include financial bonuses to pilots and technicians, better opportunities in career progression, and general improvements in the support given for military families.

As one top military commander observed, "Without action to stabilize our levels of experienced personnel, the RCAF's operational output will be further impacted. Increasing our intake and our training capacity is not enough."



Copies of the CHAA Story by 427 (London) Wing member Linda Brimson are available at 427 Wing (519-455-0430) or from Bruce Tapp (519-668-2900). \$35.

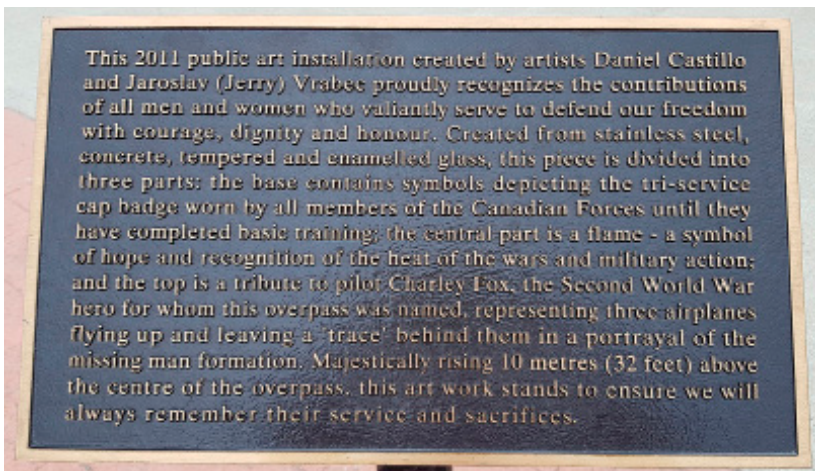
Charley Fox Memorial Overpass restored

The sculpture that tops the Charley Fox Memorial Overpass, located at the intersection of Hale and Trafalgar streets in London, has been restored after several months of repair made necessary because of damage due to strong winds and weather.

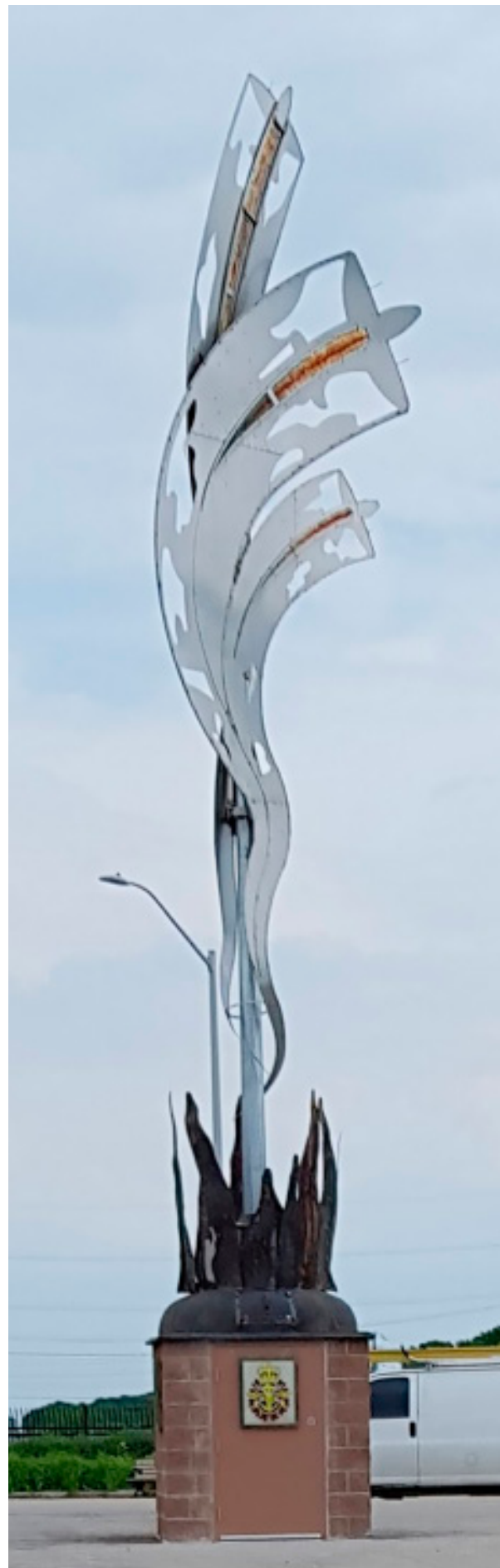
The Overpass, London's first arterial road and elevated roundabout, raises vehicle and pedestrian traffic above busy CN rail tracks. It was recognized in 2011 for its innovation and was given an Award of Merit by the Consulting Engineers of Ontario, in addition to recognition at the 2011 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards. It features a 35-foot structure created by the London Arts Council.

The roundabout was named after London native Charley Fox, a Second world War Spitfire pilot and long-time member of 427 (London) Wing of the RCAF Association. Fox was well-known for his heroic wartime accomplishments, as a spokesperson for veterans, a strong supporter of youth, particularly Air Cadets, and the founder of Torch Bearers, a non-profit organization which sought to educate young people about Canada's military exploits.

The upper portion of the sculpture features three aircraft made of stainless steel, flying upward and leaving a trail behind each of them as they rotate round the central pole in the breeze. The sculpture is approximately 34 feet high with a 7.4 foot diameter of the base, featuring military symbols made of fused glass.



Left to right: Commanding Officer of 862 (Lambeth Lightning) Sqn, Captain Sue Graystone; Cathy Newman, Sam Newman and Mayor Ed Holder, Saturday June 8, 2019 at the cadet ceremony held at Westmount Public School.



2019 Wing of the Year – 427 (London) Wing

OUR SUBMISSION:

To: President, Ontario Group
Re: Submission for Wing of the Year

The past year has been challenging for 427 (London) Wing, but if one word was able to describe our goals, objectives and achievements during 2018, an appropriate word would be “building.”

Our Wing is one-half of an original wartime “H” hut, purchased in 1959 after Crown Assets had removed one half, leaving a bar-room and ballroom. Wing executive then replaced the missing half by buying and attaching a church that had closed for lack of parishioners. Since then, a great deal of time, effort and money has and is being spent to keep both these original buildings in usable condition. We were recently awarded a grant of \$25,000 for repairs to the roof, and have begun preparations to excavate along the side walls to determine the state of the floors under the bar and ballroom. When the roof is repaired we will be able to introduce new activities to attract new visitors and, hopefully, new members. Many of our visitors comment on how well the building has been preserved, inside and out, and praise our efforts to maintain its heritage.

“Building” also applies to other plans and projects which we addressed during the past year, some of them new and some which are building upon our achievements of previous years. One of these is our program for volunteers. Apart from regular advertising in our Wing newsletter and other public appeals, we took membership in a civic organization named “Pillar.” Through Pillar the Wing is able to reach the London community to enlist volunteers, post our events, attend workshops and sessions on a variety of subjects, including governance and how to apply for grants. Some volunteers have taken out memberships. While our total membership drops from time to time, we have been able to sustain a total of about 150 for the last few years, thanks to an active membership committee and our ongoing activities, including our Spirit of Flight museum which was featured prominently in three local newspapers.

Also in 2018, the Wing became a founding member of FLAG (Flying London Aviation Group), a number of businesses and other organizations located along Crumlin Road. The group now includes the Argyle Business Improvement Association among others, and has had recent success in convincing the London Transit Authority to extend bus service along Crumlin Road and to display the area as a destination in its tourist publications. Two years ago we also allowed a local tree company to plant more than 100 trees on the land immediately behind our Wing and last year oversaw their growth, which will continue to enhance our property. Some of these trees were transplanted to the Vimy Memorial in France, adding to our public exposure.

Our outreach to the public continues each year through the London Heritage Council, in particular as two of their 15 museums – our Spirit of Flight Museum and the Secrets of Radar Museum - are both under the same roof. Hearing about the museums has prompted many individuals to donate uniforms, artifacts and memorabilia of former military family members who have passed away. The Wing also participates in Heritage Day activities such as Doors Open London and London Culture Days. Participation in Doors Open London brings about 350-400 visitors over two days every year, and provides opportunities for our Air Cadet squadrons and other groups to join with us to present displays, while we show our exhibits and the history of the airport and the Wing. A big attraction to youngsters and their parents are the two flight simulators operated by the air cadets, while in addition we realize income from the sale of food, drinks, and items from our Kit Shop. The Heritage Day events take place at different locations in the city each year. Other outreach events include the annual London Airshow and attending at other airshows to sell Kit Shop items. I must also mention the service provided to the public by our Wing Historian, David Smith, who will do research for anyone inquiring after relatives lost in war. In addition, for several years David led the Wing in the annual Poppy Campaign to aid the air cadet squadrons we support.

The Wing also receives income by renting its facilities. Rentals include the Retired Commissioners Association, the Model Aircraft Club, the British Car Club, the Recreational Aircraft Association, the Fanshaw Optimist Club, the Thames Valley Woodturners Guild and the London Amateur Radio Club. The latter group shares space with the Radar Museum on a daily basis.

Every year the Wing holds a number of events, many of which are open to the public, usually built around a day of significance to the air force, including “The Battle of Britain” or similar historical dates. Usually a formal meal is offered and a speaker who can relate the happenings of some military importance and interest. Last April we held a special lunch for the 94th anniversary of the founding of the RCAF and scheduled a larger event for mid-May, the “Blessing of the Stones” to be placed in our Spooner Memorial Garden. Later in the same month, several Wing members took part in the planting of trees for a Memorial Parkland being built in the city, commemorating Indian soldiers who had died during the Second World War. That same summer, from July to August, we provided meals to 18 flight cadets and staff undergoing training at the Diamond Flight Centre. And every year, during the London Airshow, our ballroom is taken over by city police and emergency services to maintain contact with the airport tower and to have easy access to the airfield. We also have volunteers who distribute Remembrance Day poppies to the public at sites around the city.

The Wing currently supports six Flight Cadet squadrons financially through our 50/50 draws and by attending their meetings. One Wing member on our Wing Executive is appointed to act as our Air Cadet Liaison Officer and oversees the distribution of monies to the squadrons. Another group that we are proud to support to is our Wellness Committee. This small but busy group acts as our liaison to the Parkwood Hospital where many veterans reside. Committee members visit these veterans regularly and also visit veterans and former Wing members who either live at home or retirement homes. These visits keep us informed of the care they are receiving and anything else that we could do for them.

The Wing boasts a website, a Facebook page and a bi-monthly 16 page newsletter. "The Link" is e-mailed to most members and mailed to others as required. In each case, readers are encouraged to contact the Wing if they have questions or need information. Our last newsletter was supported by 15 advertisers, some of whom offer discounts to our members. Every summer for the last several years,

members and friends have joined our golf club and play at least once a week at the local golf course. Euchre is also very popular and played every Tuesday afternoon for most of the year. Both of these games are advertised and open to the public. Also, the London Amateur Radio Club (LARC) has taken up residence with us and the Secrets of Radar Museum.

Last, but far from the least of our continuing efforts, is our "Famous Friday Lunch" thanks to the small but amazing group that prepares and provides these inexpensive and always delicious meals every Friday and, if necessary, for our dinner events.

Once again I wish to thank your committee for this opportunity to describe what our Wing is doing, not only for ourselves but in support of other affiliated organizations and in particular for Ontario Group and our National Association.

Barry Sandler, President, 427 (London) Wing, RCAFA



New Director and new Wing secretary Tom Pillon receives his Wing of the Year Award from Regional VP Rene McKinnon,

Wing of the Year



Top Left: Newly-elected Director Gus Cameron is congratulated by Regional VP Rene McaKinnon

Top Middle: Two familiar faces from our kitchen staff, Flo Douglas and Tanya Deaville show their Wing of the Year Awards

Top Right: Diamond Flight Centre President Bill Welsh is recognized for his work with Flight Cadets

Above: More members whose work on behalf of the Wing is acknowledged with certificates and applause.

From left to right are Fred Pettit, Tom Pillon, Dave Smith, Reg Lownie, Diana Cuthbert, Rene McKinnon, Hilda Smeltzer, Mike Ryan, Chuck Hardy, Frank Birch, Jack Clark, Howard Johnston.

Membership Membership Report

By the time you read this July/August edition of the Link, the Friday lunches will be over until August 9th.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2019/2020, please do so right away. After June 30th, there is a \$5.00 late payment fee also to pay. I don't want to bug you by either phoning or sending you an email reminder. We appreciate all 147 members and know that you enjoy the benefits of membership. We do not want to remove anyone from the membership list, but, unfortunately, by September 1, 2019 it is necessary to remove serving members who have not renewed. To be reinstated, means starting over again.

On a happier note, Tom Pillon and others are doing a bang on job on maintaining the grounds including mowing the big lawns around the building. The flowers are in bloom. 2155 Crumlin Road is the crown jewel of East London.

To everyone, members and others who read the Link, have a great summer, relax, travel if you can and stay well until we met again.

– *Chuck Hardy, Membership*



NEW DIRECTORS SWORN IN

Following changes made to Canada's Not-For-Profit Act, a small rotation of faces and titles took place at the Wing in late June, as (front row) Chuck Hardy, Barry Sandler and Reg Lownie, along with (back row) Tom Pillon and Howard Johnston were named Directors while our Regional Vice-President Rene McKinnon did the honours. Missing from the ceremony was Gus Cameron who was sworn in as a Director at a later date.



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James G. Poag
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST
GOLDSMITH - APPRAISER

Jeffrey R. Poag
GOLDSMITH - DIAMOND SETTER

Jenny Dortmans
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST

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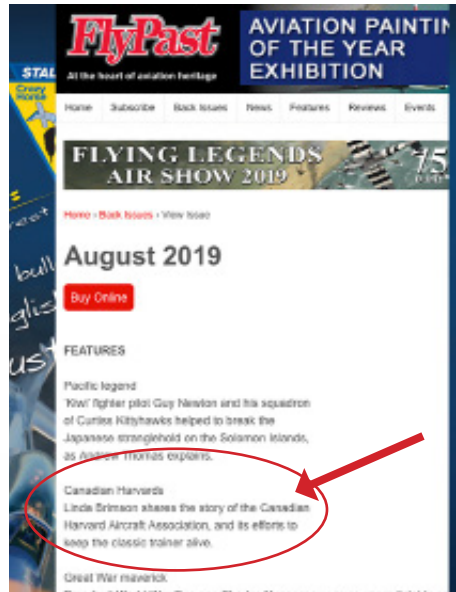
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The August 2019 edition of FlyPast includes an article by 427 (London) Wing member Linda Brimson. On magazine shelves soon or buy online at:

<https://flypast.keypublishing.com/the-magazine/view-issue/?issueID=7933>

Benefits Payment Calendar 2019

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.

Canada Pension Plan

July 29, 2019
 August 28, 2109
 September 26, 2019
 October 29, 2019
 November 27, 2019
 December 20, 2019

Old Age Security

July 29, 2019
 August 28, 2019
 September 25, 2019
 October 29, 2109
 November 27, 2019
 December 20, 2019

Veterans Affairs Disability Pension

July 30, 2019
 August 30, 2019
 September 27, 2019
 October 30, 2019
 November 28, 2019
 December 21, 2019

Notes: Canada Pension Plan includes the CPP, retirement pension and disability, children's and survivor benefits. Old Age Security includes the OAS pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.

VISIT <http://flylondon.ca/flag>
 for a list and links to all the
 great London International Airport attractions:

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

London Airshow

SEPTEMBER 13-15

<https://airshowlondon.com>

PERFORMERS

T38 Talons

Canadian Armed Forces
Parachute Team

Peter McLeod

A-10C Thunderbolt II
Demonstration Team

CF18 Demonstration Team

Canadian Forces Snowbirds

Mike Tryggvason



ATIS 'Bring Your Kid to Work' Day

BATTLE OF BRITAIN LUNCHEON

SAVE THE DATE: September 20

Aviation enthusiast, skilled photographer and London resident Jack Hurst will be the guest speaker at the Wing's annual Battle of Britain Luncheon, scheduled for Friday, September 20th. Mr. Hurst recent spoke at the April meeting of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society in Toronto and drew the largest audience of the season, the Society's magazine recently reported.

As a young man, Mr. Hurst joined the photography department of Avro Canada to become an air-to-air photographer. Chasing high speed aircraft around the sky, he has to date logged more than 400 hours in the back seat of a CF-100. He also has his own flying suit, his own helmet and his own locker and was paid \$5 "danger pay" per hour for every hour he flew to take photographs, which he recalls as a "a lot of fun up there." His photographs include RL205, the last Arrow to fly. He is also involved in the "Raise the Arrow" project, which is an effort to recover the nine, one-eighth scale free-flight Arrow models launched over Lake Ontario from Point Petre in Price Edward Coounty on a Nike rocket booster, as part of the Arrow program, Although none of the models have been recovered so far, a Delta Test Vehicle, which pre-dated the Arrow model, has been found. New sonar imagery and underwater video footage is helping in the search, described as "like looking for a needle in a liquid haystack." .

You can expect a delicious meal and an interesting speaker at the Battle of Britain Luncheon on September 20. Order your tickets early.



My Memorable Moment

Submitted by Al Szawara

UNWELCOME VISITOR

The 1960's was a great time to be in the RCAF. Because the RCAF had acquired several new aircraft, there was a need for lots of Pilots, Navigators and Radio Officers. I was one of those young men that decided to sign up in early 1961 for some adventure. After completing my training and receiving my Radio Officer wings and completing the Maritime OTU, I was posted to 415 Maritime Patrol Squadron flying the Argus, considered to be the best Anti- Submarine Patrol aircraft in service. In addition to anti-submarine patrols, we also conducted searches for missing fishing vessels, arctic sovereignty flights and fisheries patrol flights.

The Russian fishing fleet on the East Coast was of particular importance to us because Russian trawlers were normally outfitted with many antennae used for electronic surveillance and our intelligence section was always interested in the information that we brought back. It was not unusual to have 40 to 50 trawlers just outside Canada's economic exclusion zone (200 Nautical Miles) accompanied by a factory ship. This ship processed the catches day and night and could stay in the area for several weeks before heading home. It was our job to go into the area, count and photograph the trawlers, concentrating on their antennae arrays

It was during one of these trips, on 17 December, 1966, that we had an interesting incident. We had been monitoring the Russian fishing fleet, and I was taking pictures from my position in the plexiglass nose of the Argus when we decided that we should also get a photo of the factory ship. Now as you can imagine, there are a lot of seagulls around fishing vessels and in particular there are huge flocks of gulls around the factory ship. Nevertheless, we decreased our altitude to about 200 feet above sea level and got ready to take photos of the factory ship. That is when I heard a loud bang and felt a sudden rush of air. We had flown directly into a group of seagulls that happened to be at our altitude and one of them went through the left lower portion of the plexiglass nose, making a hole about 10 inches in diameter. I felt pieces of the nose hit my boot and bits and pieces of the seagull on my flying suit. The pilot quickly climbed the aircraft out of danger and our Flight Engineer crawled into the nose compartment, opened the watertight door and hauled me out. I don't think that it took more than 30 seconds from the time the gull hit to the time that I was safely inside the aircraft. The aircraft also sustained several other hits on the leading edges of the wings but luckily, none of the gulls hit the engines.



The initial impact on the nose also caused some large cracks in the plexiglass in addition to the hole, and there was not much left of the nose as pieces had broken off during our transit home. As you can see in the picture, parts of the seagull are still stuck in the anti-static strips. We were lucky. No one got hurt and the aircraft was quickly fixed and back in service with only minor dents that our technicians soon repaired.



"Serves you right - I told you not to wear those to the beach."

New Veterans Service Card

The new Veteran's Service Card will be available this coming summer to anyone who served in the Canadian Forces and was released before 2016. Unlike the old NDI 75 photo ID card issued years ago to Members who left the CF with at least 10 years of service, the new requirements are very much easier.

Completed basic training and were honourably discharged from the CF? You qualify for the new Veteran Service Card! (So almost 99% of us should qualify for this new photo VSC card! - Example: I recently met a now 69 year-old man, who was a recruit in the 6-week summer Student Militia Program I helped to run in 1967. He passed basic training, but quit the Militia by the end of 1967. Legally, he is a Veteran and qualifies for the Card!)

Google "Veteran Service Card" and presently the latest info is of April 2019. You can also call Veterans' Affairs Canada at 1-866-522-2122.

At present it has not yet updated to Vets with service before 2016, but it is the same 2-page printable application form that is available on line. Veterans with pre-2016 service cessation can apply as of the summer of 2019 on.

Fill it in, add a passport quality photo, plus a photocopy of a government issued ID, like a driver's licence. Send it in..... and "hurry up and wait." The Veteran Service Card should eventually arrive in the mail.

The Veteran's Service Card is valuable for several reasons in establishing that you have served, or are serving in the CF. There are many discounts and more hidden perks:

These include 25% off any VIA Rail fares, 3 or 4 pieces of luggage checked for free on Air Canada and West Jet and numerous 10 to 20% discounts at hotels, restaurants, car rentals etc.

Incidentally, VIA Rail is currently running a special 40% off (instead of 25% off) this summer (till Sept. 2019) for CF personnel, Veterans and accompanying family on the 4-day sleeping car trips between Toronto and Vancouver. If booking, make sure you join the free affinity program called "Via Preference".

But beyond these nice benefits of convenience and "frillery", there are some very important and serious benefits, as we all get older. Imagine that at some (hopefully) ripe old age it is decided you need to go to a proper government licensed Nursing Home, where waiting lists are typically from 5 to 13 months in the GTA and Southern Ontario. - A little known fact is that many nursing homes have a number of beds (sometimes 3% to 5%) reserved for Veterans. (True, but not advertised. But ask!)

- If there are no Veteran applicants when a bed opens up, it goes to another applicant. With a Veterans Service Card in your wallet your loved ones can immediately establish your Veteran's right to such a reserved bed. The Nursing Home will usually wait no longer than 24 to 48 hours, before deciding who gets the newly available bed. That is usually



not enough time to hunt up your by then decades old paper records of military service. So apply for your Veteran Service Card in 2019, and let loved ones know what it can do for you, and where you keep it. Better yet have your loved ones make a photo copy or two, so proof will be handy when it is eventually needed, hopefully, many years in the future.

- The Veteran's Service Card will also ensure your loved ones (or decision makers) will have access to greatly discounted funeral cremation lots in sections reserved for Veterans, when that time eventually comes. Most cemeteries have that option. (When I helped to bury my 84 year-old friend Bernie here in Kitchener in July 2018, his meagre estate saved almost 50%, because we had proof he had served in the Militia for 2 years in the early 1960's.)
- Lastly, for deceased Veterans with very little or no money, there is the Last Post Fund administered by Veterans' Affairs Canada. This Fund pays for a simple but decent funeral for a Veteran with little or no money. And family or friends can claim for funeral expenses that they had paid, for up to a year after the Veteran's death. For further information on the Last Post Fund call 1-800-465-7113.

Please help to give this message wide distribution! - (Especially to former or retired CIC Officers or ex-CF Personnel. It may be the only way for them to know of the importance of the new Veteran Service Card.)



BIRTHDAY BRATS



JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Kevin Acs, Gerry Burke, Pablo Calcaterra, Nick Corrie, Loree Johnston, Roland Joselyn, Art Lee, Reg Lownie, Jean McGinnes, Cathy Newman, Jack Schenck, Pete Schussler, Helen Simpson, Eve Sutherland, Jan Sydorko, Jack Viau, David Wallace, and Bill West.

AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

John Brotzel, Larry Calver, Don Clarke, Gwen 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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July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 LONDON POLICE	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 LONDON POLICE	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 LONDON POLICE	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 LONDON POLICE			

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
4	5	6	7 LONDON POLICE	8	9 LUNCH COLD	10
11	12	13	14 LONDON POLICE	15	16 LUNCH COLD	17
18	19	20	21 LONDON POLICE	22 PRIVATE BANQUET	23 LUNCH	24
25	26	27	28 LONDON POLICE BRANTFORD AIR SHOW	29	30 LUNCH	31

Note: every Tuesday Euchre at the Wing 1:15pm

- 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