

THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | WWW.427WING.COM

December 2022 Christmas Luncheon. Photos courtesy of Doris Weir



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

THE LONDON LINK - PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Six editions each year beginning with the Jul/Aug edition.

Articles of interest to all readers including items about all components of the military both of a historic and more recent nature; articles written by Air Cadets of all Squadrons; regular Board articles; items from all readers as space allows.

To promote the Wing to the wider and diverse population with the aim of attracting new members and/or seeking volunteers who may not wish to join as members.

427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Web-Site	Simon Lemire		simonlemire@sympatico.ca
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fmsmeltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
Advisor	Frank Birch		fbirch@rogers.com

Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.
Heritage/ History & Veterans'
Memorial, Tours

CLUB SERVICES

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

Over 1,000sq ft for Rent at 427 (London) Wing – This includes two rooms with a bar, kitchen facilities and lots of parking. This clean, attractive setting is great for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you'd like to have. Holds 125.

- Call for rental rates • Catering IS an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Food and beverage manager, Flo, with her trusty kitchen team of Shirley, Kim and Fred; along with extra helpers Rene, Howard, Carolyn Ridley and many others worked all week to provide a delicious turkey meal and wonderful celebration. The Wing was festive with tree decorations twinkling, Christmas sweaters and the warm feeling of fellowship. Photos on front cover (and of Flo below) courtesy of Doris Weir.



Thank you, Flo!



Commemorating Indigenous Veterans of Canada – new pin from Royal Canadian Legion

Indigenous Veterans have served both in Canada's Military Forces and as allies, from the formative times of the War of 1812 to the present. Their military contributions were essential to Canada's survival in earlier times. The Royal Canadian Legion honours today's Indigenous Veterans and their ancestors.

Duane Zaraska, the president of Métis Region 2 and an associate member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 183, takes pride in the new and inclusive pin honouring First Nations, Inuit and Métis veterans. Both Zaraska's father and grandfather served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

The commemorative Aboriginal veteran's pin has several unique features, each with an intended significance. "There are three Indigenous groups of people in Canada, being First Nations, the Inuit and the Métis, and that's exactly what we have put into the commemorative pin," explained Zaraska. Featured as the backdrop for the poppy is a dreamcatcher, which has become commonly recognized as an Indigenous symbol.

Hanging from the bottom of the pin are two feathers and between them hangs an Inukshuk, "which is the symbol for the Inuit people, and then around the dreamcatcher, they've incorporated a (Métis) sash right around the whole outside of the dream catcher," he said. Zaraska added, the new pin "is more inclusive of all Indigenous groups because as Métis people, especially, we always get lumped in with the First Nations people. And we're not First Nations, we're very unique, we have a unique culture and that's what makes us a Peoples. We always struggle for recognition . . . so having that sash there is very important for us."

[from Lakeland News Nov. 9, 2021]



Spitfire model presentation at Wing to Tom Hennessy

Attendees at the Wing's Dec 16, 2022, Christmas lunch witnessed a special presentation. 100-year-old Veteran Tom Hennessy received a customized Spitfire aircraft model from modeler and Wing member Pablo Calcaterra. Pablo made the model after extensive research into Tom's wartime flying records in the U.K. Pablo was visibly happy and honoured to present the glass-enclosed Spitfire to Tom. Pablo spoke eloquently with love and gratitude for Tom's service in Malta during WW II and understands how vital it is to always remember those serving members who did not return home. For his part, Tom was beaming with surprise and amazement at Pablo's research and modelling efforts. Every detail is correct, down to the letters "T" and "M" on either side of the roundel, which spells out "TOM". Tom's crewmates added a nod to Tom's Irish heritage and Pablo recreated that artistic detail, too. CTV London sent a reporter and videographer and London Free Press attended. Well done, Pablo! The photos say it all.



The Spitfire

Spitfire, also called Supermarine Spitfire, the most widely produced and strategically important British single-seat fighter of World War II.

It is renowned for winning victory laurels in the Battle of Britain (1940-41).

REMINDER

April 1st, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force

There are special fundraising initiatives and celebrations from national level being planned.

Follow 427 (London) Wing on Facebook for updates. There is remarkable history to celebrate and many great veterans to remember, along with wonderful aircraft.

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THURSDAYS AT 1:00 p.m.
427 (London) Wing RCAF Association
2155 Crumlin Road (north of Airport)

All Welcome

Wing Membership Not Required

Only \$2.00 a week

Phone (519) 455-0430 for info.

No need to reserve.

Life Membership for RCAF Association members 90 and over

During the 2022 (Biennial) General Meeting (BGM) of the RCAF Association, held in Hamilton, ON (14 to 16 October) the delegates representing 71.5% of the Regular members unanimously approved a motion to offer life membership at no charge to all RCAF Association veteran members-in-good-standing who have reached the age of 90.

This motion expands on the offer made several years ago to veterans/RCAF Association members who have reached the age of 100.

If you are 90 years of age and older, and you are a member-in-good-standing of the RCAF Association, please write to accounts@airforce.ca and request activation of a life membership. We respectfully request your birthdate, and your membership number.

Neither the resolution nor the constitution nor federal legislation can allow for reimbursement of membership fees already paid by eligible members.

For those interested, once you have been converted to life membership you are authorized/entitled to wear a special blazer badge that includes a "Life Member" banner, under the RCAF Association gold-wired crest; and, you are also authorized/entitled to wear a very handsome "Life Member" gold bar pin. These items are available for purchase, for those Life Members interested.

Thank you for your understanding. Wendy and Dean look forward to responding to individual requests for assistance, and to responding to Wing requests sent on behalf of eligible members in their Wings.

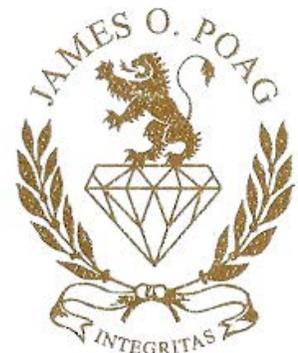
Please do not hesitate to write to director@airforce.ca or call 613-612-7223 or 866-351-2322 should you have any questions.

427 Wing is awaiting a reply on the cost of the special blazer badge and gold bar pin.

Congratulations to all those having attained "Freedom 90!"



**Happy Groundhog Day
February 2**



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AREA VETERANS REMEMBERED

Local businesses are encouraged to sponsor a Canadian veteran photo and story. These four veterans from London and surrounding counties. The plaques are now hanging in the museum room of the Wing.

JOHN GREGORY BENEDICT



John Gregory Benedict, born December 23, 1961 at London, Ontario, enlisted there June 1, 1979. Benedict served with the Royal Canadian Air Force attached to No. 408 (Tactical Helicopter) Squadron (For Freedom) as a Captain (Pilot) during the Cold War. Part of 1 Wing Kingston and based at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, Alberta, the No. 408 'Goose' squadron flew Bell CH-135 Kiowa helicopters on military operations for the Canadian army. On July 7, 1988, Captain (Pilot) John Gregory Benedict died after his Kiowa helicopter crashed into the Upper Arrow Lakes near Nakusp, British Columbia while on military operations. En route from CFB Edmonton when the helicopter went down, Benedict is commemorated on a plaque at Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Park, 18 Wing CFB Edmonton and at the Air Force Museum of Alberta, at Calgary, Alberta. Son of John Benedict of Tahsis, British Columbia and Sandra Lee Doerkson of Munster Hamlet, Ontario; brother of Andrew and Michael; husband of Captain Marie Pier Elizabeth Mireille (nee Cloutier) Benedict of St. Albert, Alberta; he was 26 years old. "O for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still." – Alfred Lord Tennyson

Commissioned by Peter Robin Fisher

www.canadianfallenheroes.com

ROBERT DUNCAN CRONE



Robert Duncan Crone, born April 28, 1923, in Komoka, Ontario, grew up in London, Ontario where he completed his senior matriculation at London South Collegiate Institute in 1941. Single and living at London, Crone worked as a summer student for London Life Insurance Company as a Photostat Operator before beginning his first year at the University of Western Ontario in London. While a student at the university, Crone joined the Cadet Officers Training Corps as a Personnel Undergoing Training at Universities (P.U.T.U.) volunteer before enlisting at London on April 4, 1942. Commissioned February 5, 1943, Crone served with the Royal Canadian Air Force attached to No. 166 (R.A.E) Squadron (Tenacity) as a Flying Officer (Navigator) during the Second World War. Based at RAF Kirmington, England with No. 1 Group Bomber Command, the No. 166 Squadron operated Avro Lancaster aircraft over enemy targets in France and Germany. On June 3, 1944, Flying Officer (Navigator) Robert Duncan Crone died after his Lancaster crashed at Bleriot-Flage Sangatte, France when shot down by the German Luftwaffe during the bombing of a coastal railway near Calais, France. He is commemorated at the Marquis Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, and on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall, Nanton, Alberta. Son of Frederick Ernest and Eva Pearl (nee Duncan) Crone of London, Ontario; brother of Frederick Ernest, Mary, Frances Shirley, Lieutenant Kenneth, Donald Crone (RCA), and Private Rae Malcolm Crone (RCAF); he was 21 years old. Citation(s): 1939-1945 Star, Aircrew Europe Star, Defence Medal, General Service Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp "O for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still." – Alfred Lord Tennyson

Commissioned by Harvest Medicine

www.canadianfallenheroes.com

WILLIAM EARL EDWARDS



William Earl Edwards was born January 5, 1923, at Mount Brydges, west of London, Ontario, the youngest son of David William and Margaret Sarah (nee Ovans) Edwards, the brother of Cora Elizabeth, Fanny Isabella, Gertrude Janina, Mary Margaret, Janet Louise, and Corporal John James Edwards (RCAF), and the half-brother of William David Edwards. Raised at Mount Brydges, William loved boxing and played hockey during the winter months. After completing his junior matriculation at Central Collegiate in 1936, William moved to Fort Erie, Ontario where he worked as a sheet metal worker for Fleet Aircraft, and later moved to Crumlin, Ontario where he worked for the Leavens Brothers as a mechanics helper. Following enlistment at London September 8, 1942, William went overseas in August 1943 and served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War as a Sergeant (Air Gunner) attached to No. 78 Squadron RAF (From Defence To Attack) as a Sergeant (Air Gunner) during the Second World War. Part of No. 5 Group Bomber Command, the No. 50 Squadron operated Avro Lancaster aircraft with RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincoln, England, targeting enemy industrial sites in France and Germany. On July 25, 1944, Sergeant Gordon Frank Finch died after his Avro Lancaster was hit by flak during an operational mission to bomb oil storage tanks at Donges, France. Crashing at Pontchâteau north of Saint-Nazaire, France, he is commemorated at the Pontchâteau Communal Cemetery, France, on a Memorial at the crash site and on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall, Nanton, Alberta. Son of Frank Halton and Bessie E. (nee Moore) Finch; brother of John, Thomas Alfred, Allan, Lloyd, Ruth, Rita, and Pilot Officer Harry Sheldon Finch (RCAF); he was 21 years old. Citation(s): 1939-1945 Star, France-Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

Commissioned by 5 Star Dealer

www.canadianfallenheroes.com

GORDON FRANK FINCH



Gordon Frank Finch, born June 17, 1923, at Belmont, Elgin County, Ontario, completed his education at Belmont High School in 1937. Single, Finch moved to London, Ontario where he worked as a machinist before enlisting at Hamilton, Ontario November 10, 1942. Finch served with the Royal Canadian Air Force attached to No. 50 Squadron RAF (From Defence To Attack) as a Sergeant (Air Gunner) during the Second World War. Part of No. 5 Group Bomber Command, the No. 50 Squadron operated Avro Lancaster aircraft with RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincoln, England, targeting enemy industrial sites in France and Germany. On July 25, 1944, Sergeant Gordon Frank Finch died after his Avro Lancaster was hit by flak during an operational mission to bomb oil storage tanks at Donges, France. Crashing at Pontchâteau north of Saint-Nazaire, France, he is commemorated at the Pontchâteau Communal Cemetery, France, on a Memorial at the crash site and on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall, Nanton, Alberta. Son of Frank Halton and Bessie E. (nee Moore) Finch; brother of John, Thomas Alfred, Allan, Lloyd, Ruth, Rita, and Pilot Officer Harry Sheldon Finch (RCAF); he was 21 years old. Citation(s): 1939-1945 Star, France-Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

Commissioned by Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation

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CHAIR REPORT by Linda Brimson

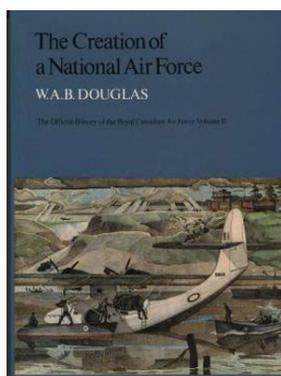
1. 427 Wing Board needs help from people interested in getting grant details and other fundraising.
2. There are committee positions, adviser positions and board member positions open. Currently seeking a Secretary for the Wing.
3. Our current Board Treasurer, Carolyn Ridley will resign at end of January. After an extensive hunt for a new Treasurer, the Board search was unsuccessful. After discussion and input the Board has created a new outline of split treasurer/bookkeeper duties. Our current bookkeeper, a staff member at a local accounting/tax firm has been assisting with Wing financial duties since 2021. We pay a reasonable monthly stipend for her to expand her duties and work with our new volunteer Treasurer, Rahwa Mengsteab Fessehaye as Rahwa learns more about the Treasurer role and the 427 Wing organization. The Board is grateful for Carolyn's service to the Wing, and her valuable input to be sure the Wing is compliant in financial matters.
4. Need a small committee to come up with future plan/projects for 427 Wing. What should be our priorities re: maintaining the building, small and bigger projects/expenses.?
5. How will 427 Wing celebrate RCAF Centennial? – April 1, 2024 marks 100 years.
6. Vertical Lift Update: in early 2023, the lift should be installed, making The Secrets of Radar Museum and 427 Wing accessible to all. Presently the washrooms in the Wing part of the building, are not accessible to wheelchairs, people with walkers, and others needing a "lift" from the west side of building.
7. 427 Wing will participate in July 1st 2023 Canada Celebrations in downtown London with a display.

What are you reading? Or watching?

Please send book suggestions of titles you've enjoyed. There are lots of avid readers/viewers among Wing members. We'd love to hear your recommendations.

Director Linda is currently enjoying the new John Grisham novel, The Boys from Biloxi. BritBox/Acorn TV crime shows are also a favourite such as Vera, Silent Witness.

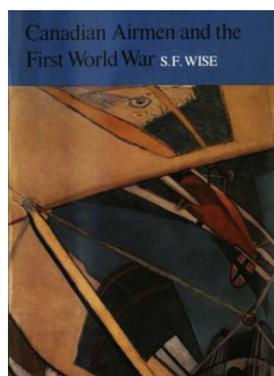
You can send an email to linda.brimson@yahoo.com to share your top picks in a future issue.



You can find some "recommended reading" in PDF format from the RCAF at: www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/popular-books.html. Here are two:

The Creation of a National Air Force

is about how the RCAF became a national institution.



Canadian Airmen and the First World War

First in a projected 4-volume series on the history of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). The 4 volumes cover the RCAF from before its start on April 1, 1924. They continue until it was absorbed into the tri-service Canadian Armed Forces on February 1, 1968. This volume covers the pre-history of the RCAF during the First World War.

2023 Resolutions

1. DRINK ENOUGH WATER
2. MOVE MORE, SIT LESS
3. MAKE PLANS TO EXPLORE & TRAVEL
4. PRIORITIZE ECO-FRIENDLY CHOICES
5. VOLUNTEER MORE OFTEN
6. ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE
7. SEND HANDWRITTEN LETTERS
8. SPEND 5 MINUTES A DAY CLEANING
9. CALL MOM/SIBLINGS/GRANDPARENTS MORE
10. PICK A TIME TO WAKE UP & STICK TO IT!
11. DEVELOP A SKINCARE ROUTINE
12. LIVE SIMPLY, CONSUME LESS
13. BE CONSISTENT WITH MEAL TIMES
14. PERFECT ONE RECIPE
15. TURN ON MUSIC INSTEAD OF THE TV
16. REMEMBER YOUR GOALS AND THE BIG PICTURE
17. SET A MONTHLY BUDGET
18. TRY SOMETHING NEW
19. TAKE BREAKS MORE OFTEN
20. FLOSS EVERY DAY
21. PRACTICE INTENTIONAL BREATHING
22. DITCH ONE BAD HABIT
23. CREATE A BEDTIME ROUTINE
24. GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CREATIVE SIDE
25. MAKE TIME FOR SELF-CARE



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Family Day
Monday February 20

One-Time \$500 Canada Housing Benefit Payment

The federal government is offering a one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit that aims to help low-income renters with the cost of renting. You may be eligible for a tax-free one-time payment of \$500 if your income and the amount that you pay on rent qualify.

If you were at least 15 years old on December 1, 2007, your principal residence was in Canada, you are a Canadian citizen to tax purposes, and filed your 2021 income tax, had a net family income of less than \$35,000 or individual income of less than \$20,000 and paid at least 30% of your net income in rent, you may qualify.

To apply for this new federal one-time payment, you do not need to receive other housing benefits such as the Canada Housing Benefit, which is co-funded and delivered by the provinces and territories.

Applications are open until Friday, March 31, 2023.

For more information and to apply, visit www.canada.ca/en and search for Canada Housing Benefit.

New subscribing ability for Ontario Pharmacists

A new provincial regulation allows pharmacists to treat 13 common ailments. The Ontario government says the move will make it more convenient for Ontarians to get the help, free up doctors to care for more complex illnesses and reduce wait times. The conditions include:

- Hay fever (allergic rhinitis)
- Oral thrush (candidal stomatitis)
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis; bacterial, allergic and viral)
- Dermatitis (atopic, eczema, allergic and contact)
- Menstrual cramps (dysmenorrhea)
- Acid reflux (gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD))
- Hemorrhoids
- Cold sores (herpes labialis)
- Impetigo
- Insect bites and hives
- Tick bites (post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent Lyme disease)
- Sprains and strains (musculoskeletal).
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs)

Ask your local pharmacy for details.

Climate Action Incentive

The Climate Action Incentive Payment (CAIP) is a tax-free amount paid to help individuals and families to offset the cost of the federal pollution pricing. Leading economists have explained that a carbon tax is a cost-effective way to reduce fossil fuel emissions because it encourages individuals to lower their emissions and encourages high-emitting manufacturers to innovate to greener technologies. They believe that a sufficiently robust and gradually rising carbon tax will replace the need for various carbon regulations that are less efficient. The CAIP is available to residents of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

The federal government has changed the payment method for the CAIP from a refundable credit claimed annually on personal income tax returns to quarterly tax free payments made through the benefit system that started in July 2022.

You do not need to apply to receive the payment for the CAIP. The Canada Revenue Agency will determine your eligibility when you file your income tax and benefit return and will send you payments if you're entitled to them.

DID YOU KNOW... The Canada Pension Plan, established in 1965, enhanced in 1996 due to aging population and again in 2017 to help compensate for the decline of workplace pensions, manages \$532B in investment assets, one of the largest pension funds in the world ?

Benefits Payment Calendar 2023

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 AND OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT and GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT

January 27, February 24, March 29, April 26, May 29, June 28,
July 27, August 29, September 27, October 27, November 28, December 20

GST / HST CREDIT

January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5

ONTARIO TRILLIUM

January 10, February 10, March 10, April 6, May 10, June 9, July 10, August 10, September 8, October 10,
November 10, December 8,

VETERAN DISABILITY CREDIT

January 30, February 27, March 30, April 27, May 30, June 29, July 28, August 30, September 28, October 30,
November 29, December 21

CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE

January 13, April 14, July 14, October 13

BIRTHDAY BRATS

JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Veronica Brett, Brent Elgie, Paul Gagnon, John Getliffe,
Torben Haarbye, Delores Lloyd, Dave McCarter and Ray
Pritchard

FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Bruce Tapp, Tom Johnston, and Frank Mantz

“The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune.”
~English Proverb



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LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June 17th.
September/October: August 18th • November/December: October 18th.

Please forward any articles that you consider of value to the Wing members and we will do our best to get it to print.
Sometimes submissions are of such a size that we then make them a two, or three part series.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your photos, stories etc with our members.

(For good reproduction at reasonable size, photos should be fairly high resolution)

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JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 EUCHRE LARC	6	7
8	9	10 MAC	11 BCC	12 EUCHRE WT	13 LUNCH	14
15	16	17	18	19 EUCHRE	20 LUNCH	21
22	23	24	25	26 EUCHRE	27 LUNCH	28 LARC
29 LARC	30	31		EUCHRE	LUNCH	

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 EUCHRE LARC	3 LUNCH	4
5	6	7 LVRC	8 BCC	9 EUCHRE WT	10 LUNCH	11
12	13	14 MAC	15	16 EUCHRE	17 LUNCH	18
19	20	21	22	23 EUCHRE	24 LUNCH WDs	25
26	27	28	March 17th. Friday, St. Patrick's Day March 31, Friday. 99th Anniversary of the founding of the RCAF. The actual day is Saturday, April 01. April 07, Friday - Good Friday the Wing is closed.			