

# 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](http://WWW.427WING.COM)



# 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	<a href="mailto:linda.brimson@yahoo.com">linda.brimson@yahoo.com</a>
Director	Mike Watts	<a href="mailto:mwatts427wing@gmail.com">mwatts427wing@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer		
Secretary		
Acting Secretary	Chuck Hardy	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.c">chuck.hardy@sympatico.c</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

Website	Lee Cassar		<a href="mailto:lcassar@gridpoint.ca">lcassar@gridpoint.ca</a>
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca</a>
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	<a href="mailto:v33hor@gmail.com">v33hor@gmail.com</a>
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	<a href="mailto:fhseltzer@rogers.com">fhseltzer@rogers.com</a>
Fundraising	Linda Brimson		<a href="mailto:linda.brimson@yahoo.com">linda.brimson@yahoo.com</a>
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	<a href="mailto:arrow105@sympatico.ca">arrow105@sympatico.ca</a>
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	<a href="mailto:lgairs@gmail.com">lgairs@gmail.com</a>
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	<a href="mailto:renemck@sympatico.ca">renemck@sympatico.ca</a>
Advisor	Frank Birch		<a href="mailto:fbirch@rogers.com">fbirch@rogers.com</a>

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

## CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager		
Bar Steward/Rentals		
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive
London Link graphic artist	Cathy Wood	<a href="mailto:cathyrwood@gmail.com">cathyrwood@gmail.com</a>

**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 519-455-0430 for more information.





## Canada Day Downtown London

427 (London) Wing RCAF Association was happy to participate in celebrating Canada Day with locals and visitors. We have so much to be grateful for in this beautiful, bountiful country. We need to share our resources with others who may struggle.

We remember and honour all who have worked to enrich Canada.

Thanks to Wing member Mike Watts for van transport and tent canopy.



## Farewell Flo Luncheon – Friday June 30, 2023



As the format for the Friday lunches will be a new experience for members, it is suggested that a reservation be made in advance. This will assist in planning for number of meals required. Please phone (519) 455-0430.

The new prices for Friday Lunch items will be: \$15.00 lunch, \$5.00 beer, \$5.00 liquor, \$1.50 pop.



## 862 Lambeth Lightning Air Cadets Annual Ceremonial Review

862 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets held their 45th Annual Review at Westminster Secondary School on Saturday, June 10th. "Our cadets did a great job and we were able to recognize some cadets with awards," said Diane Lawrence, a volunteer with the cadets. "Our squadron mascot Percy the Penguin was even in attendance! Our squadron band was joined by Striker Squadron 3 for a dynamic display as well. This is the first time in many years that we had our own band play! What an accomplishment! Our Reviewing Officer was Mr. Bruce Feaver and he took the time to address the cadets and wished them well in their future endeavours."

The Cadet Program is one of the largest federally-sponsored youth programs in Canada. It's for Canadians aged 12 to 18 interested in participating in a variety of fun, challenging and rewarding activities while learning about the air activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. Cadets also learn valuable life and work skills such as teamwork, leadership and citizenship. New cadets are welcome. For information about joining the 862 Lambeth Lightning Air Cadets, email [862air@cadets.gc.ca](mailto:862air@cadets.gc.ca) or call (519) 652-0262.

Cadets were in Chatham recently for gliding. Unfortunately, it was too windy for the gliders so instead, they received rides in the tow plane.

*Photos courtesy Diane Lawrence*





## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

June 21st each year is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. This day was established in 1996 by Roméo LeBlanc, the former Governor General, to coincide with the summer solstice, the longest day of the year and a significant time for Indigenous cultures. Join us in honouring the rich history, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Learn more: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/.../1100100.../1534874583157>

The First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples of Canada have a long and proud tradition of military service to Canada. In honour of June Indigenous History Month, check out this #RemembranceMoment produced by Veterans Affairs Canada for their inspirational stories. (left to right) Francis “Peggy” Pegahmagabow, Charlotte Edith Monture, Thomas

George “Tommy” Prince, Bertha Clark-Jones, David Greyeyes-Steele. These are just some of the Indigenous-Canadian members who throughout history, gave so much in service and sacrifice to our country. Despite their achievements on the battlefield, Indigenous-Canadians were not always treated as equals back at home and faced racism and other undue cultural challenges. Still, they remained steadfast and dedicated their lives to increasing social and economic opportunities for Indigenous people. The story of Indigenous service in the #CAF is one of a proud and rich heritage. Their courage and accomplishments are deservedly a source of pride to their families, communities and all Canadians.



Henry Louis Norwest was a Métis sniper from Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. In less than three years, he achieved a remarkable 115 confirmed kills with the 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion. Known for his unmatched camouflage skills, patience, and humility, he was both revered as a hero and feared by his enemies. He would lie in wait for days in No Man's Land, choosing his shots carefully to ensure his position remained secure. Under the cover of darkness, he would skillfully infiltrate enemy lines, striking them from behind at first light, evading detection throughout the day, and slipping away unnoticed the following night. During the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Norwest achieved an impressive 59 kills before the final offensive. He earned the Military Medal for his gallantry during the defence of “The Pimple,” where he played a pivotal role in repelling German counterattacks. He was also awarded a bar for his Military Medal in honour of his valour. Norwest was killed in action during the Battle of Amiens, while bravely eliminating multiple machine gun positions singlehandedly. Laid to rest at the Warvillers Churchyard Extension in Somme, France, his legacy lives on.

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION – JUNE 21, 2023 LONDON ONTARIO (Wortley Village)



## Membership Report for June 2023

by Chuck Hardy

Membership renewals as of late June indicate that about 15 members have not renewed their membership. Please renew. After June 30, 2023, there is \$10.00 fee added to the renewal dues as a late fee. If not renewing, please let me know.

If you move, change your email address, please advise so that we can keep the records current.

Elsewhere in this edition of The Link you will see the calendar for July and August as well as a request for help on Canada Day and during the Air Show in early September. The cost of the Friday lunches will be \$15.00 starting on August 11th. This is necessary because food supplies cost more.

To all readers of The Link: The Wing needs to be more representative of the wider population of the London region. Please invite friends to the Friday lunches. After a while, they may be interested in becoming members.

A summary of meetings will be included in the Link.

Finally, please visit the Wing website. Comments are welcome. Please contact Lee Casser at [lcassar@gridpoint.ca](mailto:lcassar@gridpoint.ca).

All the best everyone.  
Chuck

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 427 (LONDON) WING DURING AIR SHOW LONDON

Contact the Wing for Details.



### PTSD Awareness Day – June 27

June 27th marks Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Day. Sadly, about 9.2% of Canadians will struggle with PTSD in their lifetime. Due to the nature of the critical work they do serving Canadians at home and abroad, CAF members are an at-risk population.

The good news is that PTSD is treatable – you do not need to suffer in silence. If you or

someone you know is suffering, there are a range of programs and services available.

CAF members and their families: <https://www.canada.ca/.../ben.../military-mental-health.html>

For Veterans: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/mentalhealth>

Today and always, we recognize the weight of your service and your sacrifices, and we are here to help.

Corporal Sarah Morley, Canadian Armed Forces photo  
6 | JULY-AUGUST 2023



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## Field Exercises for 31 Signal Regiment:

The Wing welcomed 31 Signal Regiment to Field Exercises on June 24-25, 2023 on Wing property. This is an important piece of emergency preparedness and we can be grateful for their efforts. London Amateur Radio Club volunteers are a vital part of this event.

Here's an earlier post from London Amateur Radio Club Facebook page:

LARC Field Day Band Captains met last Saturday at the club station to plan out this year's Field Day, June 24th 18:00 UTC to June 25th 18:00UTC. LARC plans to be 7A, with an additional bonus satellite contact station. The event will be held on the grounds of the 427 Wing at 2155 Crumlin Rd. due to the easy access, clean washrooms, immediately available shelter in the event of storms, kitchens, BBQ, and ample parking.

Ropes for dipole antennas will be shot into area trees on Friday, and antenna raising will start at 10am Saturday. In the plans are antennas for 160m through 6m.

31 Signals will be present with their air-conditioned communications truck and a mil grade tent will be put up just north of the wing building for some of the LARC radio stations. 31Sig plan to focus on 40m SSB with their big NVIS array.

All LARC members are encouraged to come out and take part in the action, get on the air for a little while, help with set up and take down, have a burger or hot dog at Saturday's Pot Luck, and enjoy the spirit of Field Day.

*Dave, Ruth & FD Crew*



**Interested in getting your ham radio license  
and becoming part of a great hobby?**

From the Saturday after  
Labour Day to early December, the London Amateur  
Radio Club presents their Basic Ham license course.  
Learn more at [LARC.CA](http://LARC.CA)



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**Euchre Anyone?**

**THURSDAYS AT 1:00 p.m.**  
427 (London) Wing RCAF Association  
2155 Crumlin Road (north of Airport)  
**All Welcome**  
**Wing Membership Not Required**  
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**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.  
A century of service and achievement.



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**Masks are currently  
optional at 427 Wing.**

Please respect the personal  
decision of others.





## Vertical Lift Update

The installed Vertical Lift is awaiting a TSSA inspection in July, then on-site training for safe use, then finally, the Vertical Lift project is complete. Thanks to project leader Rene McKinnon, Frank Birch and others who have assisted on-site when workers were present. We acknowledge the assistance of a New Horizons for Seniors Programs grant that allowed purchase of the expensive lift device.



Congratulations to RCAF pilot Jeremy Hanson on being selected for the Artemis II mission. Jeremy grew up near Ailsa Craig. Read the story in the June 2023 Ilderton Villager magazine at:

[www.villagerpublications.com/ilderton-villager-june-2023s](http://www.villagerpublications.com/ilderton-villager-june-2023s)

## RCAF Training Tragedy

Canadian Forces members risk their lives every day. Theirs is a dangerous career and sadly, there are deaths in training, not just in conflict situations.

In accordance with the wishes of their families, the Royal Canadian Air Force is releasing the names of the two air crew members killed in the CH-147F Chinook crash on June 20, 2023, near Garrison Petawawa, Ontario. The deceased members are:

Captain David Domagala, 32, originally of Woodstock, Ontario, served in the Canadian Army Reserve before applying to become a pilot. After graduating from the Royal Military College, he completed pilot training and was posted to 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in 2019. He deployed as a liaison officer on Operation CALUMET in Egypt, for which he received a Commander Commendation from Canadian Joint Operations Command. He commenced his training on the CH-147F Chinook upon redeployment.

Captain Marc Larouche, 53, originally of Amos, Quebec, earned a private pilot's license before joining the Royal Canadian Air Force as a pilot. After attaining his pilot's wings in 1993, he served with several squadrons, flying the CH-135 Twin Huey, CH-146 Griffon and CH-147F Chinook helicopters. He deployed internationally on Operation DELIVERANCE in Somalia and domestically on Operation PODIUM in British Columbia.

As we grieve, the Royal Canadian Air Force asks the media and public to respect the privacy of the families of the fallen. Rest in peace. We will remember them.

## SAVE STAMPS. SAVE PAPER:

Sign up to receive the Link online at <http://eepurl.com/dLIqJo>

## 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

## JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Jean McGinnes, Cathy Newman, Ed Rempel, Jack Schenck, Pablo Calcaterra, Terra Maxey-McFarland, Jan Sydorko and Joe Wyatt

## AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

John Brotzel, Dan Barnes, Larry Calver, Don Clarke, Geoffrey Corfield, John DeWit, Dhira Ghosh, Chuck Hardy, Laurie Lewis, Irene Mathysen and Greg Popelas

*"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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## Chair Report by Linda Brimson

Priority #1 at 427 Wing is hiring a new Manager. Extensive efforts have brought candidates forward, but interviews and trial workdays have so far, not been successful. I appeal to all Wing members to contribute to this search. If there is someone among our members, families or supporters who could prove suitable, please put the name forward to Chuck Hardy at chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca. Maybe you know of someone outside our organization who would enjoy part-time paid duties at the Wing. Don't be bashful. We will consider flexible arrangements, where custodian duties, or perhaps food prep for Friday lunches, may be separate from Wing Manager position. We could face the situation of wanting to restart Friday lunches August 11th and have no food and beverage manager hired. Then we will activate Plan B, Plan C or whatever it takes to continue on. We may have simple catered lunches for a period; we may have rotating small Wing member volunteer groups commit to buying, preparing and serving a Friday lunch on a rotating basis. Stay posted on Wing website 427wing.com and Wing Facebook page for updates. You can also listen to Wing phone message (519-455-0430) after August 8, to verify what is happening.

To everyone who made Flo Douglas' retirement luncheon a great event, THANK YOU. The only sad thing, Flo was still working that day, feeling responsible for June month-end on cash register. We also couldn't surprise her, as she was around when planning occurred! I join everyone in wishing Flo a well-deserved retirement and, dear Flo, you will be missed. Thanks for all your hard work over the years. 427 Wing moves on to a new era.

Rene McKinnon asks members to please volunteer at London Airshow. This essential fundraiser is Sept 8-10, but there may be setup work in advance of weekend show. At this point, we're not sure what the Wing role will entail, but details will be available closer to Sept. Please get involved by volunteering to be on-site. It won't be strenuous outdoor work. Please contact Rene or leave message on Wing telephone if volunteering. Thank you.

**Doors Open London** is Sat. Sept. 16 and Sunday Sept. 17. I am able to co-ordinate volunteers but not available that weekend. Please take part in promoting the Wing and Spirit of Flight Museum to visitors. We are a hidden aviation gem. The Secrets of Radar Museum draws a nice crowd for Doors Open London, and we benefit from those visitors to our neighbour. It is easy duty, you can sit as needed, be a greeter and give some info on Wing activities and the Air Cadets we support. We definitely need 5-10 volunteers over the two days to make light duties. You can bring a spouse or friend. Please contact me to serve the Wing on this occasion.

Thanks to all members who have stepped up behind the scenes to do the necessary work of the Wing. You are appreciated. Current Board members: Chuck Hardy, Mike Watts, Brent Elgie, Linda Brimson. Advisers: Rene McKinnon, Pablo Calcaterra, Lee Cassar, Terry Rushton, Hilda Smeltzer, Irene Mathysen. The Board is without a Treasurer and Secretary; those duties are unfortunately, added to other Board members' work. A very small Board and adviser group have worked steadily through late 2019-present, and require support and more volunteers to carry on.

We are so happy to welcome new members! You are the Wing's future and bring fresh perspective.

The Air Cadet Squadrons that 427 Wing supports had their annual reviews and all Cadets, parents and leaders deserve praise for their year-long efforts. See article elsewhere on some cadet experiences from Lambeth 862 Squadron. Thank you to Wing member Don Martin for attending Strathroy #3 Striker Squadron for annual ceremonial review, and presenting Level 3 Award. #3 Sqdn sent a lovely thank you for Wing donation of \$347 that will be used for musical instruments and recruitment training aids.

Website: Thanks to Lee Cassar who has been updating the Wing website. Current newsletter edition will be posted more prominently, so info easier to find. All newsletter editions are archived on the website under "media."

Building projects: Wing is waiting for inspection report on building sagging flooring. The hope is it will be repairable. Wing is waiting for TSSA inspection and training on new vertical lift installation.

Don Martin kindly contacted Linda by email with f/up about grant writing, Wing Sign (airport people working on it), and Aviation School Tours (can contact Larry Weir in Sept/Oct to possibly invite Fanshawe Aviation students to Wing), and encourage Wing to have Friday lunch speakers. Don also talked with Heritage Planner Konner Mitchener and there may be other federal grant resources available to us because of airport lease with federal land. Info links were supplied.

New Business: Quote for West entrance door for SORM received and circulated. Linda reported Ontario Trillium grant not submitted for door or Vimy garden project due to time constraints re gathering required financial info.

**Next Wing Board Meeting:**  
**Monday July 17/23 by Zoom at 6 pm.**



**427 (London) Wing Royal  
Canadian Air Force Association  
2155 Crumlin Rd. London Ontario  
Hiring Part-time Wing Manager  
\$18,000 – \$22,000 yearly to start**

Duties include cash register Fridays 10 am – 1 pm.  
Bartender (SmartServe required) for Friday lunches  
and occasional events.

Prepare weekly receipts and monthly food & beverage  
income / expenses for bookkeeper. Shopping and preparing food  
for weekly Friday lunches (approx. 25-35 paying guests).

Supervise kitchen volunteers. Follow Health & Safety  
and Food Safety protocols.

Booking Hall Rentals – Supervising some rentals evenings  
or weekends. Mail pick-up. Monitoring Wing telephone.

Ordering supplies and inventory management.

Other hospitality duties as required.

Please send your resume including two work references and  
personal reference. Only interviewees will be contacted.

Hospitality Experience is required. (ie. Golf Course Clubhouse,  
Royal Cdn. Legion, restaurant/kitchen mgr.)

Email: chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

# JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>NO FRIDAY LUNCHES IN JULY</b>	1 CANADA DAY
2 DFC	3 DFC	4	5	6 DFC	7	8 DFC
9	10 DFC	11	12	13 DFC	14	15 DFC
16	17 DFC	18	19	20 DFC	21	22 DFC
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 DFC	** DFC (Diamond Flight Center) has booked the Wing for the months of July and August. Bookings are for Monday, Thursday and Saturday and are subject to change. Other booking requests need to be called into the Wing to see if space is available for the requested date.				

# AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>PLEASE NOTE THAT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, THE FRIDAY LUNCH PRICE WILL BE \$15.</b>				3	4	5 DFC
6	7 CIVIC HOLIDAY	8	9	10 DFC	11 LUNCH	12 DFC
13 DFC	14	15	16	17 DFC	18 LUNCH	19 DFC
20 DFC	21	22	23	24 DFC	25 LUNCH	26 DFC
27 DFC	28	29	30	31 DFC		

AGM: Annual General Meeting  
 BCC: British Car Club  
 GM: General Meeting  
 LVRC: London Vintage Radio Club  
 RAA: Recreational Aircraft Association

WD: The Women's Division  
 LARC: London Amateur Radio Club  
 DFC: Diamond Flight Centre