

THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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Your Air Force's heritage.

(from <https://rcaf2024arc.ca/your-air-force/>) check RCAF websites and facebook for more info and events.

The Royal Canadian Air Force was born 100 years ago to protect and preserve the freedoms of all Canadians, to contribute to global peace and security, and to help those in need in Canada and abroad.

Your Air Force has a long and distinguished history with many proud traditions that merit recognition by all Canadians. Generations of Your Air Force have served with distinction over the past century. Together, we honour our rich history formed by those who served before us and for many who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Your Air Force today.

The RCAF is an agile, integrated and inclusive national instrument of power. The beating heart of Your Air Force is people – a diverse workforce that includes Regular and Reserve Force members and civilians that form the Defence Team who work seamlessly together to accomplish our mission. Our people are the foundation on which we will build our path to the future.

The RCAF provides air defence, maritime patrol, search and rescue, air mobility and sustainment, aerospace control, and space capabilities to support operations at home and abroad. Your Air Force is a respected military partner worldwide, providing security at home through NORAD and working with our NATO allies and partners to maintain peace and stability across the globe.

Your Air Force tomorrow.

Your future RCAF has an exciting outlook, with a critical role in the space domain, a wide range of modernization projects, including a new fleet of fighter jets coming soon. Space is a critical part of the global security environment. The RCAF is functionally leading all efforts within DND/CAF to ensure the continued delivery of space-based services and to enhance the resilience of the space capabilities upon which the military relies to conduct operations.

Through a diverse and highly motivated workforce, new technologies and innovation, state-of-the-art equipment and capabilities, we are ready to enter the next century of service and continue to serve Canada with distinction.

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	Jim Donnelly	ixat@rogers.com
Director	Mike Watts	mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Director	Lee Cassar	lcassar@gridpoint.ca
Director	Fred Pettit	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Scott Lyons	S-LYONS@hotmail.com
Security Officer	Mike Watts	
Secretary, Director	Chuck Hardy	chuck.hardy@sympatico.c

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Entertainment, Sports, Lottery

Website	Lee Cassar		lcassar@gridpoint.ca
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	VE3hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhseltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising			
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	djc.clarke@hotmail.com
Air Cadet Liaison, Director	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, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial, Tours	David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.		

CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Joe DiPietro	dipietroj101@gmail.com
Bar Steward/Rentals	Joe DePietro	dipietroj101@gmail.com
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 519-455-0430 for more information.



CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD REPORT

Greetings to all 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association members:

In addition to preparing to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF on April 1, 2024, this has been a period of growth and rebuilding during my first 6 months of being your new Chairperson. We have added new expertise to our Board of Directors and Advisors while maintaining the experienced members of both.

Mine and our Board's vision that we have is for the 427 Wing to expand and grow back to the size and strength that it has enjoyed in years past, and improve our facilities to continue the proud traditions of our RCAF Association.

Towards that effort:

- 1) we contracted a professional General Manager in Joe DiPietro, who has many years of Club experience, to operate the Wing.
- 2) we have added the Wing Cafe, which is fully licenced and open seven days a week from 7:00am until 7:00pm. This is in addition to other special functions hosted in our rental facilities at other times in the evenings.
- 3) The Cafe, including the Kitchen and Bar is leased out to Tom and Angelo, both of whom are now also Wing members.
- 4) The Friday lunches, provided by the Wing Cafe, continue as usual and Wing members also receive a discount on all other food purchases at any time throughout the week.
- 5) We are preparing to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF throughout the year. We will start with a Special Lunch of prime rib on April 5th at 11:30am. Also a BBQ and Open House will be held that Sunday April 7th. There will be a group, hopefully enough for a small bus, travelling to Shedden to see the play Snapshot on April 20th. This focuses on RCAF Fingal in WWII era. Tickets are available at the Bar for the Special Lunch (\$30.), the play for \$45. for the return bus trip and play ticket.
- 6) We have a display at the London Room of the Public Library starting March 1st. This involves the 1948 Gold

Olympian hockey team, which was made up entirely of RCAF players. In our archives we have the full story and the team lifting Olympian Barbara Ann Scott.

- 7) We have arranged for joint celebrations with other area groups including Jet Aircraft Museum, Secrets of Radar, London Amateur Radio Club and the London International Airport. One is May 4th at JAM and we will keep up announcements of others as confirmed.
- 8) We have installed a road side sign on Crumlin Rd advertising the 427 Wing, the Wing Cafe and SORM. A larger sign is also planned.
- 9) We have added over 20 new members recently bringing the Wing to about 130 and look forward to reach 200 members this year. Please renew your memberships as they become due and encourage friends, relatives and colleagues to join you at the Wing. Also please contact any past Wing members and tell that it is becoming a new, improved place and they would be welcomed back anytime. For the balance of our year ending on June 30th membership is only \$30. It is a great place to come and enjoy the Heritage displays/food/bar.
- 10) We are always looking for new ideas and further improvements. Please feel free to contact me, other Directors or Joe DiPietro.

I hope that you enjoy the Link, which is very nicely done by Cathy Wood, who deserves our thanks. I hope to see you at the Wing.

Jim Donnelly, Chair,
427Wing (London),
RCAF Association



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You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Ontario Group of the RCAF Association to be held in Trenton, Ontario from the 17 to 19th of May 2024.

Dear Fellow Member, Like all non-profit associations, the Ontario Group of the RCAF Association looks forward to our general meeting. We do so, because we look forward to seeing you, our members. We write to you, to seek your active participation in shaping your association, as we move toward the 75th anniversary of the RCAF Association in 2025, while this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of Canada's Air Force. Participating in the affairs of your association is not difficult, nor does it require much of your time. Rather, all we ask is for you to be aware of what other members are thinking and for you to weigh in with your ideas, where you feel the need. We are a diverse organisation - not all of us have served in the air force, for example. Some of our members devote themselves toward important community supporting activities. Others also give of themselves to help local cadet squadrons, devoting countless hours, days, weeks, months and years to young Canadians who one day may pursue an aerospace career - civilian or military - for the betterment of Canada. And, still others contribute a great deal to our efforts to advocate in support of their country's air force.

Our General Meeting this year takes place in Trenton, Ontario. Events will be held at 413 (Air Force City) Wing, Trenton. 230 North Murray Street, Trenton On. We are pleased to confirm the support of a group of dedicated volunteers from the local RCAF Association 413 Wing, Trenton will be ready to host the province. The Ramada by Wyndham Trenton will be the host hotel, with all major activities happening at 413 Wing. The Ramada is just minutes from 413 Wing and the 401.

When considering the decision to join us in Trenton, please keep in mind the need to elect one or more members of the Group Board of Directors. Electing fellow members to their association's board is perhaps the single most important decision or vote bestowed upon members like you. Members of the RCAF Association may nominate and elect any other member who agrees to the nomination; any member of the RCAF Association may step forward on their own, in the absence of a nomination. We have room for nine elected board members, and an additional three appointees. Currently, there are at least 4 vacancies on the board of directors. Thank you for considering joining us in Trenton.

Please Note: **1.** Only Regular members in good standing qualify as delegates. Wing Presidents, certain Group executive members, and past presidents constitute Accredited Delegates. All other Regular members in good standing, unless acting as proxy, constitute Fraternal delegates.

Members-at-Large are Regular members. Only Regular members may vote at the General Meeting. Regular members affiliated with a Wing are expected to vote

on General Meeting issues at a meeting of their Wing, before sending their delegate to vote on their behalf at the meeting of the Association. When it comes to Wings, Regular members leverage the Wing's charter as the voting trust, and the duly elected Wing's delegate(s) (1 delegate for every 50 members or part thereof), most often the President, is the trustee in question, for the purposes of conveying the majority opinion of the Wing's members at the appropriate time at the general meeting.

2. Members and delegates are not obligated to attend all events. The Opening Ceremonies and Chairs dinner on Friday night and the Gala Banquet on Saturday night The banquet on Saturday night are included in your registration. Anyone, especially Accredited delegates, wishing to attend the Business Sessions is/are required to pay the participation fee, which covers breakfast, mid-morning coffee break, lunch and mid-afternoon coffee break.

3. Registration fees must be paid in advance. We cannot accept any registrations or amendments after May 1st, 2024. Payments will not be accepted at the door. All costs are per person. Registrants must use separate registration forms. If you require an additional form, you may photocopy it locally, or print another form, by visiting: our 413 Wing Facebook page <https://www.413wing.com>

4. Wings unable to send a delegate are encouraged to employ a proxy form (to be found on the 413 web and facebook pages), and have their Regional Vice-president, other regional president and/or Group President carry their proxy to the meeting, on behalf of their Wing members. We will be celebrating 100 years, but looking forward to the future. Come join the celebration of Wing's and Our Group, the RCAF and the wonderful work we do! We hope to see you all on May 17th, 2024 in May!

Judy Rorabeck, Chair
Jo-Anne Peckham, Chair
2024 AGM Committee

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.

NOTE: March 01 - April 30, the London Central Library is providing a display cabinet to the Wing, located on the 3rd floor in the London Room. The focus will be the 1948 Canadian Flyers hockey team that won the Gold Medal at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics.

Show Your Pride with RCAF Centennial Regalia



**Caps, Shirts and Mugs
Available through the 427 Wing Kit Shop**

Caps \$20.00

T-Shirts \$25.00

Mugs \$15.00



To place your order, please contact

Fred Pettit

info@427Wing.com





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Masks are currently optional at 427 Wing.

Please respect the personal decision of others.

**In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary
of the Royal Canadian Airforce**

Fridge Door Live Theatre Company

In collaboration with the
Southwold History Committee and the
Township of Southwold

Supported by Green Lane Community Trust
Wright Family Foundation Strathroy

**SNAPSHOTS
One Act Plays about WW2
and the RCAF Station Fingal**

written by the playwright of
2023's Lawrence Station Len Cuthbert
with music composed by Fynn Cuthbert

Friday, April 19 ~ 2:00 pm in Shedden, ON
Friday, April 19 ~ 7:00 pm in Shedden, ON
Saturday, April 20 ~ 2:00 pm in Shedden, ON
Saturday, April 20 ~ 7:00 pm in Shedden, ON
Sunday, April 21 ~ 2:00 pm in Strathroy, ON
Sunday, April 21 ~ 7:00 pm in Strathroy, ON

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!! @ www.OnStageLive.ca

**WING BUS TRIP
FROM THE WING
TO SNAPSHOTS
APRIL 20, 2pm**

A group of 427 Wing Members will be attending the April 20 show. To join in, you can either buy a ticket and drive down yourself, or go in the bus that leaves and returns to the Wing.

**FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS CONTACT
427 (London) Wing at**

519-455-0430

A former Wing member, Lorne Spicer is incorporated into one of the acts.

**Remembering Hormidas Joseph Fredette
April 11, 1917 – November 29, 2023**

by Don Martin



Hormidas Joseph Fredette was the last living Canadian Hong Kong Veteran of WW11; who was held prisoner by Japan for almost four years.

He had survived being tortured, starved and beaten almost to death on different occasions. How he ever survived I don't know. I guess he was tough.

I had our Minister of Veterans Affairs, The

Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor send him a letter of recognition and thanks for fighting for the freedom we enjoy today.

He received the letter just before Remembrance Day. He was in the hospital at that time and his son Brian read him the letter three times which greatly pleased him. I talked to him briefly when he came home from the hospital. He died November 29, 2023.

Would you believe he was going to be 107 years old April 11, 2024.



READ THE STORY AT <https://thehockeynews.com/news/the-incredible-1948-rcaf-flyers-who-went-from-being-booed-off-the-ice-to-capturing-olympic-gold>

Benefits Payment Calendar 2024

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, 2024

GST / HST CREDIT: January 5, April 5, July 5, October 4

ONTARIO TRILLIUM: The 10th every month, except November which will be on November 8.,

VETERAN DISABILITY CREDIT: January 30, February 28, March 27, April 29, May 30, June 27, July 30,
August 29, September 26, October 30, November 28, December 23

CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE: January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15

BIRTHDAY BRATS

MARCH HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Lynn Bates, Judith Gauthier, Shawn Lewis, Janet Pole, Hilda Smeltzer, Joy Thorne and Bill Welsh.

APRIL HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Frank Birch, Chester Counsell, Steve Dalton, Brett Gilbank, Judy Grunwald, Catherine Herdman, Fred Pettit, Fred Ryder and Jackie Vettor.

*“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)

Proud to support the 427 Wing



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Membership Committee Report for March and April 2024

by Chuck Hardy, Cathy Newman and Terry Rushton

We welcome new and returning members: Shirley Askew, Glenn Avola, John Bray, Cathy Burgar, Ross Burgar, Laura Briscoe, Rick Brown, David Clementi, Angelo Economopoulos, Tom Garavellos, Jean Garrity, and Dave Mills.

One of the aims of The Wing is to substantially add to the total membership this year. We encourage all members to be recruiters.

If you move, change your email address, please let a member of the committee know, so that we can keep the records current.

Elsewhere in this edition is a renewal notice and a notice of the General Meeting following lunch on Friday March 22, 2024. Please attend, if at all possible, this important meeting.

A number of members have been presented long service pins so far in February.

Terry wishes to present pins to the following members soon: Linda Brimson, Chester Counsell, Carolyn Dalgity, Steve Dalton, Brent Elgie, Judith Gauthier, Lindsay Mathysen, Ed Rempel, Randy Warden, Larry Calver, Joan Clark, and Armin Grunwald.

Best regards to all readers of the London Link.

See you in the next edition of your great newsletter – THE LONDON LINK.

WE WILL REMEMBER

WAYNE CHUTER - died December 2, 2023 at age 84. RCAF 1956 to 1980 served in Germany with NATO and in the Middle East. Wing member since 2015.

TOM HENNESSY - born May 31, 1922 in Dublin Ireland and passed away on January 14, 2024 in London, Ontario. Was 101 years of age. Guest speaker at a Battle of Britain luncheon. Was a Spitfire pilot in World War II. Walked 100 kilometers to raise funds for veterans.

ISOBEL MURRAY - passed away at the age of 100 in Nanaimo BC in October 2023. Long time member of the Wing. Was with the Ladies Auxiliary and volunteered in the London community before moving to B.C.

JACK SCHENCK - passed away on January 10, 2024 at the age of 97. Wing member since 2001. Worked for many years at the London Free Press and CFPL London. Often came to Friday lunches and loved chatting with his many friends at the Wing.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.




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How old are leprechauns?

So old that they can remember when rainbows were black and white

ONTARIO GROUP FUNDED RCAFA MEMORIAL CAIRN



Front View

Above is the final design for the proposed RCAFA memorial cairn.

Donations can be made on-line at:

[https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/roya1-canadian-air-force-associationtrust/p2p/rcafa memorial nafmochtrenton](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/roya1-canadian-air-force-associationtrust/p2p/rcafa%20memorial%20nafmochtrenton), or you can mail a cheque payable to the "RCAF Association Trust Fund, to The office of the RCAF Association Trust Fund located at 222 Somerset St. West, Suite 405, Ottawa, ON, K2P 2G3.

If mailing a cheque, please ensure you write "RCAF Association Cairn" on the memo-line of the cheque (bottom left hand corner of every cheque). Those donating more than \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt if you use either of the two donation methods above.

Thank you, any questions let me know, thank you.

Walter B. Peckham

Ontario Group Chair RCAFA

Ph # 613-743-5779

Email. vchairontgroup@gmail.com

RCAF 100th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH • APRIL 5

Complete prime rib dinner, for \$30.00 per person.

Advance tickets are recommended and available at the Wing Cafe and Bar.

Members and Guests are all invited to help celebrate the Centenary of our Canadian Air Force.

Other 100th Events will be held during the coming months of 2024.

OPEN HOUSE AND BBQ • APRIL 7

Hosted at the Wing is for the 427 (London) Wing, Secrets of Radar (SORM) and London Amateur Radio Club (LARC). Tours are available for all three.

Hot dogs are complimentary and other food is available at reasonable prices.

The licenced bar is available inside the Wing.

WELCOME MEMBERS!

Please continue to support the 427 (London) Wing and enjoy membership benefits!
RENEW BY MAY 15 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PRIZE!



427 (London) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association
2155 Crumlin Road
London, Ontario, N5V 3Z9

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM FOR 2024/2025

Name _____ Date _____

Amount of Dues: Associate \$60.00 Regular \$80.00. Please renew by June 30, 2024. If not renewing, please let us know.

You can renew by cheque made out to 427 (London) Wing

By Credit Card at a Friday lunch or by phone at 519-455-0430.

New this year is renewing using e-transfers by visiting info@427wing.com.

If you renew your membership by May 15, 2024, you will be eligible to enter the draw for one of two prizes. Prizes will be \$25.00, or \$50.00.

We are happy to reply to questions you may have.

All the very best everyone and stay well, from your membership committee of Chuck Hardy, Cathy Newman, and Terry Rushton.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 LUNCH	2 LVRC	
3	4	5	6	7	8 LUNCH	9	
10	11	12 MAC RemNov11	13 BCC	14 WT	15  ST. PAT'S LUNCH	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22 LUNCH	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29 CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY	30	
31 	WING CAFE OPEN 7AM TO 7PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK Take out is available.						

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 LUNCH	4	5 100TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH	6
7 LARC BBQ OPEN HOUSE	8	9 MAC RemNov11	10	11 WOOD- TURNERS	12 LUNCH	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 LUNCH	20 SNAPSHOTS BUS TRIP
21	22	23	24 	25	26 LUNCH	27
28	29	30				

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
 WT: Woodturners
 RemNov11: Nov 11 Assoc

May 04. An event at JAM with the Wing and Secrets of Radar participating in this joint venture. Details will follow.