

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



Thanksgiving and Christmas 2025 at 427 Wing!



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

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	Terry McBride	
Security Officer	Mike Watts	
Secretary, Director	Grace Howell	gracehowell43@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Entertainment, Sports, Lottery

Website	Lee Cassar		lcassar@gridpoint.ca
Membership Chairperson	Cathy Newman		
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	VE3hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhs meltzer@rogers.com
Curator	Mike Baker		bakermike612@gmail.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, Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.

Heritage/ History & Veterans'

Memorial, Tours

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.



Notes from Chairperson Jim

Welcome to 2026 and all that it holds for our 427 (London) Wing and the full RCAF Association.

The past year saw both progress and accomplishments with our Association in London as well as the same, plus turmoil, at the National Association level. With the gracious assistance of Cathy Wood we are able to communicate to you via The LINK.

Our successful events included among others the 101st Anniversary, the London Airshow, and the Battle of Britain dinner (with a great presentation on the role of Radar). We have also retained the services of an experienced Curator in Mike Baker who is developing our London Aviation Museum. Mike and our BOD Secretary Dr. Grace Howell collaborated with other members to successfully apply for a \$10,000 grant to move forward our museum project.

Our general Manager Joe DiPietro has obtained (and donated) a new commercial gas stove and other restaurant equipment to our Wing kitchen. Joe is continuing the process of growing and improving our NEW Wing Cafe. Our new chefs Greg and Dennis are providing very good meals for both weekdays and our special Friday Wing lunches. We look forward to expanding our culinary operations.

I have indicated that 2025 was a tumultuous period for not just our world but also specifically for the RCAF Association at all levels. We have added expertise to our 427 Wing Board of Directors with the addition of Secretary Grace Howell, Treasurer Terry McBride, and Joshua Austin with the Website, to serve along with Brent Elgie, Mike Watts, Fred Pettit and me. This will be a progressive and growth year for our activities and increased Membership. Our Membership Chair Cathy Newman points out that dues for the balance of the year to June 30th are only 50% of our normal yearly fees.

The Ontario Group held its AGM in Ottawa this past May and elected Brenda Wilson as the new Chair and four other Directors to join Rene McKinnon and myself on that Board. We continue to donate \$5.00 per Regular member annually to the Group.

After the tumult of the previous fall, wherein the very survival of the National RCAF Association was put in doubt by an announcement from a previous Chair and a previous Executive Director there was much uncertainty. Many of our members

and Wings protested and began a change movement in the Association which culminated in November's National AGM. There is now a new, energetic Executive Director in Brook Bangsbohl. We also elected a new National Board of Directors with some new members including myself and elected an excellent new Chair in Henri Levasseur from Quebec

Sadly we did lose two of our long time Wing members this past year. Don Martin and Laurie Lewis passed away this fall. We will remember them as positive and active 427 Wing members.

Welcome to 2026 which we hope will be a successful year for our members personally, and at all levels of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association.

Best wishes to all,
Jim Donnelly Jim Donnelly, Chairperson,
427 (London) Wing, RCAFA

The Wing Cafe IS NOW OPEN

SERVING

ALL DAY BREAKFAST

plus soup, various sandwiches, wings, burgers
and fries each day and also
special Wing lunch on Fridays.

**OPEN TUESDAY to SUNDAY
8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM**



Benefits Payment Calendar 2026

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 28, February 25, March 27, April 28, May 27, June 26, July 29, August 27, September 25,
October 28, November 26, December 22

GST / HST CREDIT: January 5, April 2, July 3, October 5

ONTARIO TRILLIUM: The 10th every month, except January and October, which will be on the 9th.

VETERAN DISABILITY CREDIT: Not available at time of printing



High School Visit



Jean, Jim and Joanne, June 2025



Dawn and Eanna at RCAF-99's tent, June 2025



Happy Hour, June 2025





If you are not hearing well or do not wear your hearing aids, we can help!

We offer no-obligation second opinions!

London Audiology Consultants is an independent clinic, locally owned and operated for 30 years.



Call us today!
519-435-1899
387 Burwell Street,
London, ON



www.londonaudiology.com



WELCOME TO...

Libro Credit Union.
Over 70 years in the making
— cooperative banking, made
in southwestern Ontario for
life and business here.

1-800-361-8222 . libro.ca
saving . borrowing . investing . sharing

Dr. Carolyn E. Dalgity

**Chiropractor
Reg. Trigenics Practitioner**

90 Riverside Dr.
London, ON N6H 4S5

Tel: (519) 673-6666
Fax: (519) 673-1913
Web: www.drldalgity.com



Protect.
Maintain.
Save.

KROWN®
Rust Protection Company

565 Glasgow Street
London, ON N5W 6E5
Ph: 519-432-3337
F: 519-432-9021
beu.krown@on.aibn.com

Owner: Mike Beukeboom



**EVANS FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION CENTRE**
648 Hamilton Road, London
www.evansfh.ca 519-451-9350



**LOGAN FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION CENTRE**
371 Dundas Street, London
www.loganfh.ca 519-433-6181



Dave Pizzey
Owner
Funeral Director



Cassi Mask-Wildman
Operations Director



519-659-7070 • www.crumlincreek.com



CRUMLIN CREEK
12 Hole Golf Club

**PETER
HENDERSON**
Superintendent

Cell: 519-494-9220
peter@crumlincreek.com

1720 Crumlin Side Road, London, Ont. N5V 1S2



Cris Battaglia
General Manager
Text only (519) 532-6610
Cris@jbtrucksnstuff.com

SUN REAL ESTATE
John Brotzel
President
Se Habia Espanol – B.B.B.
Tel: (519) 432-5000
Fax (519) 268-2789
Toll Free: 1 (866) 738-8817 • Cell: (519) 281-2669

Cody Hall
Sales / Service
Cell: (519) 670-5530
cody@jbtrucksnstuff.com

TRUCKS / CARS / REAL ESTATE
5074 Dundas Street, NOM 2PO 4 miles east of London



Year round service.
Computerized preparation.

argyletaxservice.com
Email: argyletaxservice@gmail.com

We prepare
Canadian, Quebec,
and U.S. returns.

owned and operated by

**Bob and Fran Rossi,
Christina Therrien**

Phone: (519) 457-7670
Fax: (519) 457-1015

1920 Dundas Street
Unit 118
London ON
N5V 3P1

ADVERTISE IN THE LONDON LINK
Call 519-455-0430 for details!



BREAKFAST MENU

SANDWICHES Western \$9.00 BLT \$9.00 Burrito \$10.00 Loaded Egger \$10.00 Fried Eggs with Bacon, Ham, or Sausage, Tomato & Cheese on a Brioche Bun Grilled Cheese w/ Bacon or Ham... \$9.00		BREAKFAST SPECIAL TUESDAY • FRIDAY • 8:00 AM • 11:00 AM Includes 2 Eggs, Toast, and Homefries with your choice of Bacon, Ham, or Sausage • Coffee • Tea • \$10.00 Free Refill Included \$10.00 No other Discounts or Coupons with Special
SIDES Bacon, Ham, or Sausage \$4.00 Peameal \$5.00 Homefries \$6.00 Toast \$3.00 Extra Egg \$2.00		2 Eggs, Bacon, Ham, or Sausage \$14.00 Peameal Sub \$16.00 3 Eggs, Bacon, Ham, or Sausage \$15.00 Peameal Sub \$17.00 HUNGRY MAN 3 Eggs, 2 Bacon, 2 Ham, 2 Sausage French Toast, or Pancakes \$19.00
DRINKS Coffee / Tea \$2.00 Pop / Water \$2.00 Hot Chocolate \$3.00 Juice (Orange, Apple, Cranberry) \$4.00 Milk / Chocolate Milk \$4.00		BUILD YOUR OWN OMELETTE 3 Items Included \$15.00 Extra Toppings \$1.00 ea French Toast \$13.00 Pancakes \$13.00

LEST WE FORGET
 2155 CRUMLINSIDE ROAD, LONDON, ONT • N5V 3Z9
 (519) 455-0430
 (519) 455 0430 • Info@427wing.com
 Catering, Hall Rentals Call Joe 226-224-2650



APPETIZERS Battered Pickles \$11.00 Mozza Sticks \$11.00 Battered Mushrooms \$11.00 Jalapeno Poppers \$12.00 Potato Skins \$12.00 1 lb Wings \$16.00 2 lb Wings \$30.00 1 lb Chicken Bites \$14.00 Nachos SM \$12.00 • LG \$16.00 (Add Beef or Chicken \$4.00) Fries \$8.00 Poutine \$12.00 Onion Rings \$10.00 Garlic Bread w/ Cheese \$11.00 Add Bacon \$2.00	SOUPS & SALADS Soup of the Day \$7.00 Chef Salad \$9.00 Caesar Salad \$12.00 Greek Salad \$13.00 SANDWICHES GRILLED CHEESE \$9.00 (With Bacon or Ham) WESTERN \$9.00 BLT \$9.00 CHICKEN CLUB \$12.00 (Chicken, Bacon, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, and Mayo on Ciabatta Bun.) HAM ON CHEESE \$13.00 (Ham, Cheese, Lettuce Roasted Red Peppers, Pesto, Mayo on Ciabatta Bun.) NY STEAK WITH FRIED ONIONS \$17.00 ON CIABATTA BUN (ADD FRIES OR CHEF SALAD \$4.00) (ADD GREEK OR CAESAR SALAD \$5.00)
---	--

CATERING, TAKE OUT
 HALL RENTALS UP TO 20 • 120 AVAILABLE
 CALL (519)-455-0430 OR
 JOE 226-224-2650
 INFO@427WING.COM

DINNERS 8oz NY STEAK W/ MUSHROOMS \$24.00 GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST \$20.00 CHICKEN PARMESAN \$20.00 CHICKEN FINGERS \$17.00 FISH AND CHIPS, HADDOCK \$17.00 ALL DINNERS SERVED WITH GARDEN SALAD AND FRIES. GREEK OR CAESAR SALAD \$3.00	BEVERAGES Domestic \$6.00 Import \$7.00 Red / White Wine \$6.00 Coolers, Shots \$7.00 Standard Mix \$7.00 Cocktails \$9.00
BURGERS & WRAPS HAMBURGER \$11.00 ADD BACON OR CHEESE \$2.00 STEAK HOUSE BURGER \$15.00 (Mozza Cheese, Bacon, BBQ Sauce, Topped with 3 Onion Rings) CHICKEN BURGER \$13.00 BUFFALO WRAP \$12.00 CHICKEN CAESAR WRAP \$12.00 VEGGIE WRAP \$11.00 ADD FRENCH FRIES OR CHEF SALAD \$4.00 GREEK OR CAESAR SALAD \$5.00	DESSERTS COCONUT CREAM PIE \$7.00 CHEESECAKE \$7.00 RICE PUDDING \$6.00 KIDS MENU \$8.00 BREAKFAST 1 PANCAKE 2 BACON, HAM, OR SAUSAGE 1 FRENCH TOAST 1 BACON, HAM, OR 1 SAUSAGE 1 EGG 1 BACON, HAM, OR SAUSAGE 1 TOAST LUNCH / DINNER • PIZZA, PEPPERONI & CHEESE • HAMBURGER & FRIES • CHICKEN FINGERS & FRIES

LEST WE FORGET
 2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD, LONDON, ONT • N5V 3Z9
 (519) 455-0430
 (226) 224-2650
 INFO@427WING.COM

Trivia Night

LARC and 427 Wing
 Saturday, April 18, 2026, 8 – 10pm
 Doors open at 6
 \$20 per person • 6 people per table
 Book ahead and pay at door
 Snacks, light refreshments



Liyuan Shi

Owner Operator

Furnace, AC, Water Heater
 Fireplace, Gas Line, Ductwork
 Indoor Air Quality, Humidifier

226-977-6128

www.prestohomeservice.ca

prestohomeservice@gmail.com

Repair • Installation • Maintenance

BIRTHDAY BRATS

DECEMBER

Neil Casey, Dawn Erskine, Len Fallowfield, John Funston, Howard Johnston, Rob Leroy, Doug Boshnick, Keith Mathysen, Glenn Avola, Wendy Song, Scott Lyons and Mike Watts.

JANUARY

Laura Book, Veronica Brett, Kevin Dorey, Brent Elgie, Jean Garrity (103!), John Getliffe, Torben Haarbye, Bill Lake, Frank Mantz, Lindsay Mathysen, Keith Mathysen, Linda McBride, Ray Pritchard, Corrie VanAmelsfort'

FEBRUARY

Richard Brown, Ross Bugar, Tom Johnston, Don Macgougan, Bruce Tapp

MARCH

Joe Dipietro, Judith Gauthier, Shawn Lewis, Hilda



Smeltzer, Paul Taylor, Joy Thorne, Thai Truong, Cathy Wood.

APRIL

Frank Birch, Susan Britt, Tasha Donnelly, Joree Fore-ro, Nathan From, Brett Gilbank, Judy Grunwald, Steve Maclean, David Mccarter, Fred Pettit, Fred Ryder, Jackie Vettor, Noreen Wills

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)

Handle With Care



New member Joanne Babinsky (r) with veteran member Jean Garrity looking at *Handle with Care*, a collection of sketches, cartoons and anecdotes created by people detained in POW camps in Germany during WWII.



Membership Committee Report

by Cathy Newman

Greetings to all our members. We currently have a membership of 114. Our oldest member at 113 recently celebrated her birthday and she often joins us for our Friday lunch. However, there are many members we don't have the pleasure of spending time with each Friday at noon when we gather for lunch and sharing stories. We encourage you to join us for fellowship.

The Association has been going through some growing pains the past year – both at our National Office and our local Wing. We now have the Cafe which is open 6 days each week offering breakfast, lunch or snacks and a brew. We also have a retired museum curator in Mike Baker who has been organizing some of our treasures and creating a very interesting display for our history buffs. We are also happy to have many students visit our Wing. If you are interested in history or aviation 427 Wing is the place to visit.

Soon I will be sending out renewal notices. How wonderful it would be if I didn't have to send out a 2nd or 3rd notice. I'm naturally hoping all will renew and perhaps encourage a friend to join.

Sam Newman honoured by London Knights

From London Knights Facebook:

Last night we welcomed Sam! CAPT (ret'd) Sam Newman served in the RCN and the RCAF from 1959 – 1993. Throughout his career, his postings were numerous and challenging in every respect. Geographically, they included London, England; Air Div HQtrs in Metz, France; Air Weapons Unit in Sardinia, Italy (All NATO related); CFB Trenton (twice); CFB London; Headquarters in Ottawa (twice); 22 Svc Bn, London; CFRC Sudbury; # 5 Supply Dept, Moncton, NB; and 9 months serving with the United Nations keeping the peace between Israel, Egypt and Syria.

Sam's many interests in retirement include participation with the Air Cadet Units locally, and his Exec positions with the Vimy Legion, Royal London Military Institute, 427 (London) Wing of RCAF Association, and the K of C at his Parish church. Sam is a Freelance writer, for his various clubs and Associations; has authored two Books, containing little known stories from the War Years, and his visits to the Normandy Beaches, along with other peace time tidbits, and you can find them on his Legion Br 145 Web-Page. <http://vimylondon.ca/Musings>.



Sam wishes to thank all his many supporters and followers throughout the London Region for their continuing support to the Poppy Campaign each year, along with various forms of support for all of the local Cadet organizations, and those Men and Women who have given past service with the Army, Navy and the Air Force.



James O. Poag
WATCHMAKER – JEWELLER

James O. Poag
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST
GOLDSMITH – APPRAISER

Jeffrey R. Poag
GOLDSMITH – DIAMOND SETTER

Jenny Dortmans
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST

Department Supervisors

Debbie Pierce – Jewellery and Repairs
Denise Poag – China and Gifts

Sales Associates

Bonnie Brittany	Erin Judy Nancy	Shannon B. Shannon C.
--------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------

Goldsmiths

Jeff S. Peter

James O. Poag
Jewellers Ltd.

• Diamonds • Clocks • Watches • Gold
• Figurines • Pottery • Crystal • Gifts

P.O. Box 39
94 Frank Street
Strathroy ON N7G 3J1

Phone: 519-245-1040
1-888-717-GEMS
www.poags.com



Excerpt from 'Knowing No Defeat'

by **Connie Weir**, South Collegiate Alumni Association
Executive Editor/Writer, *Knowing No Defeat*



Raymond Law (1919-1942)

In the years following World War I, the Salvation Army operated a home for orphan children in south London – first at 640 Emery Street, and in the 1930s at 55 Beaconsfield Avenue.

Raymond Ingham Law was one of those children, born in the UK, but sent to Canada after being orphaned at a very young age. Because of the location of the homes, the children at-

tended the nearby Tecumseh Public School, and for those who continued on, South Collegiate.

Life at the orphanage home was a busy one. There were chores lists, which included washing dishes, mowing the lawn, making beds, doing laundry, cleaning washrooms and floors, plus any repairs and odd jobs needed around the home. The boys living at the Home, or the “Home Kids” as they were nicknamed, looked up to Raymond, and Ray looked after them, walking them to and from school. Students say that they remember Ray always had to walk everywhere he went, regardless of the weather, because he couldn’t afford a bicycle like all the other kids. All this left little time for outside activities, but Ray had some athletic talent and at South he found a place as Flying Wing on the Junior Rugby teams of 1936 and 1937. This brought him under the tutelage of coach Don Freeman, and later, during his military service, Ray continued a written correspondence with Don.

When Ray turned 18, in the fall of 1937, the Salvation Army could no longer support him, so he was forced to leave school. He got a job working in downtown London at Smallman & Ingram’s department store (later Simpson’s, on the SW corner of Richmond and Dundas). He luckily found boarding



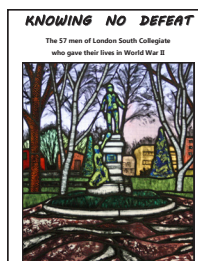
homes along Beaconsfield until 1941, when he married a girl named Mary and moved into the Wallace Apartments at 131 Wharncliffe Road S. Never having been able to travel (even locally), the prospect of joining one of Canada’s services when war broke out may have appealed to Ray Law as an adventure of a lifetime. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on January 29, 1941.

After basic training at Yorkton, Saskatchewan and later at Debert, Nova Scotia, Ray won his wings as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner and earned the rank of Pilot Officer. His squadron, the Canadian Home War Establishment (HWE) Squadron, was tasked with anti-submarine duty over the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the ocean around Nova Scotia. By 1942, he moved to RCAF Ferry Command, flying new aircraft from American and Canadian factories to bases in the United Kingdom. In the latter part of that year, Ray was transferred to 119 Squadron of Coastal Command – based at Lough Erne in Northern Ireland. This group flew the Short Sunderland (“Flying Boat”) aircraft, attacking German submarines and protecting allied ships in the Battle of the Atlantic.



While on an anti-sub mission on December 14, 1942, Raymond’s four-man crew never returned to base. He has no known grave, but an SOS was received giving their position southwest of the Scilly Isles, off the English coast in the Bay of Biscay. Raymond Law is commemorated on Panel 100 of the Runnymede War Memorial in the south of England, where nine other lost South alumni are also honoured, along with more than 20,000 Allied airmen whose bodies were never found.

(Note: In addition to Ray, six other members of the 1936 championship Rugby team never made it home from the war.)



Article reprinted from the book *Knowing No Defeat*, published by the South Collegiate Alumni Association, a non-profit organization created in 1999 and involved in a variety of school oriented projects and activities. The book profiles the 57 men of London South Collegiate school who gave their lives in World War II, a compelling and important historic account.

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 LARC	2 EUCHRE DARTS	3 LUNCH	4
5 CARDS	6 GENERAL DYAMICS	7 CARDS	8 BBC	9 EUCHRE DARTS	10 LUNCH	11
12 CARDS	13	14 MATHYS- SEN CARDS DARTS	15	16 EUCHRE	17 LUNCH	18 TRIVIA 6-11PM
19 CARDS	20	21 CARDS DARTS	22	23 EUCHRE DARTS	24 LUNCH	25
26 CARDS	27	28 CARDS	29	30 EUCHRE CARDS	1	2

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

WING CAFE OPEN 8AM TO 7PM TUESDAY TO SUNDAY
Take out is available.

