

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DECEMBER 15 2023



Photos Courtesy Doris Weir
See more on page 3.

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	ixatrogers.com
Director	Mike Watts	mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Director	Lee Casser	
Director	Fred Pettit	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Scott Lyons	S-LYONS@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mike Watts	
Acting Secretary, Director	Chuck Hardy	chuck.hardy@sympatico.c

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

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	v33hor@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	
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	
Bar Steward/Rentals		
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.



427 Wing receives Canadian Veterans Ombudsman commendation for Exceptional contribution to the wellbeing of Veterans and their families.



Lindsay Mathyssen, MP for London-Fanshawe presented the award.



Happy Healthy New Year!

What is a New Years Resolution? Something that goes in one YEAR and out another.
What's a cow's favorite holiday? MOO Year's Eve.

SECRETS OF RADAR MUSEUM New Years Message from the President

Dear Members and friends;

As 2023 draws to a close, it's time to reflect and give thanks, to retreat to cozy corners, and time to get together with family and friends.

We are certainly grateful for your support and want to thank you for helping make SORM's 20th anniversary year a success. And what a year it has been!

The wheelchair lift is now operational, which allows visitors with mobility issues to reach the washrooms without having to negotiate any stairs. We celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a well-attended Open House and a special talk about D-Day radar. Close to 400 people came out for Doors Open London, one of our best attended, ever. We attended numerous community outreach events such as the annual London Heritage Fair, the Ontario Heritage Conference, the Blackburn 519 Podcast, and The Grand Theatre.

We've been busy working on new projects, generously funded by New Horizons for Seniors and the Community Services Recovery Fund supporting research, design, and project management, new materials, construction, and more! Our volunteers and summer staff have been and continue to be busy with these activities.

Our partners at the 427 Wing RCAF Association have made a lot of exciting changes, too. Starting in January 2024, the New 427 Cafe will be open from 7am until 10pm, seven days a week, featuring all day breakfast. Our friends at the London Amateur Radio Club have "test-driven" the breakfast and give it a whole lot of thumbs-up!

Finally, this is the final call for 20th Anniversary mugs. We have 11 mugs left. Get yours before they are gone!

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Steve Bourdeau
President

Learn more about the Secrets of Radar Museum at SecretsofRadar.com and follow them on Facebook

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

Fridge Door Live Theatre Company
Brings you a new stage production

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

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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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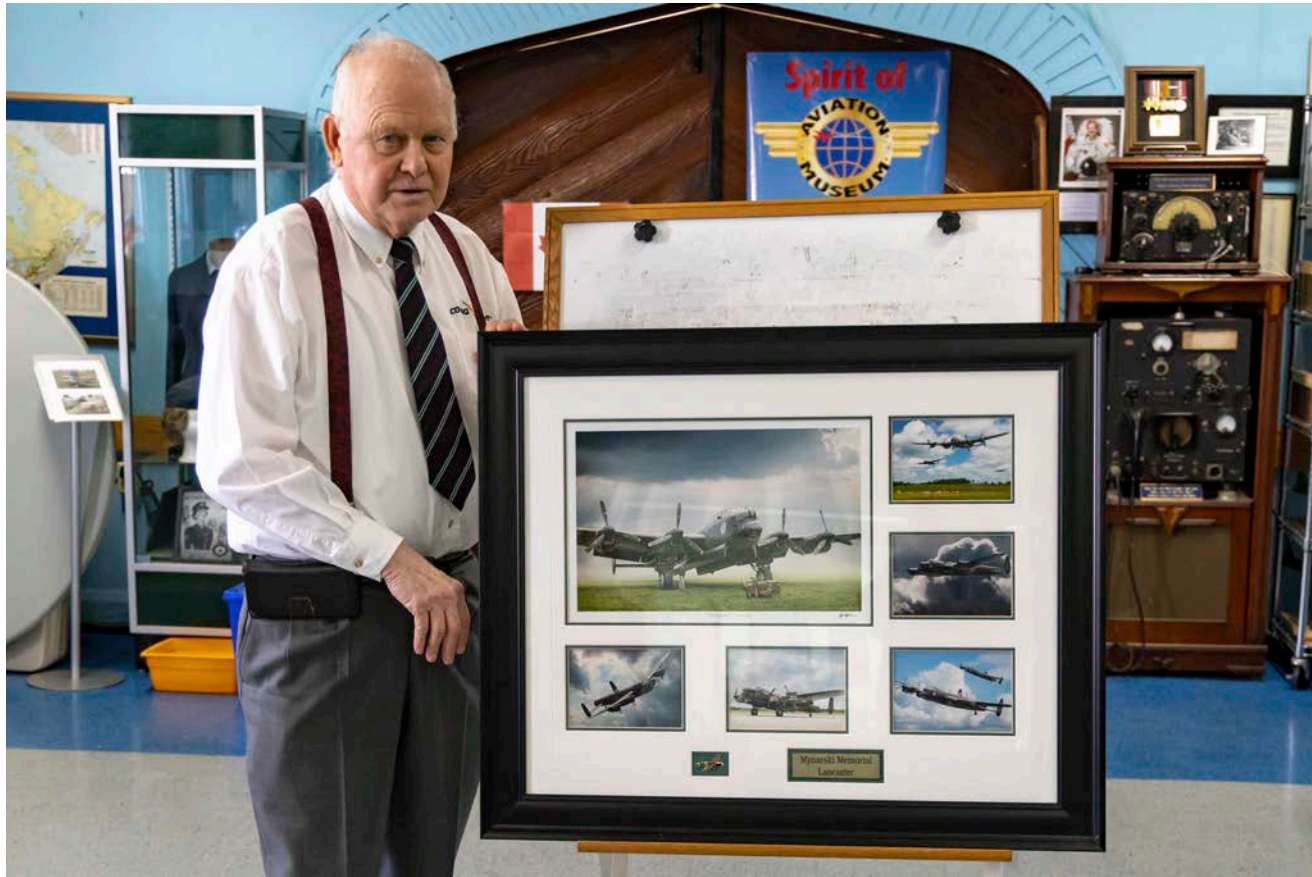
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Mynarski Lancaster picture donated to 427 Wing



Top: Brenda Fleulling and Rene MacKinnon. Bottom: Frank Birch.



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Masks are currently optional at 427 Wing.

Please respect the personal decision of others.

Painting donated to 427 Wing

The Christmas dinner was a great success, with 71 guests.

On the stage in the ballroom, there was a painting of a Cessna 150 (I believe). Jan and Mike Sydorko both flew this aircraft back in the '70s when the London Flying Club was very active at the airport and acquired the painting.

They loaned it to the airport so it could be displayed in the public area to be seen by passengers arriving and departing London. At a point in time renovations were made in the terminal and this painting was moved into the office area on the second floor (out of sight from the public). Recently Jan was made aware of the location of the painting and asked if it could be returned to her. London Airport CEO Scott McFadzean arranged for airport staff to bring it back to the Wing.

We advised Jan that we had the painting and asked her what she would like to do with it. She accepted the painting during a short ceremony during the Christmas Lunch and at that time she offered to donate it to the Wing and have it mounted in the Ballroom. Thank you, Jan.

Heritage Fair

Heritage Fair 2024's theme is 100 Objects and Gems: The History of London. Participating sites, museums, cultural, and heritage organisations will highlight how—over the years—the lesser-known stories and hidden gems have shaped their sites and by extension, added to defining London's heritage.

From artifacts to exhibits, to stories, to the traditions of today, visitors can expect to be immersed in the living heritage that has sculpted the identity of this remarkable city. This event aims to give the community an opportunity to explore and reconnect with many aspects of their heritage in new and exciting ways. Heritage Fair aims to give the community an opportunity to find out about the unique treasures that have aided in molding our city.

Saturday, February 10th 2024, at the London Public Library, Central Branch: 251 Dundas St, London, ON, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For a listing of exhibitors and more information, visit <https://www.londonheritage.ca/heritagefair>



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

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)

Proud to support the 427 Wing



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Membership Report for January and February 2024

by Chuck Hardy

We welcome new members Kevin McLeod and Scott Lyons.

In order to meet the deadline for articles, today is December 12, 2023. Hopefully the Wing will gain more new members soon.

Some sad news:

Long time member Isabel Murray passed away in Nanaimo B.C. at the age of 100. Isabel was a former President of 427 (London) Wing, and she served on the Ladies Auxiliary for many years.

Wayne Chuter passed away on December 2, 2023, at the age of 84. Wayne served in the RCAF from 1956 until 1980 with tours of duty with NATO in Europe and with the United Nations forces in the Middle East. He was also a member of the Harvard Association. He enjoyed the Friday lunches and talking with others at the lunches.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

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

The Board of Directors welcomes your thoughts on many topics. This includes the new operation, the daily Café opening, special events and how you can help the Wing as we go forward.

Best regards to all readers of the London Link.

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

CAIRN PROJECT LETTER TO ALL WING MEMBERS

From Walter B. Peckham
Ontario Group Chair

RCAFA You are receiving this letter regarding the Cairn because, some wing chairs have replied but the majority have not, since my last Group Chair letter, I sent out. I have heard from 4/5 wings indicating whether they are financially supporting this project or not, and how much. Some wings I heard from are giving \$10.00 or \$20.00 per member or somewhere in between. Ontario Group is close to one thousand members or a little over. As you all know we must have a down payment by end of January of \$5,000.00.

Having said that I am not too keen on giving the down payment with nothing left in the coffers. I would like to see a commitment of \$8,000.00 - \$9,000.00. This way we should be able to raise the remaining amount by August. This is my opinion only but remember the members have the final say. We will be going out to funding resources as well i.e. RCAF Centennial Fund, RCAF Association Trust Fund and the RCAF Foundation as well. More to follow on this after I speak to David Farnsworth.,

As of Tuesday 05 January, I am requesting that Chairs who have not contacted their Regional Directors (Quinte & Eastern contact me via phone) to do so and let them know if your wing is willing to financially support this project. As well let your members know they can donate personally as well. This is being done at the museum through NPF (Non-Public Funds). Donations will be by Cheque or Credit Card as of now.

In closing, last May there was plenty of interest in this Cairn, but it seems to have diminished a bit. Just remember you will be a part of history as this will be the only monument currently in Canada honouring the RCAF Association members past, present and future.



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NEW 427 WING CAFE

Please welcome Joe DePietro who as Flo's replacement is managing the Wing and offering a full menu seven days a week with All-Day Breakfast, Soup, Wings, Burgers and more.

Take-out available.

Call for hours of operation and more information.
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JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5 LUNCH	6
7	8	9 MAC MATHYSSEN RESERVATION	10 BCC	11 WOOD- TURNERS	12 LUNCH	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 LUNCH	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 LUNCH	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 LUNCH	3
4	5	6	7 BBC	8 WOOD- TURNERS	9 LUNCH	10 Heritage Fair
11	12	13 MAC MATHYSSEN RESERVATION	14 VALENTINES DAY	15	16 LUNCH	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 LUNCH	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

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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