

# 434 Niagara

## BULLETIN



Vol. 24 no 6 July-August, 2022

### General Meetings

3rd Saturday of each month at

Welland Optimist Club, 38 Patterson Ave., Welland, ON L3B 2C4

until further notice. Due to present Covid restrictions future meeting dates will be  
advised by email and telephone.

***We proudly promote the glorious tradition of the RCAF***  
**434 Wing Board of Directors**  
**2020-2021**

Chairman – Bill Heron .....	H - 289-820-8712
1 st Vice Chairwoman – Julie Sheppard.....	H - 905-734-6307
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman - Norm Sonnenberg.....	H - 905-834-6722
Treasurer—Julie Sheppard .....	H—905-734-6307
Recording Secretary - George Groff.....	H - 905-734-4948
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	C - 289-723-2544
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Kit Shop Chairman - Rod Lee.....	C - 905-359-1975
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Honorary Director – F/L Tom Vance.....	H - 905-834-8155
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**COMMITTEES**

Air - Cadets Capt - Julie Sheppard  
Audio Visual - Rod Lee  
Phone Committee - Jeanette & George  
Programs - George & Board  
Sick/Visitation - Jeanette Lee  
Publicity - Board

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		Canteen	905-734-6601
Port Colborne	Branch 56	Hall	905-834-9512
Fort Erie	Branch 71	Hall	905-871-8682
Fonthill	Branch 613	Hall	905-892-6293

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434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing  
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**Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada**

# Chairman's Report September 2022

Summer has arrived and with that comes our planned Summer/Fall activities.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> we managed to hold our first Awards dinner in 2 years, it was well attended and we had a few guests with us. Mr. Thomas Taborowski VP of the Air Cadet League of Canada was present accompanied by his wife Jelena. Mr. Taborowski is a former member of 427 London Wing who recently moved to the Niagara area and had transferred his membership to us here at 434. As a guest of Mr. Taborowski we were also joined by former National President of the Air Cadet League of Canada Mr. Don Berrill accompanied by his wife Lynda. Also with us from 427 London Wing was former chairman of Ontario Group Mr. Sam Newman, Sam was joined tonight by his wife Cathy. We also had Central Ontario Regional Director Brenda Wilson with us. It seems to have been well received and we thank Br.613RCL for their assistance with all of the arrangements. Also many thanks to all those who contributed to the draw table your participation helped add just a little extra to the evening.

Looking ahead, there is a fly in scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> at Alf Beams location in Ft Erie.

July 26<sup>th</sup> will see one of our members turn 100 years old. F/Lt. (Retd.) Tom Vance, a former 411 RCAF Squadron Spitfire pilot who we believe is the last remaining member of this Squadron.

July 29, 30 & Aug.01 will see us at Canal Days in Port Colborne. We will have our canopy set up ready to sell our kit shop items.

September 18<sup>th</sup> we will once again be at the Cenotaph in Chippawa Park in Welland to mark the Battle of Britain.

Moving into October, we have arranged to have Ted Barris return, Ted will be giving his presentation on his latest book **The Battle of the Atlantic**. This event is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at Br 613 RCL Fonthill with a start time of 1pm. Tickets are available **now** at a cost of \$10.00 per person there will be no door ticket sales. If you are interested in going, I suggest you contact either Rod Lee or myself to secure an early seat we expect this to be at a capacity.

We are also planning another **Big Red meat fundraiser**, there could possibly be a price change but we won't know this until August 02 at the earliest

Please mark these dates on your calendar as we will be needing volunteers to assist with the various events and please if possible come out and spend a few hours to help.

We are trying to schedule a board meeting for August 10th but will confirm if this works.

I wish you all well and have a safe and happy Summer.

Bill Heron (Chairman)

*Per Ardua Ad Astra*



# AIR CADET REPORT

1 st Vice Chairwoman – Julie Sheppard



**Canadian Forces Hercules**



On May 7th, 2022, Air cadets from Southern and Central Ontario converged on the London, Ontario Airport for a familiarization flight in a Canadian Forces Hercules. Cadet squadrons included cadet from Port Colborne, Welland and Dunville.

Flight crews and aircraft were from CFB Trenton. Ground support were from CFB London and Toronto. Due to covid restrictions cadets have not been flying since the fall of 2019. This was the first flight in a CF Hercules for many of the cadets.



**Air Cadets on flight in Hercules**

During the summer of 2022, Air cadets will be attending summer training both in person at CFB Trenton and virtually on line. Also being offered, at different locations Cadet Activities Program (CAP) training, which will be staffed by local squadron staff. CAP will offer different daily training opportunities to cadets close to their home squadron areas.

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**Friday, July 29 through Monday August 1, 2022**

## **Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, Port Colborne**

The 42nd annual Festival will take place in Port Colborne. In addition to the visits of Tall Ships, typically there are close to 100 vendors, serving food and a mix of retail, artisans and non-profit groups. Concert groups will perform at the H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park for all four days.

**434 Niagara Wing** will be there with our tent set up, offering plenty of exciting air force material for sale. We will be located at the **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56, 67 Clarence St.**, located in beautiful down town **Port Colborne**, near to the heart of the celebrations.



## 87 Eagle Squadron Annual Inspection



87 Eagle Squadron with support staff on June 11, 2022

On Saturday, June 11, 2022 Chairman Bill Heron and Secretary Treasurer George Groff attended the Annual Inspection for 87 Eagle Squadron of Welland at the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport. Those cadets who were aging out were presented with a certificate entitling them to two years free membership in the 434 Niagara Wing which will entitle them to attend meetings and participate in all activities and outings of the 434 Niagara Wing.



First Aid demonstration



Chairman Bill Heron and Secretary Treasurer George Groff on hand to present 434 Niagara Wing Certificates to aging out Air Cadets.

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## In The News

### Canada to have Possibly the Most Permissive Military Dress Code in the World

In an effort to attract more young people into the Canadian Armed Forces new regulations are set to come into effect in September thanks to a package of sweeping dress code reforms.

There will be no restrictions whatsoever on hair length, including for beards; Hoop earrings, ear spacers and eyelash extensions are fine, provided they're not getting in the way of "operational requirements;" the whole dress code will be "gender neutral," meaning that men can now be issued "traditionally gendered items" such as skirts, nylons and purses.

Quaere: Will the ANAVETS Dress Code also be updated?



## Banquet and Awards Dinner, June 17th, 2022

434 Niagara's Banquet and Awards Dinner was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 in Fonthill, Ontario. The event was well attended and many awards and certificates which had accumulated due to the previous virus restrictions on gatherings, were presented.



**Left to Right: Jim Hutchinson, Rev. Cathcart, Lory Irwin, Brenda Wilson**



**Clockwise: Cathy Newman, Sam Newman, Don Berrill, Lynn Berrill, Jelena Taborowski, Thomas Taborowski**



**Clockwise: George Groff, Jeanette Lee, Rod Lee, Dan Carr and Chrystal, Sue Groff**



**Clockwise: Wes Pearce, Iris Pearce, James Allan**



**Left:  
Chuck Leguerriere  
and Jeanette Lee**

**Right:  
Chuck Leguerriere  
and Brenda  
Wilson**



## Banquet and Awards Dinner continued



Tom Vance with  
Brenda Wilson and  
George Groff



Sam Newman and Brenda Wilson

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434 NIAGARA PENNISULA WING  
Royal Canadian Airforce Association

# Presents Ted Barris

Renowned author of The Great Escape The Dambusters, and Rush into Danger

**His Audio and Visual Presentation**

Of his newest book

**BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC GAUNTLET TO VICTORY**

Saturday October 15th 2022 1pm  
At the Fonthill Legion Hwy 20 Fonthill

**Tickets \$10.00**

ticket information at [masterlee434@gmail.com](mailto:masterlee434@gmail.com)

limited seating available



## Let the Celebrations Begin

July 2022 is for celebrating Spitfire Pilot **Tom Vance's 100th Birthday**. The month began with a special Air Show and Fly in Barbecue organized and hosted by Alf Beam in honour of Tom's 100th Birthday.



### The Aircraft



**Harvards (3 Present)**



**T28-Trojans (5 Present)**





## Air Show for Tom





## The Birthday Party



Tom with "Spitfire" Birthday Cake



Tom cuts his cake for guests

434 Wing members with Tom



Tom Speaking with Merle Beam in front of T-28 Trojan



Watching Air Show



**Alf, Thanks So Much!**



**Alf, Tom has thanked you personally and behalf of 434 Niagara Wing, thank you for allowing us to share in this wonderful and memorable celebration so worthy of Tom's 100th Birthday!**

# 434WING PRESENTS

## THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CEREMONY

Cenotaph Chippawa Park

Welland

SUNDAY September 18th @ 1pm

The 434 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association is the only Wing that acknowledges and celebrates the Battle of Britain which took place between July 10 and October 31, 1940. It was at that time Nazi Germany wanted to eliminate the R.A.F as a prelude to invading Britain. Thanks to the sheer determination and skill of the Royal Air Force this did not happen

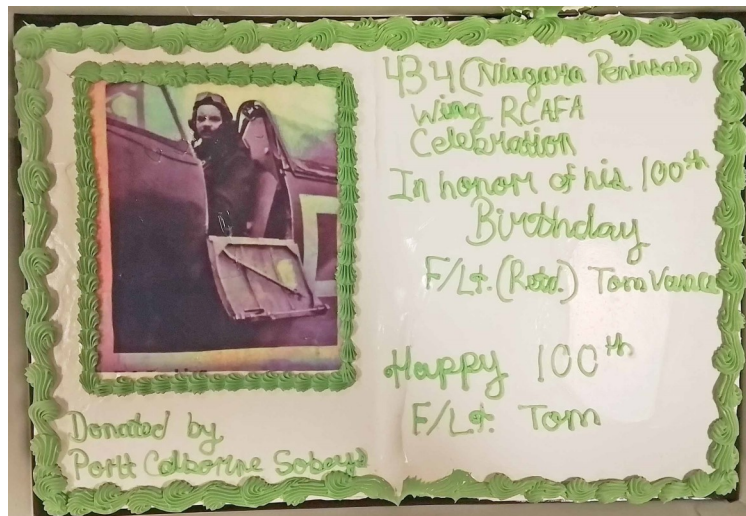
## All are welcome to attend

Special thanks to Wing member Alf Beam for the fly by in his T28 and Harvard

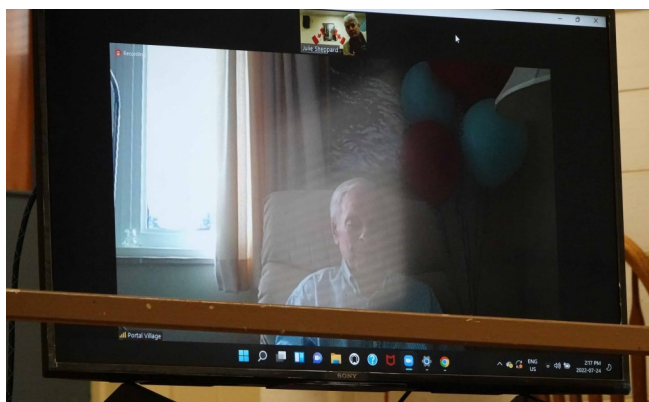
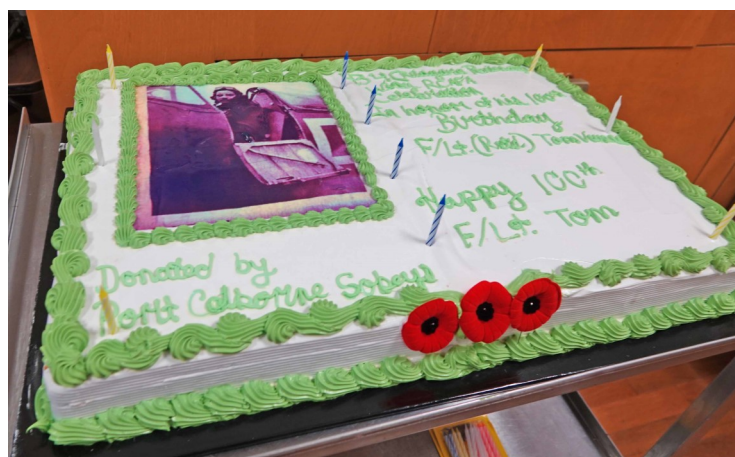
For more information contact R. Lee  
@ masterlee434@gmail.com

## 434 Niagara's Surprise 100th Birthday Celebration for Tom Vance

With months in the planning, 434 Niagara Wing arranged a surprise birthday party for Tom. However, the surprise was on us as days before the celebration, Tom tested positive for the Covid virus and would not be able to attend. With all arrangements having been made, the party would go ahead anyway and Tom would be there for all the celebration and speakers via a Video conference call. The setup worked well and Tom was able to see and hear everything that took place and he spoke to guests at his party. Our gracious hosts were the members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 in Port Colborne who were of great assistance and who did a splendid job in seeing that all



Birthday Cake for Tom, donated by Sobays, Port Colborne for the occasion



Tom was present at his party via video which was set up for all his guests to view during the celebration and hear his comments.



### 434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing RCAFA Celebration

In honour of his 100th Birthday

F/Lt. (Retd.) Tom Vance

Welcome To all

To those who would like to speak

*Mr. George Groff*

*Friends of Tom from Ottawa*

*Open floor*

*Various presentations*

*(Gifts / Certificates & acknowledgements)*

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*Food will be served*

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*Cake presentation (Candles)*

*Singing of Happy Birthday*

*Cutting of the cake*



## 434 Niagara's Surprise 100th Birthday Celebration for Tom Vance



Vance Badawey, MP for Niagara Centre, started off the celebration with praise and congratulations for Tom whom he knows personally. Framed letters from Vance Badawey and from Prime Minister Trudeau congratulating Tom on his 100th birthday were presented.



Tom's daughter Barb accepted Letters of Congratulations on behalf of Tom from Vance Badawey .



Richard Fisher whose friendship with Tom goes back to their days in Ottawa, drove from Ottawa to Port Colborne to be present and give his congratulations to Tom.



2nd Vice Chairman, Norm Sonnenberg, spoke of his long time friendship with Tom and offered his congratulations.



Barb, accepted framed letters of Congratulation from Premier Ford and from 434 Niagara Wing presented by Chairman Bill Heron



# Sponsors

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## Legion

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4

383 Morningstar Ave., Welland, ON

