

Royal Canadian Air Force Association RCAF 441 (Huronia) Wing Inc. April - May 2024 Newsletter

Vol 8 Edition 3

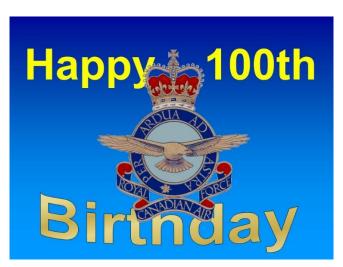


1. <u>RCAF Association Mission Statement</u>:

The Association is a national not-for-profit aerospace and community- service organization composed of aviation-minded citizens established to remind Canadians of their country's rich aeronautical tradition and history, to support Canada's Air Force, and to support and encourage the civil aviation component within the country.

2. <u>Chairman's Message</u>:

Happy 100th Birthday to the RCAF. There are many events scheduled during the coming weeks and months that provide us with an opportunity to celebrate this milestone and demonstrate our respect for those who have served or are serving in Canada's Air Forces. This newsletter has an update about those events, and write-ups about the events that have already happened, along with the traditional articles. Per Ardua Ad Astra.





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3. <u>RCAF Centennial Flag Raising and Tribute Banner Ceremony:</u>



The Wing commenced celebrating the RCAF Centennial at the flag raising ceremony at city hall on 28 March. This was followed by the dedication of the 15 tribute banners in honour of the members of our Wing, past and present, who contributed their time and energy to the advancement of aviation in Canada. Thank you to Jean Maurice Pigeon, Randy Rice, and David Farnsworth for making this project a success. As well, thank you to our Colour Guard – Murray Connolly, Wally Capstick, Andrea Sloan, Les Ball and Randy Rice, as well as HCol Rory Mackinnon for leading the ceremony for the flag raising. You all brought great credit to the RCAF Association.



4. <u>Blue Light Illuminations</u>:

In celebration of the RCAF Centennial and commemoration of the men and women who have, and continue to, serve Canada at home and abroad, famous landmarks, city halls, businesses, and residences across the world will be illuminating in blue on April 1, 2024. About 400 landmarks in 20 countries are confirmed to be participating. In Barrie, this includes Barrie City Hall, the 'Barrie' waterfront sign, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #147 (done by 441 Wing), Five Points, and Meridian Place. Canadians across the country to join in this campaign, and light up their businesses and homes in blue, and to share photos on social media using the hashtags **#RCAF100** and **#100YearsOfFlyingBlue**, in support of the RCAF and its personnel. We are collaborating with Guinness World Records, as the RCAF will attempt to break the World Record for most landmarks illuminated in 24 hours.

5. <u>RCAF Centennial Homecoming Events – 2 April 2024</u>

16 Wing Borden, as the Birthplace of the RCAF, is excited to host a day of notable events at Borden and Collingwood. Below is a list of the timings for those events. Most of them are by invitation or purchased ticket only, but the unveiling of the Ad Astra Monument is open to the public.

Homecoming Events Schedule

- 1. 1000 hours: Hangar 11/Air Museum Grand Reopening.
- 2. 1130 hours: The AD Astra Monument unveiling.
- 3. 1230 hours: Homecoming Day and Ad Astra Supporters Luncheon
- 4. 1345 hours: Town Hall CDS and CAFCWO (+ possibly the MND)
- 5. 1345 hours: Post Office Event First Day of Issue RCAF Stamp.
- 6. 1715 hours: Centennial Homecoming Dinner (Blue Mountain Inn Collingwood);
 - 1720 hours: Flypast of a Tiger Moth and Cornell from Edenvale Flying Club as guests continue to arrive.
 - 1730 hours: all guests checked in to the Petune Ballroom couples photos taken at three stations inside the Petune Ballroom
 - 1815 hours: 252 guests will gather in the main Atrium for a "First RCAF Centennial Celebration" photo (taken from the 2nd floor)
 - 1900 to 1925 hours: 16 WComd and CFB Borden Base Comd welcome everyone to the Centennial Homecoming Dinner
 - 1925 hours: Honorary Col (Emeritus) Terry Kelly from Greenwood sings his dedication song to the RCAF.
 - 1930 to 2000 hours: CFB Borden Wives Choir sing multiple songs.
 - 2000 hours: All guests enjoy each others company and simply have their dinner.
 - o 2110 hours: Dancing with the Celtic Band "Hadrian's Wall"
 - 0100 hours: end of days' events

6. <u>100 Years and RCAF Fashion:</u>

For over 10 decades, fashion has been a part of designing RCAF uniforms as seen in the historic 23 photographs presented by LCol (ret'd) Ferguson Mobbs. The historic photos of period uniforms is the final presentation to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the RCAF that started with the concept, obtaining the uniforms to be followed by securing volunteer models that fit the uniforms. A shooting schedule was crafted ending with a photo shoot completed with military precision in one day. As you view the 23 uniforms and flight suits you can see the progression from more style than practical use to practical use than style. At the same time each style era reflects styles and practical design of that time reflecting on the dignity of the RCAF.

his is the first and only collection of photographs crafted at one time in the history of the RCAF with a blend of uniforms from the "Women's Division", rounding out a representation of uniforms that is inclusive of all the uniforms presented.





LCol (ret'd) Mobbs worked closely with LCol Lyle Holbrook and the Toronto Garrison Officers Ball to have several of the uniform's photographs to be on full sized vertical banners to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF. He is presently in discussions with Ottawa as to the placement of his photos across Canada. LCol (ret'd) Mobbs states this Historic collection of photos could not have been crafted if it was not for all the people who assisted in the collection of uniforms and the models who volunteered their time. Each person understood this is a very special historic project to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF

Sic Itur Ad Astra / Per Ardua Ad Astra

7. <u>Upcoming Wing Activities</u>:

| Date | Event | <u>Time</u> | |
|--------|---|--------------------|--|
| 01 Apr | RCAF's 100 th Anniversary | All day | |
| 01 Apr | RCAF Illuminate – RCL Branch 147 by 441 Wing | 1945 hrs | |
| 02 Apr | RCAFA 441 (Huronia) Wing Outdoor Banners on display at City Hall, bottom of Tiffin St, and at the Barrie Public Library on Worsley Street | 2 months | |
| 02 Apr | Dedication of Refurbished BBMM Air Annex and the Ad Astral Project Beacon at CFB Borden | 1000 & 1230 hrs | |
| 02 Apr | RCAF 100 th Centennial Homecoming Dinner / Dance at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood | 1700 hrs | |
| 07 Apr | RCAFA 413 (Trenton) Wing – Freedom of the City of Trenton | 0900 hrs | |

| 09 Apr | Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion | 1800 hrs |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| 09 Apr | Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion – Guest speaker – Norm Marion – 50th Anniv of Peacekeeping in Cyprus | 1900 hrs |
| 14 May | 441 Wing Charter and Awards Meeting at Legion | 1900 hrs |
| 17–19 May | Ontario Group AGM – 413 Wing Trenton | Weekend |
| TBC – May | Dedication of the Rudy Mak's RCAF 100 Parkette | TBC |
| TBC – May or June | Freedom of the City of Barrie Parade in honour of the 100 th Anniversary of the RCAF | ТВС |
| 25 May | 102 (Silver Fox Barrie) RCAC Sqn Annual Review at Dyte Hall, CFB Borden - RSVP: bdkl.paull@sympatico.ca or 705-487-2454 | 1345 hrs |
| 10 June | RCAF Week in Bradford – Flag Raising at City Hall | TBC |
| 11 Jun | Bradford - History of RCAF Presentation | 1830 hrs |
| 12 Jun | Bradford RCAF members / veterans talks | 1830 hrs |
| 14 Jun | Bradford's RCAF 100th Anniversary Celebration Parade with the Governor-General of Canada | 1000 hrs |
| 15-16 Jun | Barrie Airshow – Snowbirds and CF-18 Demo A/C | Weekend |
| 23 Jun | Orillia Obelisk Unveiling near RCL #34 on waterfront in memory of Ray Raaflaub, etc. | 1300 hrs |

8. <u>Induction of New Member – Col Gabriel Doré, WComd 16 Wing:</u>



Induction of Col Doré in the RCAFA 441 (Huronia) Wing



Presentation of first 100th Anniv Lapel Pins to Col Doré and CWO Rusconi, 19 Jan 2024

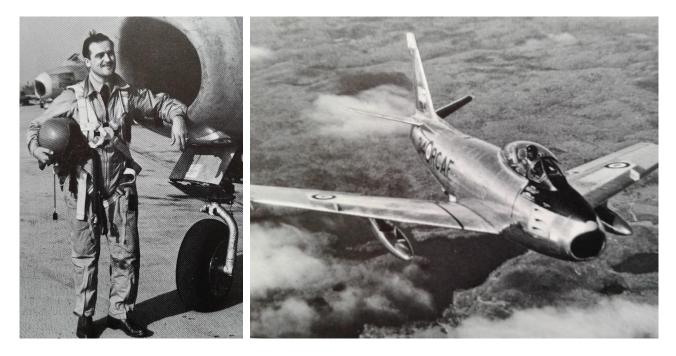
Wing Chair Bill Sergeant inducted our newest member, Col Gabriel Doré, into the RCAF Association during a 16 Wing Fellowship meeting in Borden. a great addition to our Wing. Col Doré and CWO Rusconi were also presented with the first two RCAF 100th Anniversary Lapel pins by Bill Sergeant and Norm Marion.

9. <u>Honours and Awards</u>:

The H&A Committee, under Chair Andy Galton has submitted its nominations for the 2023 awards to our RCAFA Ontario Group Regional Chair, Brenda Lynn Rice-Wilson for consideration by Ontario Group. Thanks to the members of the Charter and Awards Committee volunteers; Sherry Tobin Green, Michaela Jakobi and Cooky Ellis, the Wing will be handing out its Awards of Merit, Certificates of Appreciation, Member of the Year, and the Long Service Pins at its regular Members meeting on Tuesday, 14 May 2024. The committee is organizing snacks and finger food for those present to enjoy after the awards have been handed out. Please note that the meeting is open to spouses and family members of those who will be receiving the awards that evening. Others can be invited with the permission of the Wing Chair, C&A Chair or Committee members.

10. <u>TIME CAPSULE: "A most Extraordinary Airman – Joseph Auguste Omer</u> Levesque": By Randolf Rice

During the last POW reunion at Ottawa in 1999, I had the privilege of being the official photographer for the three-day event. Part of the itinerary was a tour of the National Aviation Museum in Rockcliffe for over 200 participants. As I was following this group of unique RCAF Veterans around, I noticed a fellow off by himself inspecting a Sabre aircraft, who I thought was a Second World War veteran looking at a jet aircraft – interesting. Out of curiosity I walked over and immediately he engaged me in conversation. Low and behold I was conversing with a veteran of two wars. His RCAF blazer was adorned with many decorations, and he explained to me he had flown Spitfires during the Second World War and Sabres in Korea.



Joseph Auguste Omer Levesque was born on May 23, 1920, in Mont-Joli, Quebec. In 1940, he enlisted in the RCAF and after initial training he was sent overseas in 1941 where he joined No. 401 Squadron RCAF out of Biggin Hill. His squadron

was tasked with intercepting German bombers and their fighter escorts in addition to making sweeps over France. On November 21, 1941, during a sweep his flight encountered German fighters and Omer accounted for a Fw-190, the first RCAF pilot to down a Focke-Wulf. In fact, Omer sketched a drawing which was circulated throughout fighter command. On February 12, 1942, during the channel dash of the three German battle ships, including the Bismarck, his luck ran out while on a sweep and he was shot down. He bailed out into the channel where he was rescued by a German E-Boat, at which point he became a POW. The Captain of the E-boat was so impressed that he readily engaged Omer in spirited conversation and treated him to a fine meal. Thus ended his flying for 3 ¹/₂ years and leaving him short by one of becoming an ace and making him one of the longest serving RCAF POWs of the war.

Omer stayed in the post RCAF and on May 9, 1949, during a test to see how fast and far the Vampire jet could fly, he made the fastest trip between Montreal and Ottawa flying out of St. Hubert in 8.5 minutes.

He also served with No. 410 Cougar Squadron and also became a member of the aerobatic "Blue Devils" performing throughout North America while flying de Haviland Vampire aircraft, which were from RCAF Station St. Hubert.

In December 1950, as an exchange officer, he was posted to the USAF 334 First Interceptor Squadron at Kimpo in Korea. On March 31, while escorting B-29 bombers at 40,000 feet to attack one of the Yalu bridges, his wing was bounced by North Korean MiG fighters. Turning into the attack Levesque got into a corkscrewing dogfight down to 17,000 feet. On the MiG 's tail, he let off a burst at 500 yards and sent the jet spiraling to the ground. With this kill, nine years after his previous four, Omer officially became an ace making him a member of those gallant few. By the end of his tour, he had completed seventy-one missions and was awarded the American DFC and Air Medal.

Omer went on to serve his country as part of the International Control Mission in Vietnam as well as a stint with NORAD. He retired from the RCAF in 1965 and passed away in 2008 as one of the most decorated RCAF veterans. Lest We Forget

11. <u>A Truly Canadian Astronaut Patch</u>



Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, from Saskatoon, will wear this patch as he joins the Artemis II Mission to the Moon, scheduled for September 2025. It is encouraging to see the patch includes the Canadian Crown as well as Indigenous symbols reflecting seven sacred laws, including a buffalo for respect, an eagle for love, a bear for courage, a bigfoot for honesty, a beaver for wisdom, a wolf for humility and a turtle to represent truth, as designed by Anishinaabe artist Henri Guimon, "You see the seven sacred laws, which are really instructions and reminders for us to aspire as humans," Hansen told the CBC. "As I represent Canadians going on this mission, this is an important reminder for me of how I would like to walk and the example I would like to strive to represent."

12. 441 Wing Member Appointed as the Honourary-Colonel of the RCAF:



HCol Renee Van Kessel has been appointed to become the next Honourary-Colonel of the RCAF. Her change of appointment will occur on the afternoon of June 12th, in Ottawa at NDHQ (Carling Campus). Called to the Bar in 1995, Honorary Colonel van Kessel is a member of the Law Society of Ontario. She received her Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School, and her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Political Studies at Queen's University in Kingston. HCol van Kessel was honoured to be one of only two private sector citizens to be attend the National asked to Security Programme at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, where she studied National Security and Defence Policy on a part-time basis from 2008-2012, while maintaining her law practice

full time. She completed her Masters of Public Administration in June 2015 with her thesis on Water Scarcity and Conflict. She also volunteers, advises, and sits on the boards of various not-for-profit organizations, including the Canadian Forces College Foundation, Canada Company, the Canadian International Council, and the Center for Peace Through Culture.

13. <u>441 (Huronia) Wing – Board of Directors Election:</u>

The 441 Wing elections for the Board of Directors will take place at our May 2024 meeting. they will elect a half slate of the 'Executive' members from those who were elected. They will serve for two years prior to being up for election again. The other half of the slate will be elected in 2023. Nominations for the Directors will be accepted up to and including 30 April 2024 by our Returning Officer, Jane Connolly. She will inform the Wing Chair as to whether their needs to be an election at the May meeting or whether the new half slate will be acclaimed. The new Board will be installed at the June 2024 meeting. Should you wish to nominate someone as a Director (you must get their permission first) or self-nominate, please ensure that the nomination form at the end of this newsletter is filled out, signed and given to Jane by the end of April.

14. <u>Fundraising Donation from the Kiwanis Club to 441 Wing:</u>

Bob Debling coordinated the sales of the Kiwanis Club tickets on behalf of 441 Wing for the "Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World" draw. The Wing members sold over 21 books of tickets, which meant we received 50% of the funds from the tickets sold. On 18 March, Bob was invited by the Kiwanis Club of Barrie and was presented with a generous cheque for \$1,500.00, which was \$300 more than the Wing earned via the ticket sales. The funds raised from the ticket sales will be used to support 102 (Silver Fox Barrie) RCAC Sqn and 714 (Wasaga Beach) RCAC Sqn.

15. <u>Presentation of Awards to the 1st Holly Scout Group</u>:



On 23 February, the 1st Holly Scout Group honoured 441 (Huronia) Wing by presenting it with a Certificate of Appreciation. Scouter Jamie Mackness presented the certificate to Jane Connolly, who represented 441 Wing at this special awards ceremony. The certificate was given to us for our unwavering support of the Group. Jane, in turn, was asked to present Scouter Joshua Calder and Scouter Alyx Calder with their Medals of Good Service to scouting.

16. Ontario Group AGM:

The Group's AGM will take place during the long weekend from May 17-19, 2024, at 413 (Trenton) Wing/ Ramada Hotel Trento. Our Wing normally sends three (3) delegates to represent it at the AGM. The registration, transportation, and reasonable accommodation costs are reimbursed by our Wing for the accredited delegates. Anyone who would like to be an accredited Wing delegate at the AGM should forward their name soonest to the Wing Chair or Deputy Chair. Should more than three members wish to be a delegate, then a draw will be held to select the delegates. The registration forms for the AGM are at the end of the Newsletter.

17. <u>Request for new Ontario Group Board Members</u>

As you all know Ontario Group's BOD is very overworked since only 5 of the 9 positions are filled. The Board is asking any and all willing members of the RCAFA, to join the Board. Many hands make light work. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Board is requested to forward a Letter of Intent to their Wing Chair who will, in turn, pass it along to the Central Region Director, Brenda Lynn Rice Wilson. Once she has received all Letters of Intent she will forward them to your Ontario Group Chair, Walter.

18. <u>Contact Information</u>:

Wing Mailing Address: 77 Violet St, Barrie, ON, L4N 9N3 Wing E-Mail Address: <u>441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca</u> Telephone: 705-481-1453 (messages only) Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/441Wing/</u> Website: https://www.rcaf441wing.com/

19. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2024-2025:

The Wing had half the directors stand for election for two (2) years from June 2023 to June 2025, thereby fulfilling our requirement under ONCA (Ontario Not For Profit Corp Act).

| POSITION-TIME | NAME | PORTFOLIO(S) |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Chairman-2025 | Bill Sergeant | Newsletter, H&A Committee Member |
| Vice Chair-2024 | Wally Capsticks | Special Events, H&A Committee Member |
| Treasurer-2024 | Andrea Sloan | Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O |
| Secretary-2024 | Andrew Galton | Honours and Awards Committee Chair |
| Vice Treas-2025 | Tammy Dupuis | Membership Vice Chair |
| Director-2025 | Gerry Peppler | RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair |
| Director-2025 | Art Cameron | RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member |
| Director-2024 | Murray Conley | Director of Ceremonies |
| Director-2024 | Joep Diening | Wing Web Master |
| Director-2025 | Norm Marion | Public Relations / Facebook |
| Director-2024 | Randy Rice | Veterans Groups Liaison |
| Wing Padre | Rev Doug Crocker | Wing Padre |



RCAF 441 (Huronia) Wing, Inc. RCAF Association Statement of Acceptance of Nomination for 2024-2026

Nominations for the Wing Board of Directors normally take place at the April General Meeting. By submitting this acceptance form it would give us a heads-up to see what a member's intentions are for the coming period. The Elections normally take place at the May General Meeting with the new Board of Directors being installed at the June General Meeting. Also bear in mind nominations can be made from the floor with the nominated person either present or this form of acceptance signed by the nominee and submitted to an attending member for presentation at the nomination meeting. As per Art.201 of our By-Laws, the following rules will apply:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) elected members who shall be appointed to their respective positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Public Affairs, Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Chair of the Ad Astral Committee, Website Manager, Chair of the Veterans Liaison Committee and 2 Directors at Large) by the elected members of the Board.
- b. The Board shall appoint a Secretary who will be a non-voting member.
- c. The term of office shall be two years, or until their successor is elected.
- d. Board members may be reelected at the end of their current term but not for more than two consecutive terms, following which they will not be eligible for re-election until one additional 2-year term has expired.
- e. The terms for the Board members will be offset by one year so that five (5) of the Board members will be elected in year one (2024) and the remaining six (6) members in the following year (2025).

Self-nominations from Regular Members or nominations of Regular Members who wish to stand for election to become a member of the 441 (Huronia) Wing Board of Directors will be accepted by the Wing elections convenor, Jane Coxon until close of nominations at the 14 May 2024 Wing Members' Meeting. Please complete and sign the form below and submit it to Jane Coxon, either in person or via email < jane.1946.ellen@gmail.com >

I, ______ will accept nomination for a position on the 441 (Huronia) Wing Board of Directors.

| Signed: | |
|---------|--|
| | |

| Dated: | |
|--------|--|
| | |

| ROARING 20'S17 - 19 May 2024Convention Co-OrdinatorJudy Rorabeckafacair1@bellnet.caRegistrationJudi Rutleyjdrutley@gmail.com | |
|--|-----------|
| | |
| Registration Judi Rutley jdrutley@gmail.com | |
| | |
| REGISTRATION | |
| Check One: Group Executive Accredited – Voting | |
| Fraternal – Non-Voting Companion Program Name: Phone: | |
| Address: Email: | |
| Companion Information: Name on Tag: | |
| Emergency Contact Information: Name: Phone: | |
| REGISTRATION INFORMATION Early Bird deadline: 15 March 2024 Registration deadline: 30 April 2024 | |
| Special Needs: | |
| Dietary Restrictions: | |
| Full Weekend: Delegate = \$250 + Wing Wind Down (included) + Donation (optional) Companion = \$250 + Wing Wind Down (included) + Donation (optional) Specify donation to 413Wing or 704 RCAC Sqn. | |
| Saturday Only: Meeting or Tour + Gala Dinner = \$160 | |
| Sunday: Closing ceremonies, Remembrance service, lunch,+ wind down (included in regis | stration) |
| Payment Information: (Cheque or E-Transfer to jdrutley@gmail.com Make cheques payab 2024 Ontario Group Convention, c/o 413 Wing RCAFA(Receipts will be provided at Registrati Sending funds via E-transfer: Question: AGM Where & When? Answer: Trenton 2024 Return completed forms & cheques to: Judi Rutley: 34 Cedar Creek Way | |
| Frankford, Ontario K0K 2C0 | |
| UPON ARRIVAL REGISTER AT: 413 Wing 230 North Murray St | |
| 2pm – 5 pm Trenton, Ont. K8V 6R7 | |
| ACCOMMODATIONS; Ramada Trenton Hotel99 Glen Miller RdDoubles \$119.00 +taxLoft suite 149.00+taxTrenton, Ont. K8V 5P8613-394-4855 | |

| Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Arrival – Toronto) | |
|---|--|
| Airline Flight No. | |
| Date & Time of Arrival | |
| Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Departure – Toronto) | |
| Airline Flight No | |
| Date and Time of Departure | |
| Events and Registration Fees (Check if attending) Delegate / Companion | |
| Friday - 17 May 2024 Ontario Group Board Meeting (Grp Members Only) - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | |
| All Delegates & Guests Welcome Opening Ceremonies & Chairman's Dinner -6:00 to 9:30 PM. Lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread and dessert | |
| Saturday –18 May 2024 – 8:00AM – 3:30PM Delegate Meeting – All RCAFA Wing Representatives Breakfast, two Coffee Breaks, Aviator's Luncheon \$160 followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar | |
| Companion Tour – These 4 Walls Breakfast, Transportation, Admission & Lunch \$160 followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar | |
| Sunday – 19 May 2024 – 0900 – 11:30AM Breakfast, Business Session Wrap-up (if necessary.) Remembrance & Closing Ceremony Lunch following closing ceremonies AGM WIND DOWN PARTY – 5 pm cost included in registration 413 Wing Our Theme is Roaring 20's Live Band (THE SHADOWZ) 7 pm – 11 pm | |

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO AND FROM THE HOTEL



The Commanding Officer and Sponsoring Committee Chair of

102 (Barrie Silver Fox) Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Cordially Invite you to attend our

82nd Annual Ceremonial Review

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Dyte Hall 62 Craftsman Rd, CFB Borden

Please be seated by 1345 hrs Dress: Military 1A or Business Casual Small Reception and Viewing of Displays to Follow RSVP: bdkf.paull@sympatico.ca or 705-487-2454