



Royal Canadian Air Force Association RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Newsletter – October - November 2021

Vol 5 Edition 6



1. RCAF Association Mission Statement:

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is a national aerospace and community service organization that commemorates the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's air forces since its inception; advocates for a proficient and well-equipped air force; and, supports the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program.

2. Chairman's Message:

As another year draws to a close, I would like to thank our Wing members for remaining active, either virtually or in-person, and making our Wing one of the best in Canada. A few of our members have taken their Last Flight, but we will remember them. I want to wish all of you the very best for the holidays as well as good health and happiness in the New Year. May it be a great Air Force year!

Per Ardua Ad Astra.

3. 441 Wing - Induction of Scott MacLagan:



Scott MacLagan, a former RCAF navigator, was inducted into the RCAFA's 441 (Huron) Wing by Les Ball at our Wing meeting on 9 Nov 2021. Scott has been an active member of our Wing for over a year, but it took that long to officially induct him, due to COVID 19. He was the Guest Speaker at our 10 Nov. 2020 meeting. His presentation was very interesting as he talked about his time flying the CF-100 Canuck (Clunk), the records he set, and saving the lives of four people in a light aircraft by guiding them to the nearest airfield in very poor weather conditions. He spoke on his service in North Bay, Parent and Falconbridge, and his career following release. He is also working on Air Force Heritage projects during his retirement.

4. Honours and Awards: Certificate of Appreciation for CTV Barrie:

On Wed, 3 November 2021, our Wing's H&A Chair, Andy Galton and Chair Bill Sergeant presented an RCAFA 441 (Huron) Wing Certificate of Appreciation to Tracy McReynolds & the staff of CTV News Barrie. Their coverage has helped to publicize aviation and the RCAF's rich history in the Barrie area, which is a major part of the RCAF Association's mandate.

Throughout 2020, CTV News Barrie has covered the numerous events and ceremonies that the 441 (Huron) Wing organized. This included the presentation of the Association's prestigious NORAD Trophy to Milan Kroupa and various Provincial Awards by Ontario Group President Bob DiMillo at Edenvale Aerodrome.

CTV also provided in-depth coverage of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain's Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremonies in September. In addition, they provided coverage of the Memorial Service for Air Cadet Aircraftsman 1st Class Stanley Peacock in Orillia and the interview with his friend 441 Wing Member, Raywin Raaflaub.



5. Wing Fund Raisers:

The winners of the draws so far for the "\$100-a-Month Draw" for 2021 are:

January – Kosten Hebb #163;	July – Lee Anne Sergeant – #033;
February – Les Ball #200;	August – Mark Smith - #024;
March – Sherry Tobin-Green #076;	September – Bill Coyle - #209;
April - Andy Dockerill – #108;	October – Wally Capsticks - #087;
May – Dave Wismer – #241;	November – Andrew Coxon - #156; and
June – Dave Wismer – #240;	December – To be announced.

Wally Capsticks and Dave Wismer kindly donated their winnings to the Wing. Thank you both Wally and Dave.

Tickets for the **2022 "\$100-a-Month Draw"** are now available from Les Ball. Of the 300 tickets that were printed, there are still 60 to be sold. Les will have them at the Christmas Social to sell. Otherwise, if you wish to buy tickets or help sell them, please contact Les (5 tickets/book). Tickets are \$10.00 each. They are great stocking stuffers.

Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World Tickets: Michael O'Shea has provided 17 books for the 2022 to members to sell. Cost is the same as last year, \$10.00 ea, or a book of 11 tickets for \$100.00. The 2022 draw will take

place on Valentine's Day, 14 February. The winner will have until the end of 2024 to take their trip. Contact Michael if you are interested in buying tickets or to help sell them. Note the Wing was given \$1,000 by the Kiwanis Club for selling the tickets last year.

The funds from both draws will be used by 441 Wing so that it can carry out its mandate of supporting the two Royal Canadian Air Cadet Sqns that we sponsor in Barrie (102 Silver Fox Sqn) and Wasaga Beach (714 Sqn).

6. 441 Wing Commemorates Remembrance Day 2021:

Members of 441 Wing attended numerous Remembrance Day events throughout the area. On 3 November, a special request was made by the Barrie Legion's Vice President to have our Wing Colour Party participate at The Barrie City Hall Flag Raising when Mayor Jeff Lehman declared the week of 4 – 11 November as Remembrance Week. The Legion's Poppy flag was raised in its honour on the 4th.

Bob Coxon and Les Ball attended the Wasaga Beach Remembrance Day Service on 7 November. Bob laid a wreath on behalf of the Wing in Stayner on the 11th. HCol Rory MacKinnon was the piper for the Veterans' Club of Barrie at their Remembrance Dinner on 4 November. His participation added an air of solemnity to the service prior to the dinner.



441 Wing Colour Party at the City of Barrie
Poppy Campaign Flag Raising on 4 Nov.



Piper HCol Rory Mackinnon and
Bugler Tony Beresford at the VCB
Dinner, 4 Nov 2021

Since the City of Barrie was not holding its usual Remembrance Day parade at Memorial Square this year, Murray Conley arranged for a discrete wreath laying ceremony at 1000 hours at the Barrie cenotaph. Murray marched the Colour Guard into position prior to Les Ball and Bill Sergeant laying a wreath in honour of all RCAF personnel. Several 441 Huronia Wing members were present at Memorial Square to witness the ceremony while a vintage Cornell

aircraft from Edenvale provided a flypast over the cenotaph at exactly 1000 hrs.

Carole Hartzell visited her brother, Denis Lajoie, and Bill Buck at the IOOF Care Centre in Barrie on the 11th. Together, they watched the Remembrance Day service from Ottawa that was televised on CBC. As can be seen in the picture below, Bill raised his hand in salute as the national anthem was playing.



Art Cameron, Gerry Peppler, Mark Tobin, Sherry Tobin-Green, Bill Sergeant, Monika Sergeant, Andy Galton, Les Ball, Murray Conley and Wally Capsticks at the Cenotaph at Barrie's Memorial Square



Bill Buck and Carole Hartzell's brother Denis LaJoie. Bill is saluting during the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the IOOF, 11 Nov 2021



Bob Coxon saluting after laying a wreath in honour of 441 Wing's members at the Stayner Remembrance Day.

7. As I See It – 441 Wing Padre Doug Crocker

My late father served as a reserve Chaplain with the then Royal Canadian Navy for a number of years beginning in the early 1950's. This meant that his five children had the privilege of occasionally having a window into the life of the armed forces during the early Cold War years. I remember as a young boy on an exciting tour of a ship at the west coast base of Comox learning that the "Officer's Mess" was nothing like what we had to clean up at home. I recall feeling envious that my older brother was invited aboard the deck of a submarine docked at Esquimalt. I suppose they were concerned a seven-year-old could slip off the boat's rounded edge. I also came to learn that the navy trained at inland bases like Edmonton where I was born. In fact, my first introduction to Santa Claus in person was as he rode through the Edmonton training hall high atop a rather noisy fully equipped all terrain military vehicle. Years



The ship on which Chaplain D. L. Crocker (PIII), the father of our Padre, trained in the early 1950's.

later when our family moved to Toronto my father remained attached to the Navy through HMCS York at the Lake Ontario waterfront.

Of course, a child's outside view of the armed forces and the perspective of those serving within are very different things even during times of relative peace. In spite of that, even we, at our young age, sensed something of the strong community that is sustained among those who serve within our Armed Forces. Perhaps most of all it is the profound lesson to be learned from those who put others ahead of themselves. This wasn't just a group of people who happened, as if by accident, to be that way but had worked at and dedicated themselves to a training that aimed at making this a better world for us all.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, communities across the country have been strained in ways quite unfamiliar to most of us including members of the armed forces. Numbering less than one third of one percent of the Canadian population (roughly 100,000), our armed forces have collectively responded to the needs of Canadians in incredibly reassuring ways in long term care homes, in fire ravaged communities and, even as I write, in flood-stricken parts of this beautiful country to mention only that work which happens to make the front page news. To say that we are so very grateful is indeed an understatement.

As padre to the 441 it is a great privilege to serve our Wing in the humble ways

I can. As I do so I cannot help but be reflective of all who have served and continue to serve this nation in which we are so blessed to live. In this season of expectation, it is clear that their special work, their sacrifice for all Canadians and others across the world imparts something of that precious gift of hope.

Warmest wishes to you all!
Rev. H. Douglas L. Crocker, B.A., M.Div.

Editor's note: Padre Crocker is happy to hear from any of our members. In these days of relative social isolation, he invites anyone who would appreciate a listening ear or just wants to say hello to give him a call at (705) 721-0134. Or, if you prefer, you can chat with him by email at <dacrocker@sympatico.ca>

8. RCAF Anniversary Pins:

Following a well-established Borden tradition, commemorative pins were produced again this year to mark the anniversary of the birth of the Royal Canadian Air Force on April 1st, 1924. The tradition of producing buttons or pins featuring a different theme aircraft each year goes back more than three decades in Borden, "Birthplace of the RCAF." Today, the tradition is kept alive through the efforts of RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing, RCAF Association - Barrie.



As this year marked the 75th anniversary of the Consolidated PBY Catalina flying boat being retired from service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, we are paying tribute to those who flew, maintained, and served on-board this aircraft. Between 1941 and 1945, the Catalina flying boat and its amphibious version, the Canso, were used extensively in maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare roles. Flight Lieutenant David Hornell (RCAF) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions involving a Canso aircraft in the North

Atlantic, and Squadron Leader Leonard Birchall gained fame while flying a Catalina in the Pacific theatre when he spotted and reported the Japanese carrier fleet approaching Ceylon. The Catalina was retired from Canadian service in 1946, but its Canso version continued to serve in a Search & Rescue role until 1962.

Planning for selecting the aircraft for the RCAF's 98th Anniversary will take place over the next few months. If you would like to share your ideas for it, please contact Norm Marion.

RCAF 97th Anniversary pins are now for sale at \$5.00 each (+ shipping) through 441 Wing RCAFA. Note that a small selection of previous years' pins is also available. Contact Norm, (705) 686-3941, norm.marion@amtelecom.net

9. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
14 Dec	Christmas Social – see article in this Newsletter	1800 hrs
11 Jan 22	Wing Directors' Meeting at the Legion	1800 hrs
11 Jan 22	Wing General Meeting at the Legion – Guest Speaker TBD	1900 hrs
8 Feb 22	Wing Directors' Meeting at the Legion	1800 hrs
8 Feb 22	Wing General Meeting at the Legion – Guest Speaker Sherry Cullings – RCL Provincial Veterans Svc Officer	1900 hrs
8 Mar 22	Wing Directors' Meeting at the Legion	1800 hrs
8 Mar 22	Wing General Meeting at the Legion – Guest Speaker TBD	1900 hrs
21-23 May 22	Ontario Group AGM – Cornwall, ON	Ramada Inn

10. 441 Wing Christmas Social:

The 441 (Huron) Wing Christmas Social for will be held on Tuesday, December 14th, beginning at 6 pm in the upstairs banquet hall of the Barrie Legion. Dress will be as you wish – jacket and tie or Christmas casual. Any Wing member, or their guest(s), who wishes to donate an item for the prize table, please bring it that evening already in a gift bag. This will be a simple but much needed evening so members can catch up on happenings and also have a bit of fun.

All members and guests attending this in-person event will need to be double vaccinated. Attendees will be checked for vaccination status and need to provide their names and telephone numbers. The number of participants may be limited to whatever is mandated by the Provincial Government for indoor gatherings. There will be chairs spaced out and can be moved.

There will be tables set up but there will be no games this year. Instead, Jane will read a couple of fun stories. During that time of visiting, Cooky, Lorraine, Jane, will be selling draw tickets. The draws will commence after the stories. The first draw will be the 50/50 draw then the tickets will be drawn for the prizes. After the draws, the Closing Ritual will be said, and everyone will go home safely. As people leave, Cooky, Lorraine and Jane will be giving each guest a hand made Christmas ornament as a thank you for attending.

11. RCAF 100th Anniversary Committee:

Our Wing has formed a planning committee for the RCAF's 100th Anniversary in 2024. Some of the events, depending on their size, will be done in

conjunction with the RCAF Association and/or 16 Wing. Ideas that have already been talked about for our Wing: a large scale Mess Dinner'; a choir of RCAF members and Veterans in vintage uniforms; an Air Cadet band in special centennial uniforms that would play concerts throughout 2024, and a Freedom of the City Parade in Barrie (or other community (Coldwater? in this area). The committee consists of Bill Coyle, Wally Capsticks, Murray Conley, Norm Marion, Joep Diening, Randy Rice, Jean Maurice Pigeon, Rob Warman David Farnsworth, and Bill Sergeant. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please let Bill know.

12. TIME CAPSULE: "Alan Arnett McLeod, VC": By Randolph Rice

One hundred and three years after his death, it is hard to put into perspective the life and death of Alan Arnett McLeod, VC. He lived only a very short time and his only contribution to the world at nineteen was his life. So why is it so important he be remembered?

Alan Arnett McLeod was born on 20 April 1899 in Stonewall, Manitoba, Canada. When the Great War erupted in August 1914, he promptly enlisted until the powers to be realized his age and sent him home. McLeod waited patiently until attaining the minimum age desired for military service and then applied for pilot training with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). He was accepted and enlisted on 23 April 1917, fourteen days after **the battle of Vimy Ridge**. He made his first flight on 4 June 1917 at Long Branch, Toronto and after just three hours dual instruction flew his first solo flight on 9 June. After further training at Camp Borden, he was awarded his RFC wings brevet on 31 July 1917.

Alan's first operational unit was with 82 Squadron RFC at Waddington, England where he flew the Armstrong Whitworth FK8 two seat bomber.

In November 1917, McLeod was transferred to 51 Home Defence Squadron. Late November found him at St. Omer as a member of the RFC pilots pool and reporting to 2 Squadron at Hesdigneul, France. There he flew the AWFK 8 known as the "Big Ack", a general-purpose bomber with a top speed of 90 mph in an army co-operation role such as recce and bombing

His enthusiasm and real desire to fly a fighter found him using his bomber as a fighter, strafing trenches and artillery gun sites, so much so his CO called him "a young fire-eater".

On 19 December the young pilot and his gunner observer attacked a formation of eight German Albatross scouts breaking it up and claiming one kill. Later in January 1918 he engaged a German observation balloon, destroyed it while fighting off protective fighters. For this action he and his observer were mentioned in dispatches.



Lt Alan Arnett McLeod, VC



Grave of Lt Alan Arnett McLeod, VC,
Kildonan Cemetery, Winnipeg, MB.

March 1918 was the great German offensive and directly opposite McLeod's 2 Squadron near Amiens was Richthofen's Flying Circus.

On 27 March, seven AWFK 8's of 2 Squadron, including McLeod's with his gunner observer, Lieutenant A.W. Hammond, MC took off for a bombing run on massing German troops. After a fruitless reconnaissance and flying independently, McLeod was about to abandon his sortie when a balloon was spotted below him. He quickly dived to attack, but, before he could get within range, a lone Fokker triplane appeared cruising at about 3000 feet. Immediately, the Canadian pulled his aircraft into a climb to engage the German where Hammond shot it down. The combat had been seen by a loose formation of German Fokkers from the circus who immediately piled down on the bomber to seek their revenge for their lost comrade.

In the ensuing battle, Hammond was wounded three times and McLeod once in the leg. One of the German pilots, Hans Kirchstein maintained a relentless attack on the lone bomber continuously raking it with machine gun fire, damaging the fuselage and setting the fuel tank on fire forcing Hammond to move about the stricken aircraft. The flames burned away the cockpits of the crew and set McLeod's flying boots and coat aflame while his instrument board and control column were engulfed in smoke. Satisfied his victim was doomed, Kirchstein broke off the engagement leaving McLeod to crablike slide slip his aircraft in an attempt to prevent raging flames from reaching Hammond clinging precariously to his Scarff ring gun mounting. All through this ordeal,

McLeod had been controlling the aircraft with the control column from the lower left wing root as most of his cockpit was completely gone.

As McLeod's bomber was rapidly descending to a blazing end, one Fokker followed it down and despite his grievous wounds, Hammond managed a burst into the German and sending him into his own lines.

The blazing bomber crashed in No Man's Land and slithered into a crater. Although wounded in five times, McLeod pulled the unconscious Hammond from the wreck despite knowing his fully bombed up plane could blow them to bits any second. With Hammond on his back, McLeod headed towards friendly lines. In the process he was wounded by shrapnel finally making it to a section of the line and collapsing from loss of blood and exhaustion. For five hours they were unable to move to a dressing station due to the German barrage. Hammond had suffered six wounds and a shattered leg. Finally, after an extensive stretcher borne journey, they arrived at Prince of Wales hospital in London where for several weeks young McLeod lingered near death from his many wounds.

Notified of his son's critical condition, McLeod's father travelled from Canada to spend two months by his side as he slowly recovered.

On 1 May 1918, the London Gazette announced the award of the Victoria Cross to McLeod and on the 4 September wearing the newly introduced RAF uniform and accompanied by his father, he hobbled with two canes to receive his cross from the king. Immediately afterward he was sent home to convalesce, arriving in Winnipeg 30 September 1918.

Gradually his health improved, but in November 1918, the Spanish flu struck Alan Arnett McLeod VC and still visibly weak, he passed away on 6 November. He was buried in Kildonan cemetery, Winnipeg just two days before the armistice in Europe. His courageous companion Hammond recovered from his wounds and was awarded a bar to his MC.

At nineteen years of age, Alan McLeod was the youngest recipient of a VC for aerial operations during 1914-18 war and was only the second youngest air VC of both world conflicts.

NOW YOU KNOW WHY – LEST WE FORGET

13. 2021 Barrie Legion Poppy Campaign:

The Barrie Legion's Poppy Campaign was a tremendous success. They surpassed last year's amount of \$109,000 by collecting \$140,000 this year. This success would not have been possible without the numerous volunteers who dedicated their time. Some of the people who went above and beyond this year were Mary-Florence and Michael Bartley, Bob Burch who was here almost every day, working the phones, taking orders and delivering poppies, as well as Michel Cormier and Ellen Stahls who on many occasions worked 12-hour

days. Local business owners Peter Lorimer and John Tom also provided outstanding assistance and support to the campaign. Another gentleman of note was Mr. Will Dwyer, who at 96 years of age and by himself, collected over \$11,000.00. He and his son Ron kept delivering the money collected on a daily basis.

14. Canada kicks Boeing from jet competition, narrows search to F-35 and Swedish Gripen

The Canadian Press - Wed., December 1, 2021, 5:47 p.m.

OTTAWA — Canada has officially narrowed its decade-long hunt for a new fighter jet to two choices as the federal government confirmed U.S. aerospace giant Boeing's Super Hornet is out of the running to replace the military's aging CF-18s.

The announcement from Public Services and Procurement Canada came nearly a week after The Canadian Press reported the surprise news that Boeing had been told its bid for the \$19-billion contract did not meet Ottawa's requirements.

The Liberal government refused to comment publicly at that time, and there was uncertainty around whether the U.S. aerospace giant had been dropped from the competition to provide Canada with 88 new fighter jets.

But the federal procurement department confirmed in a statement Wednesday, 1 Dec 2022, that Lockheed Martin's F-35 stealth fighter and the Swedish Saab Gripen are the only two aircraft still in contention.

While the statement did not say why Boeing's offer did not make the cut, the fact that one of the two U.S. companies competing for the contract failed to make the final shortlist represents a major turn of events.

"Proposals were rigorously assessed on elements of capability, cost and economic benefits," Public Services and Procurement Canada said. "The evaluation also included an assessment of economic impact."

Many observers had seen the Super Hornet and F-35 as the only real competition because of Canada's close relationship with the United States, which includes using fighter jets together to defend North American air space on a daily basis.

Sweden is not a member of NATO or NORAD, the joint Canadian-American defence command responsible for protecting the continent from foreign threats. That had prompted questions about the Gripen's compatibility with U.S. aircraft.

Both Lockheed Martin and Saab said Wednesday that they looked forward to working with the government during the final stretch of the competition.

Exactly what happens next wasn't immediately clear on Wednesday, with the procurement department saying it will "finalize next steps" in the coming

weeks. However, the department did indicate those steps could involve final negotiations with the top bidder or “entering into a competitive dialogue, whereby the two remaining bidders would be provided with an opportunity to improve their proposals.”

The government is still hoping to award a final contract next year, it added, with the first new aircraft delivered in 2025.

15. Contact Information:

New Wing Mailing Address: 401-200 Collier St, Barrie, ON, L4M 1H7

New Wing E-Mail Address: 441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca

Telephone: 705-481-1453 (messages only)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/441Wing/>

Website: <https://www.rcaf441wing.com/>

16. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2020-2022:

POSITION	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chairman	Bill Sergeant	Newsletter, H&A Committee Member
Deputy Chair	Wally Capsticks	Special Events, H&A Committee Member
Treasurer	Andrea Sloan	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O
Secretary	Andrew Galton	Honours and Awards Committee Chair
Deputy Treas	Michael O'Shea	Fund Raising/Special Projects
Director	Gerry Pepler	RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair
Director	Art Cameron	RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member
Director	Murray Conley	Director of Ceremonies
Director	Joep Dening	Wing Web Master
Director	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director	Randy Rice	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

