



Wing Drift

December 2023

Message from the Chairman

Hello Wing Members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Festive Season with your families & loved ones.

We had some great events over the past two months. The 447 Wing had the honours of hosting the Korean War Veterans' Association Annual Luncheon during the Week of Remembrance (2nd year for us), and the Wing would like to thank HooJung & Don Kennedy for allowing us the opportunity. On November 11th, a small group of our Membership were invited to attend the Ambassadors for Peace Awards Dinner in Mississauga, hosted by the Universal Peace Federation and the Korean War Veterans' Association, honouring Veterans for Peace. Congratulations to Wing members Jack Finan, Michael Curley, P.P. Jim Hooton, P.P. Bill Grahlman, HooJung & Don Kennedy, recipients of the Ambassadors for Peace medal & citation.



Message from the Chairman (Cont'd)

As part of our service to the community, the 447 Wing also held receptions back at the Wing after the Glanbrook Remembrance Service (Nov. 5th) and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Service (Nov. 11th).

Mr. Jack Finan celebrated his 104th Birthday this month and was presented with his 40 Year Service pin by the one person who could entice Jack to join the 447 Wing & the RCAFA those 40 years ago, Past President Aidan Finn.



In addition, a group of Sheridan College students created a short video biography of Jack and his years as a Lancaster pilot. The video was unveiled to the Finan Family and the 447 Wing just before Christmas.

Message from the Chairman (Cont'd)



Breakfast with Santa was ‘a hit’ with the kids. A lot of smiling faces that morning. We would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Claus for taking some time out of their busy schedule and making the flight down from the North Pole.

2024 is the 100th Anniversary year of the Royal Canadian Air Force. To launch this Centennial year, please come to the 447 Wing’s New Years’ Day Levee (1-4pm).

Fly Safe; Stay Healthy.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Cuffe".

Michael Cuffe
Chair, 447 Wing RCAFA

December 2023

Remembrance Day ceremonies held across Golden Horseshoe

CWHM photos by Gus and Clara Corujo

Garrison Parade photos by Gord McNulty

Impressive Remembrance Day ceremonies drew large crowds at events in Hamilton and across the entire Golden Horseshoe to honour all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, have served and are currently serving in Canada's armed forces.

The highlights included the commemoration at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, where 447 Wing was among the organizations represented during the laying of wreaths. A number of veterans were recognized, including Second World War stalwarts Lancaster pilot Jack Finan, Mosquito pilot George Stewart and others.



Second World War Lancaster pilot Jack Finan



Second World War Mosquito pilot George Stewart

RCAF Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Michael Hood, President and CEO of the CWHM Dave Rohrer and Master of Ceremonies David Pridham delivered moving speeches and shared inspiring stories about the veterans.



Lt. Gen (Ret'd) Michael Hood speaking during the ceremony

The CWHM Lancaster made a majestic flypast during the ceremony and RCAF representation also included a Hercules crew from 424 Squadron at CFB Trenton.



The CWHM Lancaster



The Hercules arriving from 424 Squadron, Trenton



The Hercules crew welcomed by CWHM President and CEO David Rohrer

Meanwhile, many attendees gathered in downtown Hamilton for the Remembrance Day Garrison Parade and Service at the Gore Park Cenotaph. The solemn ceremony included a large video display, arranged by the City, that included interviews of veterans.



An excellent display of a veteran interviewed during the 2023 Remembrance Day Commemoration at the Cenotaph

Always an uplifting event for participants and spectators alike, the parade featured the marching bands of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and HMCS Star, as well as veterans and cadets ---- including the Royal Canadian Air Cadets who marched proudly.



The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry band marching on King Street in the 2023 Garrison Parade



The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders marching in Hamilton's Garrison Parade on Remembrance Day



Hamilton's HMCS Star, led by the band, marching in the 2023 Garrison Parade



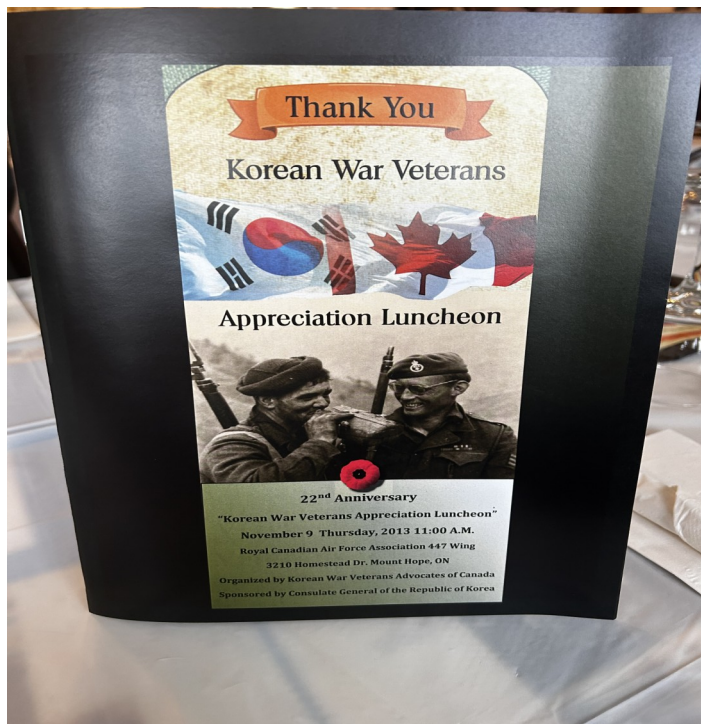
The Royal Canadian Air Cadets marching to the Armoury as the 2023 Garrison Parade concluded

In Toronto, events included the traditional ceremony at the Old City Hall featuring a flypast by three Harvards from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association based in Tillsonburg and a Hercules. The RCAF Association ceremony held at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, adjacent to the monument for LCol. Willam G. Barker, VC, was another highlight among the numerous activities in the area.

Excellent recordings, videos, YouTube coverage, etc. of these outstanding events can be easily Googled and are definitely well worth viewing.

Korean War Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

On November 09, 2023 an appreciation luncheon, organized by the Korean War Veterans Advocates of Canada, was held at 447Wing. Some pictures from the event :





Breakfast with Santa

Some pictures from the annual 447Wing Breakfast with Santa function:



Jack Finan 104th Birthday

Jack Finan celebrated his 104th birthday at 447Wing. Congratulations Jack.



The 447 Wing is OPEN

Sunday & Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday & Wednesday	11:30am to 10:00pm
Thursday & Friday	11:30am to 11:00pm
Saturday	11:30am to 8:00pm

Kitchen Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday	11:30 am to 8:00pm
Thursday & Friday	11:30am to 9:00pm
Saturday	11:30am to 7:00pm

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<https://www.facebook.com/The-447-Wing-140212226825200/>

The Wing Drift is published quarterly. If you have any articles, suggestions, etc for future editions, they can be sent to the 447 Wing email address (447winghamilton@gmail.com).

447(City of Hamilton) Board of Directors 2022– 2024

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447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents***

Aiden Finn CD	(1983)
Gord Rowland	(1995—1998)
Judy Brown	(2000, 2008)
6 Presidents served during	(2003 & 2005)
Bill Grahlman CD	(2008-2017)
Jim Hooton CD	(2017-2019)



Bill Whiteside	(1962)
Russ Newton	(1963,81,91)
Jim Robbins CD	(1964-65)
Carl Whaley CMCD	(1966)
Sterling McAllister CD	(1967)
Doug Thornewell	(1968)
Ken Lenz	(1969, 1975)
Bill Carey	(1970)
Innes Anderson	(1971)
Sid George	(1972)
Ken Read	(1973)
Bob Hayes	(1974)
Bill Thompson	(1976)
Rob Gillies	(1977)
Nels Smith CD	(1978, 1984)
Jack Lightfoot	(1979)
Scott Lumsden	(1980)
Syd Buckles	(1982)
Alex Barrett DFC	(1985)
Clare Hansen	(1986, 1994)
Harry Rasmussen	(1988-89)
Bob Hide	(1990)
Bill Ryckman	(1992-93)
Arthur Young	(2004,2006)
Harry VanZeben	(1997-99,2001-02)
Frank A. Begley	(2007)

IN MEMORIAM





MISSION STATEMENT

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization to: commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have 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 programme.