



Happy Canada Day



***Royal Canadian Air Force Association
441 (Huron) Wing Inc.
July - August 2023 Newsletter***

Vol 7 Edition 4



1. RCAF Association Mission Statement:

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. Chairman's Message:

As we enter the summer, during which the Wing will not be meeting, I would like to thank our members for all that they have done to assist the Wing with its mission. We have been one of the most active Wings by continuing to carry out the mandate of the RCAFA by not only supporting aviation related activities and the Air Cadets, but by supporting others in need. Whether it was organizing the Charter and Awards Dinner, gardening at Ad Astral Place or being part of its Board of Directors, fundraising by selling the 99th Anniversary lapel pins or Kiwanis tickets; your contributions are appreciated. Well done and thank you. Per Ardua Ad Astra.

3. Last Flight: Zbigniew (Stanley) Bieniawski – March 25, 1926 - May 12, 2023



Stanley was born in Bieniawa, Poland, the 3rd youngest of 5 children, His early life was an ongoing struggle for survival amidst the oppression of World War II where as a young boy in 1940, only 13, he and his family were rounded up by the Russian invaders and sent by cattle car to Siberian work camps. In June 1941 they were no longer prisoners of Siberia and set free. From there they were transported south to Uzbekistan state where the Polish Army formed. At 14 Stanley joined the Polish Army Cadets. Stanley was then shipped to Persia (Iran) and then to Iraq, Jordan and Palestine where he joined the Polish Military Academy.

Through unflinching perseverance and what can only be described as a journey through Hell. Stanley volunteered for the Polish Air Force as there was a great demand for aircrew and two weeks later, he boarded a troop ship in Port Alexandria, Egypt to England. His family joined him soon after. Stanley quickly joined the RAF as an aircraft technician and supported the second wave on D-Day and after the war trained as a tail gunner on the Lancaster Bomber.

In England he met the love of his life, Marysia (Maria/Mary) (nee Kunicka). They were married in 1949 and soon after welcomed their first child, a boy, Waldemar (Wally) followed by Janina (Janet) in 1953 and Christopher in 1954. Seeking a better life for his family, Stanley brought his young family to Canada in 1955. His passion for airplanes soon landed him a job at DeHavilland Aircraft in Downsview, ON where he quickly rose from an assembler to inspector. He worked hard all his life, sometimes holding down two jobs to make ends meet and to follow his Canadian dream. He passed this work ethic on to his children. When he and Mary became more settled in their new home, they were blessed with a 4th child in 1960, a girl, Bernadette (Bibi).

Stanley loved airplanes and in the 1960's got his Private Pilot's License where he was able to fulfill his dream of flying. During a long layoff at DeHavilland, he moved the family to Victoria BC, where he drove a bus before returning to Toronto to work for McDonnell Douglas in Malton.

Later in life he was an active member in the Royal Canadian Air Force Association 441 Wing as well as 430 Polish Warsaw Wing, Knights of Columbus, and the Canadian Air Crew Association. Stanley was the Vice President of the 441 Wing. He attended many Veteran Memorial parades and events during the years where he made sure the Polish people were remembered for their major part in freedom. He always made sure the Polish flag flew high. He will be remembered as a man who loved life and was passionate about family and friends.

Stanley is survived by his wife of 73 years Mary, his 4 children, Wally (Janet Simmons), Janina (Janet) (Michael Long), Christopher and Bernadette (Bibi) and his youngest sister, Czesia. His 7 grandchildren, Taryn, Adam, Julia, Andrea, Dennis, Jay, Christine, and his 6 great-grandchildren, Emma, Owen, Finn, Drew, Vivienne and Jacob. Memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer Society of Canada and Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust in Stanley's name. A Memorial Mass was held at St. Eugene de Mazenod Church, Brampton on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 10:30 AM which was followed by his inurnment and a reception. Mary was presented with Stanley's RCAFA 20-year membership pin at the reception by Peter Levedag and Bill Sergeant.

Last Flight: Marilyn Louise Sloan (nee Field) - Sept 11, 1934 – June 19, 2023

Marilyn died peacefully at home aged 88, survived by her beloved husband & companion of 67 years, W. Alan Sloan, and children Glenda Sloan (Wolfgang Guier), Megan Kulkarni (late Amit), Andrea Sloan and Richard Sloan.



From a very young age she chose pharmacy as a career and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1956 with 2 gold medals for academic excellence, moving to the Sault in 1961. Hardworking and charitable, she served the people of Sault Ste. Marie for many years as a pharmacist, and after retirement volunteered as a literacy teacher for Program Read, at Rebound North and at the Algoma Public Health flu shot clinic. She was very active at St. Andrew's United Church. She touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

The funeral was held at Arthur Funeral Home - Barton & Kiteley Chapel (492 Wellington St. East, 705-759-2522) on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 with Rev. Phil Miller officiating. Everyone is invited to view the service online and it can be viewed anytime up to 90 days, go to www.funeraweb.tv and select Marilyn's name. Memorial donations (payable by check or online) made to the United Way of Sault Ste. Marie, Heart & Stroke Foundation or St. Andrew's United Church would be appreciated by the family.

4. Honours and Awards:

Congratulations to Jean-Maurice Pigeon in recognition of his 21 years as a member of the RCAF Association. Due to Covid in 2022 and his busy volunteer schedule, he was not able to attend the 441 Wing meetings in person until our meeting on 13 June. On the right, he is pictured being presented with his 20-Year Membership Pin from Wing Chair Bill. Jean Maurice is involved with the redesign of the Base Borden Military Museum's Air Annex and its displays as part of the RCAF's 100th Anniversary.



5. Canadian Flag and RCAF Ensign at Half Mast at Ad Astral Place:

The flags at Ad Astral Place were lowered to half-mast in honour of the two RCAF who were killed in the CH-147F Chinook helicopter crash near Garrison Petawawa on 20 June 2023. It crashed into the Ottawa River during a night training exercise just after 12 a.m. on Tuesday. The bodies of the two pilots reported missing after the crash were recovered from the water Tuesday evening.

On Friday, the RCAF identified the victims as Capt. David Domagala of Woodstock, Ont. and Capt. Marc Larouche of Amos, Que.

6. 16 Wing Change of Command Ceremony:



16 Wing Change of Command - L-R – 16 Wing CWO Jeff Rusconi, outgoing WComd Col Darryl Taylor, 2 CAD CWO Marlene Shillingfordi, Comd 2 CAD BGen John Alexander, Incoming WComd Col Gabriel Doré - 23 June 2023

On 23 June, a Change of Command ceremony for 16 Wing took place in the Waterloo Officers' Mess ballroom. The ceremony, presided over by 2 Canadian Air Division Commander Brigadier-General John Alexander, saw Colonel Gabriel Doré assume the duties of Commander of 16 Wing from Colonel Darryl Taylor. Base Borden command teams, 16 Wing unit leadership, 16 Wing Fellowship members, Honorary Colonels, family and other invited guests were in attendance, with an additional audience viewing the ceremony virtually on Zoom. Colonel Taylor, who is heading to Ottawa to become the Director-General Aerospace Equipment Program Management, has been serving as the Commander of 16 Wing since July 2021. Although his time as Commander was relatively brief, he left a positive impact at the Wing and was one of 441 Wing's most eloquent speakers.

7. Ontario Group AGM – 19-21 May 2023:

The 71st Ontario Group AGM was hosted by 447 Wing in Hamilton at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel. Chair Bill and Jane Connolly attended. There are only 20 Wings out of the original 56 still active however, only twelve (12) Wings

attended. During the AGM, the first two motions presented by 441 Wing were accepted for forwarding to National; the motion regarding the reinstatement of the Air Force Cross and Air Force Medal and the motion to clarify whether National Awards can be presented posthumously. The motion regarding an RCAFA scholarship for Air Cadets to take a remotely piloted vehicle (drone) course was sent back to have more detail provided. Bill updated the membership regarding the proposed RCAFA Ontario Cairn. The Cairn is to have the crests of the original 56 Ontario Wings and is to be placed at the National Air Force Museum in Trenton. Ontario Group is petitioning National to have the cairn approved. Once approved, 441 Wing will be providing monetary support to pay for the Cairn as per the motion at the June Members' meeting.

8. New Membership incentive:

We are recruiting new members for the RCAF Association and for 441 Wing in particular. The National Executive Council (NEC) is offering two (2) years of National membership for the cost of one (1) year. This offer is for new members only to the RCAFA who sign-up this year. We have a number of people who are planning to join our Wing and take advantage of this offer.

9. RCAF 100th Anniversary Projects:

Tulips:



Four Fringed, Feathered and Flying Tulips specially selected to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Pre-Sales begin in May of 2023, for delivery in the Fall and Blooming in 2024. Every Donation of \$20 to the Canadian Tulip Legacy receives 16 Blended RCAF Bulbs.



Flight of Fancy Tulip Bulb Blend



TRAINER (Hamilton)



SNOWBIRD (White Triumphant)



RESCUE (Flaming Parrot)



FLYERS (Red Wing)

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David Farnsworth has been in touch with the Mona Boyd of the city of Barrie to see if the Wing can order a batch of these tulips through them at a reduced price (\$0.50), when compared with the price being quoted by the RCAF 100 committee (\$0.78). This would be a fund raiser for the Wing. If you are interested in ordering tulips for delivery in Sept – Oct, please let David know how many - bavo572@gmail.com.

CT-133443 Aircraft and Parkette at the Former 441 Wing Building:

Although the T-33 has not been transferred from Crown Assets Disposal to the possession of Springwater Township yet, we are optimistic that this will occur. We have talked to a number of people about volunteering to assist with the restoration of the aircraft, they are all eager to help. We are also looking for hangar space to conduct the restoration in. On the site preparation side, the work has started and is scheduled to be completed by mid July other than the signage and furniture. The concrete pad is complete, a dozer is on site and fill has been delivered, irrigation goes in after that and sod scheduled in 2 weeks after that. The educational panels are being reviewed and will be revised accordingly. There is plenty of work for volunteers if you are interested in helping out with this project.

Banners:

Each year the city of Barrie runs two banner series – one in the spring/ summer and another one around Remembrance Day. They can accommodate RCAF Association memorial banners in the Spring of 2024 by creating a smaller grouping of 13 banners in areas that do not disrupt the flow of the designs from the larger campaigns they run. There would be 5 at City Hall, 5 at the library and an additional 3 at the Tiffin Street/Lakeshore. Each of them being a lovely grouping to create a meaningful impact. The banners would be 48” x 168” and would cost about \$200 per banner. The banners are only single sided.



- If Wing members already have the images, and the veterans are not currently part of the city’s Remembrance Day series, they would love to add them to that campaign. Each Fall they honour our local veterans with a beautiful display. A sample is on the left.
- There is a page on the Barrie.ca website that is dedicated to honouring the military and showcases some of the ways in which the city does that in our community. If the veterans from 441 or 429 Wing are not currently included in the Barrie’s Fallen listing, they would encourage you to include them here as well:

<https://www.barrie.ca/community-recreation-environment/heritage/honouring-military>

If you would like to purchase a banner, please let David Farnsworth or Bill Sergeant know by the end of July. We would need to have orders for the 13 banners in order to make this endeavour worthwhile.

10. Wing Fund Raisers:

Thank you to the members of 441 Wing who sold the Barbecue Raffle tickets on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Barrie. (License #M856122). Our Wing sold 10 books of tickets and will receive half of the funds that were raised for the tickets

that we sold as a donation from Kiwanis. Thanks goes to Bob Debling, Wally Capsticks, Greg Merrill, Jean Maurice Pigeon, Sherry Tobin-Green, and Bill Sergeant for selling tickets. The prize winners from the draw on Monday, 26 June 2023 were:

1. Freezer, Barbecue, 48 – 6 oz. Filet Mignon, 48 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, Box of Peameal Bacon, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox's Bakery - \$400 Winner - #1446 – Jeff McIlravey
2. Barbecue, 24 – 12 oz. New York Steaks, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox's Bakery - \$250 Winner - #1222 – Kerry Andrews
3. Barbecue, 24 – Box of Peameal Bacon, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox's Bakery - \$225 Winner - #2060 – Chantelle Vroom
4. Barbecue, 1 Box Regular Bacon, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox's Bakery - \$200 Winner - #1565 – Graeme Thomas
5. Gift Cards – DJ Meats \$250, Fox's Bakery \$250 Winner - #1492– D. McIlravey
6. Gift Cards – DJ Meats \$200, Fox's Bakery \$200 Winner - #1702 – Charley Peebles

11. 441 (Huronion) Wing represented at Barrie Air Show

Members of 441 (Huronion) Wing RCAFA were on hand to "show the flag" for the RCAF Association during the Barrie Air Show on 10–11 June. Thank you to Murray Conley, Norm Marion, Andrea Sloan and Bill Sergeant for selling 70 pins, mostly of the 99th Anniversary pins. Thank you to the RCAF 100 committee and the 16 Wing Air Reserve Flight for letting us use space in their tents to publicize the RCAF Association and sell the pins.



Here is the current inventory of the remaining RCAF anniversary pins:

92nd Anniversary (2016)	"Beech Expeditor"	Quant. 141
93rd Anniversary (2017)	"Curtiss JN-4"	Quant. 42
95th Anniversary (2019)	"Sea King"	Quant. 3
96th Anniversary (2020)	"Boeing 707"	Quant. 23
97th Anniversary (2021)	"Catalina/Canso"	Quant. 8
99th Anniversary (2023)	"Fleet Cornell"	Quant. 79
		TOTAL: 296

The RCAF 99th Anniversary pins are still 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 Marion, (705) 686-3941, norm.marion@amtelecom.net

12. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
23 June	16 Wing Change of Command Ceremony – Col Darryl Taylor hands over to Col Gabriel Doré	1000 hrs
09 Aug	Cdn Peacekeepers – 75 th Anniversary Parade - Angus	TBD
12 Aug	Edenvale – Gathering of the Classics Open House	All day
20 Aug	The 2022 Warriors' Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition in commemoration of its 100th Anniversary	1030 hrs
11 Sept	Battle of Britain Flag Raising – Barrie City Hall	1000 hrs
12 Sept	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Mtg (In person at the Legion)	1800 hrs
12 Sept	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting	1900 hrs
17 Sept	Battle of Britain Flag Parade – 16 Wing Borden	TBD
10 Oct	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Meeting	1800 hrs
10 Oct	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting	1900 hrs
13 Oct	Ceremony Honouring AC2 Stanley Peacock at St. James’ Anglican Cemetery, Orillia	1 100 hrs

13. TIME CAPSULE: The RCAF, Air Transport Command and the North

By Randolf Rice

Canada’s north is a vast and inhospitable land of extremes. It does not take but a few hours in flying time to find oneself in the Arctic, high Arctic, or the most northern regions of Canada. Most Canadians will never venture into it. However, for many Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) members, past and present, the north was and is a significant part of their career.

The first major operation to the north involving RCAF aircraft and personnel was the Hudson Strait Expedition of 1927. The task of these early northern flyers was to seek out suitable ice-free shipping lanes through the northern straits. The aircraft they piloted were Fokker Universal monoplanes. The aircraft had open cockpits – due to the fact headquarters believed enclosed cockpits would hinder visibility (not to mention extreme exposure by the crew to weather). Navigation aids were few – probably the best navigational aid carried by the crew was the Inuit who led them over the ice to safety after their aircraft crashed landed. The trek took 13 days.

At the end of the Second World War, No. 9 Transport Group was formed at RCAF Station Rockcliffe and inherited the responsibilities for Arctic activities. Later, the group became Air Transport Command (ATC) and Dakotas gave way to North Stars and Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcars. These aircraft were an important part of Canada's presence in the far north. Aerial photography and mapping became the flavour of the fifties with crews flying Lancasters ranging north to sub-Arctic areas.

When Alert was established as early as 1950 and a military installation (CFS Alert) in 1958, it became necessary to keep it supplied and thus ATC was tasked. This responsibility came with risks associated with flying into such a remote area. In 1950 a Lancaster crashed on approach killing all passengers and crew. Forty-one years later, on 30 October 1991 a CC-130 aircraft crashed during the Boxtop 22 mission, killing four personnel.

In addition to supporting CFS Alert, the RCAF also flies into Yellow Knife, Resolute (Bay) and other numerous Arctic locations when required. With the urgency to assert our Arctic Sovereignty, the transport aircraft of the RCAF are called upon to move soldiers and equipment to participate in northern exercises. One of the major exercises of the last century was "Operation Caesar" which took place in January of 1983. After equipment, stores and paratroopers were dropped an airstrip was built a few hundred km's south of the North Pole and was used to airlift everything out on completion of the exercise.

The author was one member of a team of Airborne Engineers who flew from Trenton to Resolute in April 1982 to conduct a reconnaissance for the January operation. He recalls after the loading of the CC-130 in Trenton with supplies consisting of ammunition, explosives, and assorted fuels. The load master was overheard to say "this is a flying bomb".

The risk to aircraft and crews who fly in such an adverse and unpredictable climate has not diminished and continues to be uppermost in everyone's minds during all operations regardless of their size.

Lest We Forget.

14. 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:

The Battle of Britain Flag Raising is planned to take place at Barrie City Hall on Monday, 11 Sept, 2023 at 1000 hrs. We are also planning to commemorate the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain with a ceremony at 16 Wing Borden on Sunday, 17 Sept 2022. The ceremony is being coordinated by Murray Conley and will feature the Wing Colour Guard consisting of Murray, Andrea Sloan, Randy Rice, Les Ball, Andrew Galton, and Wally Capsticks along with participation by military personnel from 16 Wing, the RCL #147 Barrie, and local Cadet organizations.

15. Contact Information:

Wing Mailing Address: 77 Violet St, Barrie, ON, L4N 9N3

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 2023-2024/5:

The four Wing members who were nominated to stand for election as a Director

were acclaimed at our May meeting. Since only three of those four directors were able to attend the Members' meeting on Tuesday, 13 June, the installation of the acclaimed directors has been postponed till the 12 Sept meeting. The Board will also choose who will fill which of the four vacant positions. The installation will be done by Les Ball.

Previous Fiscal Year Board Positions:

POSITION-TIME	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chairman-2023	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-2023	Vacant	Fund Raising/Special Projects
Director-2023	Gerry Pepler	RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair
Director-2023	Art Cameron	RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member
Director-2024	Murray Conley	Director of Ceremonies
Director-2024	Joep Dening	Wing Web Master
Director-2023	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director-2024	Randy Rice	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre



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