



*Royal Canadian Air Force Association
RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Inc.
January – February 2025 Newsletter*

Vol 9 Edition 1



2024 – Happy New Year – 2025

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:

Happy New Year everyone. As we look back at 2024, members of our Wing can be proud of how it celebrated the 100th anniversary of the RCAF. The events included the RCAF Centennial Ball in Collingwood; the RCAF 100th Anniversary lapel pin featuring the Siskin aircraft; the RCAFA Ontario Group AGM and raising funds for the RCAFA Cairn in Trenton; the week-long Bradford West-Gwillimbury RCAF celebrations with panel discussions and a parade; the Barrie Air Show; the 84th commemoration of the Battle of Britain parade; the dedication of the MGen (ret'd) Richard Rohmer Rondel in Barrie's Military Heritage Park and the roundabout at Georgian College; and the project to obtain and refurbish the CT-133443 Silver Star aircraft for the RCAF Centennial Parkette at the site of the former 441 Wing building on Highway 90 west of Barrie, thanks to Rudy Mak. Another special project was the honouring of 40 RCAF veterans or long-standing members of RCAFA 441 Wing with banners that hung in Barrie's city hall during the spring and in November. The dedication ceremonies for the banners were well attended and they received great television coverage on our local CTV Barrie News. PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

3. Wing Christmas Social:

A great time was had by all at the Wing's Christmas Social held at the Barrie Legion on Wednesday, Dec 18, 2024. The theme was the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF and members were asked to wear items of their old uniform or bring in memorabilia to display. Members and spouses from 441 Wing, 429 Georgina Wing, as well as special guests Michael and Linda McAlear and former Mayor and HCol (Emeritus) Janice Laking enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon organized by Randy Rice and his committee.

Prior to the buffet luncheon that was prepared the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary, Michaela sold the tickets for the door prizes and the 50/50 draws. The table centre pieces consisted of hand-made wooden Christmas trees and decorative bird houses that were made by Wanda and Michaela. The person sitting in a



The fun-filled afternoon was enjoyed by all.

chair with yellow dot won the bird house. There were also elaborate displays of RCAF memorabilia that members brought in, including an original copy of the London, England, 'V-Day' newspaper from 8 May 1945. Along with the numerous model aircraft, there were copies of the 40 RCAF Centennial banners, and items of interest from when our members served in the RCAF/CF/CAF.



The Christmas spirit was alive and well with Wally Capsticks and Ron McKay as they talked with MP Doug Shipley.

During the afternoon, MP Doug Shipley, a Wing member, dropped in to pass on his Christmas greetings and wish our members well in the New Year. It provided an opportunity for several of our members to get caught up with Doug and ask him about the chaotic week in Ottawa this week with the resignation of Chrystia Freeland, the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on the 16th. Michaela and Randolph then conducted the draws for the door prizes which included the model aircraft that were hand made and donated by Terry Barton; as well as hand soaps and lotion; and CF-105 Avro Arrow memorabilia. The 50/50 was won by Sandy Ellis.



Joan Kell was the lucky winner of a CF-100 model aircraft



Art Cameron won the model of the Harvard aircraft

For a fun activity, Randy handed out sheets of coloured construction paper and asked that each person create their best paper airplane design. He then called up each table, one at a time, to toss their planes, with the ones that went the farthest getting a prize. Many planes did loops on takeoff, but a few went 20' or more. Andy Galton's paper aircraft went clear across the banquet room and was the hands down winner.



The paper airplane game was a hit and Andy Galton won the distance toss.

The Wing would like to thank Randy and his committee for the fun filled afternoon. It was a great way to start the Christmas season for all in attendance. The Committee members were presented with a commemorative RCAF Centennial 'Twoonie' in keeping with the theme for the afternoon. Pictured below are: Monika Sergeant, Wanda Beaudoin, R. Gordon Rice, Tammy Dupuis, Bill Sergeant, Karen Cuthbertson, and Michaela Jakobi.



4. Burning the Mortgage for Project 441 Non-Profit Home Corporation:

After enjoying the meal at the Christmas Social, Former Mayor and HCol (Emeritus) Janice Laking was called upon to speak about the day that the Project 441 Non-Profit Home Corporation (Ad Astral place) was officially opened on 19 May 1989. The 50-unit complex was originally meant to be a “retirement accommodation for RCAF veterans” with the members of 441 (Hurononia) Wing forming the Board of Directors, which they still do today. The mortgage for Project 441 was paid off on 1 April 2024 and a copy of the mortgage was burned at the meeting. Acting Project 441 Chair Art Cameron took the opportunity to thank Michael McAlear of Progressive Management and Consulting for overseeing the day-to-day management of the housing complex for the past 20+ years. When he took over, there were several issues that needed to be fixed. Michael took care of those and has set the project up for success as he retires on 31 December 2024. Art presented him with an honorarium as a sincere thank you on behalf of the Wing for all that he has done. We wish him well in the future.



MP Edna Anderson, Mayor Janice Laking, MPP Bruce Owen, and Wing Pres. Ken Mitchell cutting a ribbon to open Ad Astral Place.



The Project 441 Board of Directors: Norm Marion, Andrea Sloan, Michael, A/Chair Art Cameron, Tammy Dupuis, Murray Conley, and Wally Capsticks with Michael McAlear, Wing Chair Bill Sergeant and Janice Laking burning the mortgage on 18 Dec '24

5. Honours and Awards:

Within 441 (Huronion) Wing, we have numerous members who have actively supported the Wing to achieve its mission and goals in 2024. Please take time to nominate these deserving members for Wing, Provincial or National awards such as Member of the Year, Award of Merit or a Certificate of Appreciation by sending your nominations to Andy Galton, at <galtonandrew1@gmail.com>.



Bill Sergeant presenting the Coronation medal to Norm Marion on behalf of the RCAFA



The medal being presented to Wayne Hay by MP Doug Shipley & MPP Doug Downey



Randolph Rice being awarded the medal by MP Doug Shipley and MPP Doug Downey



Jean Maurice Pigeon awarded the medal by MP Doug Shipley and MPP Doug Downey

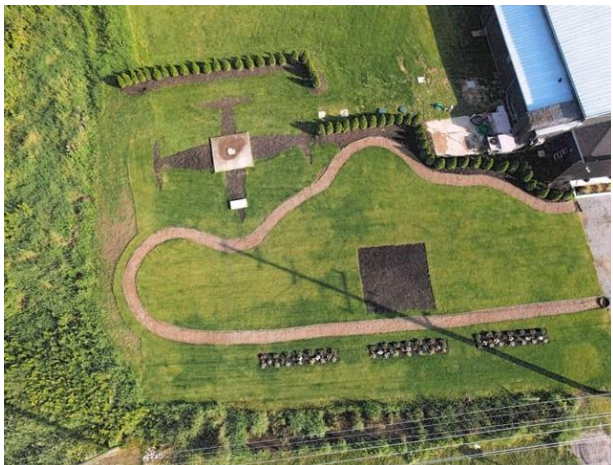
Six 441 (Huronion) Wing members have been honoured by being awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal by their MP, MPP or the RCAFA for their

outstanding contributions to their communities. These advocates, innovators and philanthropists were nominated by their peers and members of the communities they serve as an acknowledgment of their incredible impacts. Congratulations to Norm Marion, HCol Wayne Hay, Randolph Gordon Rice, Jean Maurice Pigeon, Murray Conley and Bill Sergeant. There are some other Coronation medals being awarded that have not been announced yet.

6. RCAF Centennial Parkette Dedication:

In December 2022, Rudy Mak approached Bill Sergeant and the members of 441 (Huron) Wing about a project to honour the RCAF's 100th Anniversary. Rudy had purchased the property that had been the former home of 441 Wing from 1981 – 2008 and had had the original T-33 "Red Knight" on display. Rudy's respect for the RCAF and motivation for the project hails from his parent's accounts of living in the occupied Netherlands during the war and the liberation of the county by the Canadians. Their account of the RCAF food drops, on their own, saved countless lives. Rudy was born in Arnhem, the Netherlands, and immigrated to Canada when he was five.

His vision was for a small park that would honour the full 100-year history of the RCAF and to return an iconic T-33 to its former home. The logistics of the acquisition of the retired CT-133443 aircraft from Base Borden was shepherded through a complicated process by Michael Lindsay, an aircraft restoration expert. Michael started the application in January 2023 and final approval for "disposal" came in late Nov 2023. With the enthusiastic support of 441 Wing, Rudy Mak, Bill Sergeant, and Dr. Andrew Gregory, Director of the CFB Borden Museums, made a deputation at Springwater Township Council meeting in December 2023 to enable the development of the project. Springwater council strongly supported the project.



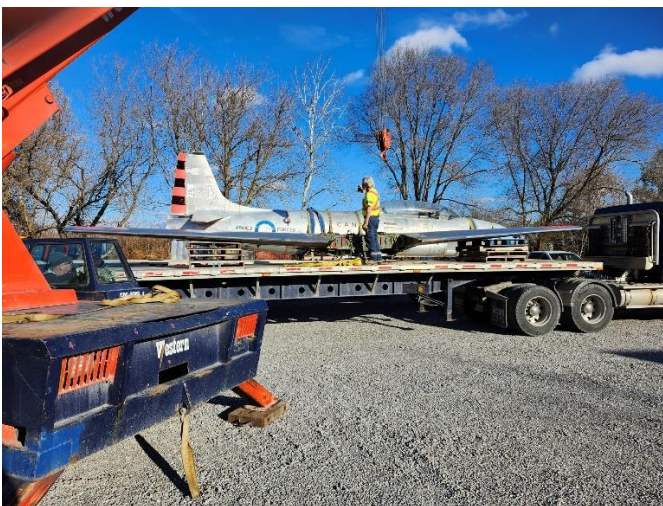
During the RCAF 100th anniversary year, site preparation was completed including landscaping, lighting, gardens, flag poles, and seven display plaques around a walkway with each detailing a different aspect of the 100-year history of the RCAF. Volunteers from 441 Wing and other RCAF veterans came together

to work on CT-133443, which had been resting at Base Borden for about 25 years, to prepare it for the proper RCAF disposal as a display aircraft. Michael Lindsay coordinated every aspect and instructed this amazing group of dedicated people through the demilitarization process, transport, and re-assembly. The aircraft fuselage and wings were transported on separate flatbed trucks on November 18th by the crew from Western Mechanical and Larry Eisses from Barrie and re-assembled it at the back of the original Dunlop Street site of 441 Wing.



The volunteers then spent another two days cleaning and preparing the aircraft for its final move to the concrete pads on the parkette site. Due to the weather, we were unable to complete the full restoration until the spring of 2025, since we required a minimum of 15-degree Celsius weather for painting it and applying the 1958 – 1965 RCAF T-33 decal package.

Silver Star 21443 was taken on strength by the RCAF in September 1954 (70 years ago) and saw service at RCAF Station Namao (1965), CFB Downsview (1970), and then used by AETE in Cold Lake before being stored at the Air Maintenance Development Unit at CFB Mountain View in 1995. It was then used by CFSATE, 16 Wing Borden from 1998 to 2006 as a groundcrew maintenance trainer before being parked near the Base Borden Military Museum's Air Annex.



Acknowledgements:

This RCAF Centennial Project is meant to prominently display the proud history of the RCAF to the people of Springwater Township and to the members and veterans of 16 Wing. The following people and organizations helped complete the Parkette and contributed to the restoration of CT-133443 Silver Star: Rudy Mak Surveying Ltd., Kristen Nobles, Col Gabriel Doré, LCol Terry Wong, Michael Lindsay, Dr. Andrew Gregory, Andy Traill, Rich Vellinga, Western Mechanical/Larry Eisses, Eisses Bros/Mike Eisses, Darren Eisses and Karl Eisses, RCAFA 441 Wing members Wally Capsticks, Murray Conley, Art Cameron, Kent Smerdon, Terry Barton, Les Ball, Greg Merrill, Andrea Sloan, Mark Tobin, Tammy Dupuis, Les Racicot, HCol Wayne Hay, HCol Rory Mackinnon, and Bill Sergeant.



LCol Terry Wong presented Rudy Mak with one of the 100 special RCAF Centennial coins given out by LGen Eric Kenny, Comd RCAF while HCol Rory MacKinnon, Jennifer Armstrong, Wayne Hay and WCWO Robert Peldjak look on.



Guest of Honour Art Cameron cutting the ribbon to officially open the RCAF Centennial Parkette, ably assisted by MPP Doug Downey, MP Doug Shipley, Rudy Mak, Bill Sergeant, Springwater Deputy Mayor George Cabral and LCol Wong.

The Parkette was dedicated on Friday, 6 December 2024 at Rudy Mak's Surveying Ltd at 732 Dunlop St, W, Barrie. The 441 (Huronion) Wing Colour Guard escorted Guest of Honour, Capt (ret'd) Art Cameron and his wife Else, into the hall where over 60 people had gathered. Speeches by the VIPs present took place prior to the ribbon cutting to officially open the Parkette. The guests were then treated to a sumptuous buffet while exchanging their experiences about flying or working on the venerable T-33 Silver Star.

7. New Wing Members Inducted:

Ontario Group Past President Les Ball inducted our newest members Debbie Merrill, Karen Cuthbertson, and Gary Miner into 441 Wing at our Members' Meeting on 12 November 2024. These members are great additions to our Wing and have already actively supported the Wing at various events. Also seen in this picture are our Membership Chair Andrea Sloan and Wing Chair Bill Sergeant.



8. Wing Fund Raisers:

“Dinner for 2 Anywhere in the World” Tickets:

Bob Debling has books of tickets for members to sell. They are \$10.00 each or a \$100.00 for a book of 11 tickets. Contact Bob to purchase tickets or to sell tickets. He can be reached via email <robert.debling@sympatico.ca> or phone 705-737-4765. Last year, the Wing received a donation of \$2,500 from the Kiwanis Club of Barrie as a tribute to Michael O'Shea and to support our Air Cadet Sqns. Ticket stubs and funds are due back to Bob no later than 1 Feb 2025 or you can bring them to our January 14th meeting.

9. Upcoming Changes to the RCAF Association:

The following was written by David Farnsworth, who is the RCAFA National Committee Vice Chairperson and an active member of 441 Wing.

I am sharing it with you because David has been working hard on our behalf to make the Association stronger as we enter the new year. Dean Black, RCAFA Executive Director and Wendy (Wenjun) Song are retiring from the National Officer on 31 January 2025. The plan is to have the office transition to a virtual office and a digital magazine.

LCol (ret'd) Brook Bangsboll will be taking over as the RCAFA Executive Director as of 1 February 2025. Chuck Lavallo resigned as Chair of the Board. Terry Chester has agreed to step in as Chair.

Rudy Mak and I are working on a plan to have 20 business associates donate \$7,500.00 each per year for 3 years to stabilize the association. Rudy has also made a proposal to have the Revue Airforce Magazine be issued in a digital version in the future with more advertising to raise funds to pay for it. In addition, I reached out to Steve Wallace and friends who are lottery professionals. They have agreed to put a strategy together so the association should be able to raise \$100,000 per year within three years. These initiatives should give us the time to "right the ship". It should also give us the time to find corporate sponsors to take additional pressure off our budgetary requirements. Tell the folks at the Wing to keep the faith. I am doing my best!



10. Upcoming Wing Activities:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 14 Jan 25 | Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion | 1800 hrs |
| 14 Jan 25 | Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion Guest speaker – Sleeping Children Around the World Distribution in Rwanda by Joep Diening. | 1900 hrs |
| 11 Feb | Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion | 1800 hrs |
| 11 Feb | Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion – Guest speaker – TBD | 1900 hrs |
| 11 Mar | Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion | 1800 hrs |
| 11 Mar | Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion – Guest speaker – TBD | 1900 hrs |
| 28 Mar | Celebration at Edenvale to mark the 80 th anniversary of the closing of 1 Service Flying Training School Borden – Volunteers needed. | Day Long Event |
| TBC | 441 Wing Charter and Awards Banquet | TBC |

11. 80th Anniversary of the Closing of No. 1 Service Flying Training School:
 Mark your calendars for the 28th of March. That is the day that the Edenvale Classic Aircraft Foundation (ECAAF) is planning a celebration to mark the 80th Anniversary of the closing of Number 1 Service Flying Training School. ECAAF is a flying museum dedicated to the preservation of Canadian Aviation History, which fits perfectly with the mandate of the RCAF Association. They are looking for volunteers to assist them in putting on this important commemorative event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Murray Conley at <fayeandmurray@gmail.com>.

12. TIME CAPSULE: "Sqn Ldr Robert Keith Tailyour AFC": by Randolf Rice

There is no shortage of RCAF history in Simcoe County, of which Borden is the centerpiece. Many people do not realize that post the Great War, Borden was a very active Air Station. In fact, during 1921, 375 officers and 835 airmen completed training courses at the "School of Aviation" at Borden in the fledgling Canadian Air Force. There were 7,292 training flights and 313 communication flts, for a total of 2,847.45 hours, done in all types of weather.



Tailyour's Medals - AFC, Queen's South Africa Medal with 4 Clasps, Great War Medal



Avro 504D 'G-CYEI' started life in the Canadian Air Force on 27 October 1921.

Squadron Leader Tailyour was a member of the Canadian Air Force, after having served in the Royal Flying Corp in the First World War where he was awarded the Air Force Cross for services rendered to aviation during the Great War. He was also awarded the Great War Medal but not the Victory Medal as his main service had been as a flying instructor in the UK and he had not served with an active flying unit in France. He was originally from Derbyshire, England and emigrated to Canada prior to 1914 where he settled in the Edmonton area. Robert Keith Tailyour was a distinguished war veteran having served in the South African War and participated in numerous campaigns for which he was awarded various bars from 1900 through 1902.

After the Great War he returned to Canada and with a partner founded The Edmonton Aircraft Company in 1920, similar to what Billy Bishop and William Barker were doing, and was its pilot and manager. Tailyour's company worked

out of Edmonton and conducted trips for customers between Edmonton and Calgary, due to low demand for longer trips, he took to stunt flying at fairs and giving rides. He was one of the original barnstormers. As 1920 closed he was attracted by the formation of the Canadian Air Force and served as a Squadron Leader at Camp Borden. On the 11 April 1921, while performing Aerobatics in an Avro 504, he crashed over the airfield and was killed. He left behind his wife Christina Tailyour. He was the first CAF officer to die in a flying accident.

You will find his grave at Union Cemetery in Barrie, alone he is not, there are comrades with him. His Marker is unique and worth a looksee as it truly pays tribute to a hero.



LEST WE FORGET

13. RCAF 101st Anniversary Lapel Pins:



Following a well-established Borden tradition, commemorative pins are to be produced again in 2025 to mark the 101st anniversary of the birth of the RCAF. This year's pin, selected by the membership, is the CF-101 Voodoo. After the cancellation of the Avro Arrow in February 1959, Canada urgently needed a fast interceptor to meet the continued threat from Soviet manned bombers. By late 1959, the RCAF selected the Voodoo as the aircraft that best met the nation's requirements. In June 1961, 66 nearly new CF-101B Voodoos were purchased from existing

USAF stocks. The deal transferred the aircraft to five front line squadrons and an OTU, replacing obsolete CF-100s. Norm Marion will be ordering 200 lapel pins for the Wing that will be sold during 2025.

14. RCAC 714 (Wasaga Beach) Sqn Festive Dinner:

David Farnsworth and Bill Sergeant represented 441 Wing at the 714 Sqn Festive Dinner on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at the RecPlex in Wasaga Beach. The format for this year's dinner was more relaxed than the Mess Dinner style dinner of past years. Prior to the dinner, David Farnsworth donated four drones

to the Sqn that they can use for their aviation activities. After dinner we were introduced to Captain Rochelle Luke-Near, the current Deputy Commanding Officer who will be taking over the Sqn at their Annual Review on Tuesday, 10 June 2025. We were also introduced to the Squadron Sponsoring Committee Co-Chairs Michelle Weymark and Jennifer Perkis. They thanked us for our ongoing support of the Sqn.

15. Contact Information:

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

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 2024-2025:

The Wing had half the directors stand for election for two (2) years from June 2024 to June 2026, 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-2026 | Wally Capsticks | Special Events, H&A Committee Member |
| Treasurer-2026 | Tammy Dupuis | Membership Vice Chair |
| Secretary-2026 | Andrew Galton | Honours and Awards Committee Chair |
| Vice Treas-2025 | Andrea Sloan | Membership Chair |
| Director-2025 | Gerry Pepler | RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair |
| Director-2025 | Art Cameron | RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member |
| Director-2026 | Murray Conley | Director of Ceremonies |
| Director-2026 | Joep Dening | Wing Web Master |
| Director-2025 | Norm Marion | Public Relations / Facebook |
| Director-2026 | Randy Rice | Veterans Groups Liaison |
| Wing Padre | Vacant | |
| 16 Wing Liaison | Vacant | |

2024 – Happy New Year ! – 2025