



Wing Drift

March 2024

Message from the Chairman

Hello Wing Members,

Welcome to March Madness, March Break, and Springtime; we survived another, but mild winter. The snowblower was already to go, but never had to be used. Instead, I just let Mother Nature take care of it.

It has been a busy 3 months. Starting with the New Years' Day Levee and Moose Milk (intoxicating), followed by a Robert Burns Scottish night and Haggis (yummy).

We had a Pomp & Circumstance night to honour our illustrious Wing veteran Mr. Jack Finan. Jack was awarded the rank of **Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor**. A distinction, the 2nd for a 447 Wing member, that shows the profound gratitude from the people of France of their personal involvement in the liberation of the France in World War II.

In cooperation with Canada's French Embassy and at Jack's request, the 447 Wing hosted the February 7th Gala event. In attendance we had Heads of State, the French Ambassador Michel Miraillet, Veterans Affairs Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, the LGov of Ontario Edith Dumont, Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horvath, and the Finan family.

Approx 100 people were in attendance enjoying the savoury taste of French wine, French champagne, and French desserts. However, it wouldn't be a "Jack Finan Party" without his Single Malt Scotch.

CONGRATULATIONS JACK

This is Elections Year for the Board of Directors. The Wing is seeking "new, fresh minds" to join the Board and run the Wing. If you are energetic with some bright ideas that could help add to the success of the Wing, then 'WE WANT YOU'. If interested, please prepare a Letter of Intent, and submit to the Wing email (447winghamilton@gmail.com). The letter is simply statement of your time in the Wing/ Association, your personal talents & experiences of how the Board & Wing could benefit by your participation.

The deadline for the submission for the 'Letters of Intent' is April 25th, 2024. The candidate names will be announced at the April GENERAL meeting. If there are more than 9 candidates, then an election will be held. If 9 or less than, then the candidates will become the new Directors through Acclamation.

After 5 years at the helm as the 447 Wing Chair, I will be stepping away from the Board and assuming a new position on the Ontario Group Board of Directors as the new Central Regional Director as of July 1st, 2024. I would like to thank Brenda Lynn Rice Wilson for years of dedicated work as our Central RD and wish her well on her new, TBA position at Ontario Group.

Dates to remember:

April 25th – Submission of Letter of Intent for a position on the Wing Board of Directors.

April 27th – April General Meeting – announcement of Director candidates

May 17-19th – Ontario Group Annual General Meeting, @413 Wing, Trenton.

Registration forms available upon request.

May 25th – 447 Wing Annual General Meeting

June 15th – 100th Anniversary of the RCAF / 447 Wing Charter Gala

Don't forget... Good Friday – March 29th – Friday Fish & Chips Day.

A full day of Fish & Chips.

Fly Safe; Stay Healthy.

Michael Cuffe
Chair, 447 Wing RCAFA

March 2024

April Entertainment and Events

Date	Event/Entertainment	Time
Apr 2	Euchre	1 - 4
Apr 2	Karaoke	7 - 10
Apr 2	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
Apr 4	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
Apr 9	Euchre	1 - 4
Apr 9	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
Apr 11	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
Apr 12	The Hammer Tones (classic rock)	7 - 10
Apr 16	Euchre	1 - 4
Apr 16	Karaoke	7 - 10
Apr 16	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
Apr 18	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
Apr 23	Euchre	1 - 4
Apr 23	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
Apr 25	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
Apr 26	The Outlets (classic rock)	7 - 10
Apr 27	General Meeting	1 - 2
Apr 27	Meat Draw	3 - 5
Apr 30	Euchre	1 - 4
Apr 30	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30

May Entertainment and Events

Date	Event/Entertainment	Time
May 2	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
May 7	Euchre	1 - 4
May 7	Karaoke	7 - 10
May 7	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
May 9	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
May 10	Ant & the Cruz (variety)	7 - 10
May 12	Mother's Day Brunch	11 - 1
May 14	Euchre	1 - 4
May 14	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
May 16	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
May 21	Euchre	1 - 4
May 21	Karaoke	7 - 10
May 21	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
May 23	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
May 24	The Reflections (variety)	7 - 10
May 25	Wing Annual General Meeting	1 - 2:30
May 25	Meat Draw	3 - 4:30
May 28	Euchre	1 - 4
May 28	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
May 30	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10

June Entertainment and Events

Date	Event/Entertainment	Time
June 4	Euchre	1 - 4
June 4	Karaoke	7 - 10
June 4	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
June 6	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
June 11	Euchre	1 - 4
June 11	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
June 13	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
June 14	Moonlighters (50,60,70's)	7 - 10
June 15	100th Anniversary RCAF/447 Wing Charter Gala	Cocktails 6 Dinner 7
June 18	Euchre	1 - 4
June 18	Karaoke	7 - 10
June 18	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
June 20	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10
June 22	General Meeting	1 - 2
June 22	Meat Draw	3—5
June 25	Euchre	1 - 4
June 25	Catch the Ace Draw	7:30
June 27	Country Ramblers Open Mic	7 - 10

Jack Finan receives France's highest honour

Photos and story by Gord McNulty

An impressive tribute for wartime RCAF Lancaster pilot Jack Finan, 104, was held at 447 Wing on February 7. In a special ceremony, Jack was presented with France's highest decoration in honour of his courageous service during the Second World War.



Jack Finan's daughter, Michelle, brings the wartime Lancaster pilot to 447 Wing for a special tribute on Feb. 7, 2024.



RCAF Lancaster pilot Jack Finan greeted by members of 447 Wing.

Michel Miraillet, Ambassador of France to Canada, presented Jack with the Insignia of Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour. Dignitaries in attendance also included Veterans Affairs Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor; Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horwath; Ontario Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont; and Neil Lumsden, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek MPP.



Michel Miraillet, France's Ambassador to Canada, speaks at the presentation of the insignia of Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour to Jack Finan.



Veterans Affairs Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor pays tribute to Jack Finan during the ceremony with members of Jack's family in attendance.

Jack's youngest daughter, Michelle, spoke fondly of her father, a longtime 447 Wing member and Stoney Creek resident. Relatives came from Vancouver for the event, a moving occasion enjoyed by everyone.



Michelle, Jack's youngest daughter, expresses her admiration of his service as family members from Vancouver watch.



Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horwath extends thanks for Jack's service on behalf of the city.

Jack enlisted with the RCAF in 1939, learning to fly in a Tiger Moth. He went on to fly 23 different aircraft, culminating in the legendary Lancaster bomber on operations over occupied Europe. Family members said Jack seldom talked about the war years. He preferred to focus on good memories as it was "easier than remembering all of the people who didn't come back."

Ambassador Miraillet noted this year will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. He assured the audience that France has not forgotten the sacrifices of the Allied nations who made victory possible.

The various speakers reflected on the harrowing odds that were faced by about 50,000 Canadians who served with the RCAF and the RAF in Bomber Command combat operations. Almost half of all aircrew never made it to the end of their tour. All told, some 55,000 Allied airmen, including approximately 10,000 Canadians, would lose their lives in the skies over Europe, as prisoners of war or in training accidents.

Jack expressed heartfelt thanks for the honour from France and recognition from the City of Hamilton for his service. He received several gifts, including a copy of the beautifully illustrated book *Pathway to the Stars*, dedicated to the men and women of the RCAF who have served Canada at home and abroad for the past 100 years. Wing members HooJung Jones and Don Kennedy generously donated *Pathway to the Stars*, signed by authors Lieutenant General Michael Hood (Ret'd) and Tom Jenkins,



Michael Cuffe presents the Pathway to the Stars gift to Jack Finan



Time for a toast led by Ambassador Miraillet as Jack's relatives and all attendees join at the conclusion of the ceremony.

EDITOR NOTE: It is so infrequent that we get member input that I could not refuse to publish them. I apologize if there is duplication but this gives another persons view, which is good.

Photos and story by Daniel Welsh

John Frederick (“Jack”) FINAN 104 Years Old Has a VERY SPECIAL DAY

Jack Finan, 104 years young and the last known “LANCASTER” bomber pilot from World War Two was honoured by The Republic of France on the direction of President of France MACRON. The distinct award given to Jack was France’s highest military decoration and was given in recognition of Jack’s wartime record in the liberation of France and other nations from the tyranny of Nazi Germany.

On this special day, Michel MIRAILLET, French Ambassador to Canada attended The 447 Wing, in the company of The Honourable Edith DUMONT, Lt. Governor General in Ontario, The Honorable Ginette Petitpas TAYLOR, Federal Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Honorable Neil Lumsden Hamilton East MPP, from our Provicencial government and Her Worship Andrea Horvath, Mayor of Hamilton along with numerous Finan family members (including all of his daughters), members of The 447 Wing, the elected executive and other invited guests gathered to witness and honour a man whose early exploits made him what The ambassador termed a “hero” upon the presentation of France’s highest military honour.



**France’s Highest Military Medal
Legion of Honour**

The Wing was prepared to receive all the invited guests and was subject of a security sweep prior to the event commencement.

Friends of The Wing—Advocates for Veterans

This article is to introduce to the Wing members, who are not aware, of the fact that our Wing is blessed with two extra-ordinary members who aside from being known by 447 Wing are also recognized as stalwart advocates for veterans of many wars but also The Korean War of the 1950 era.

This couple for many years has spearheaded numerous event to raise funds to commemorate fallen Canadian and allied soldiers who died during the Korean War so that the democracy presently enjoyed by South Korea is not forgotten.

I speak of genuinely great friends to the 447 Wing, who are also members, but to a couple that have worked tirelessly to foster and enshrine the memory of sacrifice made over seventy years ago.

Hoo Jung Kennedy and her husband Don Kennedy have through their efforts in concert with other like minded individuals raised countless thousands of dollars to commission and erect permanent displays honouring the sacrifice made so many years ago by Canadian, allied soldiers and South Koreans to secure a free democratic society which is in many respects a model of modern, prosperous and above all else a FREE society in an area that can not readily boast about such an achievement.

Hoo Jung in concert with her husband Don Kennedy have tirelessly advocated for veterans, worked with The South Korean government and all other local governments to ensure that sacrifice nobly given is not forgotten and that recognition in present situations and permanent memorials are created as a debt to be paid by all freedom loving citizens of Canada and the world.

Hoo Jung Kennedy has been rewarded by South Korea with decorations of merit, and with a solid partnership with The South Korean Government who year after year strive to provide a living tribute and format for our surviving Korean War Veterans to be remembered and revered for sacrifices made on the battlefield so many years ago.

Wing Executive members and some members have been privileged to be a part of the magnificent work done by Hoo Jung and her husband Don. Hoo Jung and Don work behind the scenes. Their efforts are not flamboyant. They are instead rewarded with veteran's thanks for remembrances, and for thanks from veteran's organizations for not letting sacrifice be forgotten.

Their work is not solely confined to Korean War Veterans. They have been instrumental in remembrance for World War Two Veterans and just recently spearheaded a request To the Republic of France to recognize the service and valor of one of our Wing members "Jack" Finan.

Hoo Jung and Don undertook the herculean task of asking The French Government to recognize a World War Two era veteran, a last surviving Lancaster Bomber Pilot, for services rendered into the war to liberate France and other countries who had suffered four long years of Nazi Germany brutality.

Thanks to their efforts, paperwork and advocacy for an award that usually takes twenty-four months to proceed, were undertaken in a record three-month period with the presentation of France's highest military award to our own Wing member Jack Finan, 104 years young happening on February 7th2024.

President Emanuelle MACRON issued direction and confirmed to presentation to Jack Finan of a well-deserved award.

Hoo Jung and her husband Don were partners and were instrumental in this achievement in what can be described as short order.

447 Wing is proud to bring the quiet exploits of Hoo Jung and Don Kennedy to the membership's attention for the countless hours spent to recognize and remember a debt that can never truly be paid.

Remembrance and gratitude is so very important in this fast-changing world.

“THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD” are words to cement a bond that all veterans have for those who have gone before us. Hoo Jung and Don invite all to remember.

Thank you, Hoo Jung and Don, for your work to remember.



Hoo Jung Kennedy and Don Kennedy at
A recent 447 Wing event.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Welsh

447 Wing Member

Happy 90th Birthday William(Willie) Wood



Some photos from the Robbie Burns dinner.



Some photos from the Robbie Burns dinner (Cont'd).



Thank you to Sandra Wells and Dan Welsh for providing the pictures to these events.

St Patricks Day at the Wing



Photos provided by Sandra Wells and Dan Welsh

New Members of 447 Wing



Mike Cuffe(447 Wing Chair) and Brenda Wilson (447 Wing Membership) welcome new members George (Doug) and Lynda Murdoch Furchner



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

3210 Homestead Drive, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0

Telephone: 289.280.0157 Email: 447winghamilton@gmail.com

<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

Chairperson	Michael Cuffe	(905) 574-4163
1 st Vice Chairperson	David Upsdell	(905) 389-9083
Secretary	Linda Daniels-Smith	(905) 304-5008
Treasurer	Bev Cuffe	(905) 517-6146
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	Brenda Wilson	(905) 745-1568
	Jim Hooton	(905) 383-3962
	Sandra Wells	(289) 244-3315
	Bill Grahlman	(905) 648-1568

779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

Acting Chairman:	John Mayhew	
Vice Chairman:	(Position Vacant)	
Treasurer:	John Mayhew	(905) 388-4055
Secretary:	(Position Vacant)	
Coordinator Screening & Registration:	Brenda Wilson	(905) 692-5803
Member: Risk Management:	Cheryl Jackson-Checkley	
Black Knight Squadron HQ:		(905) 679-6485
Alumni:	Chantelle Wark	(905) 975-0373
Commanding Officer:	Captain Marilyn Coleman	(905) 765-2414



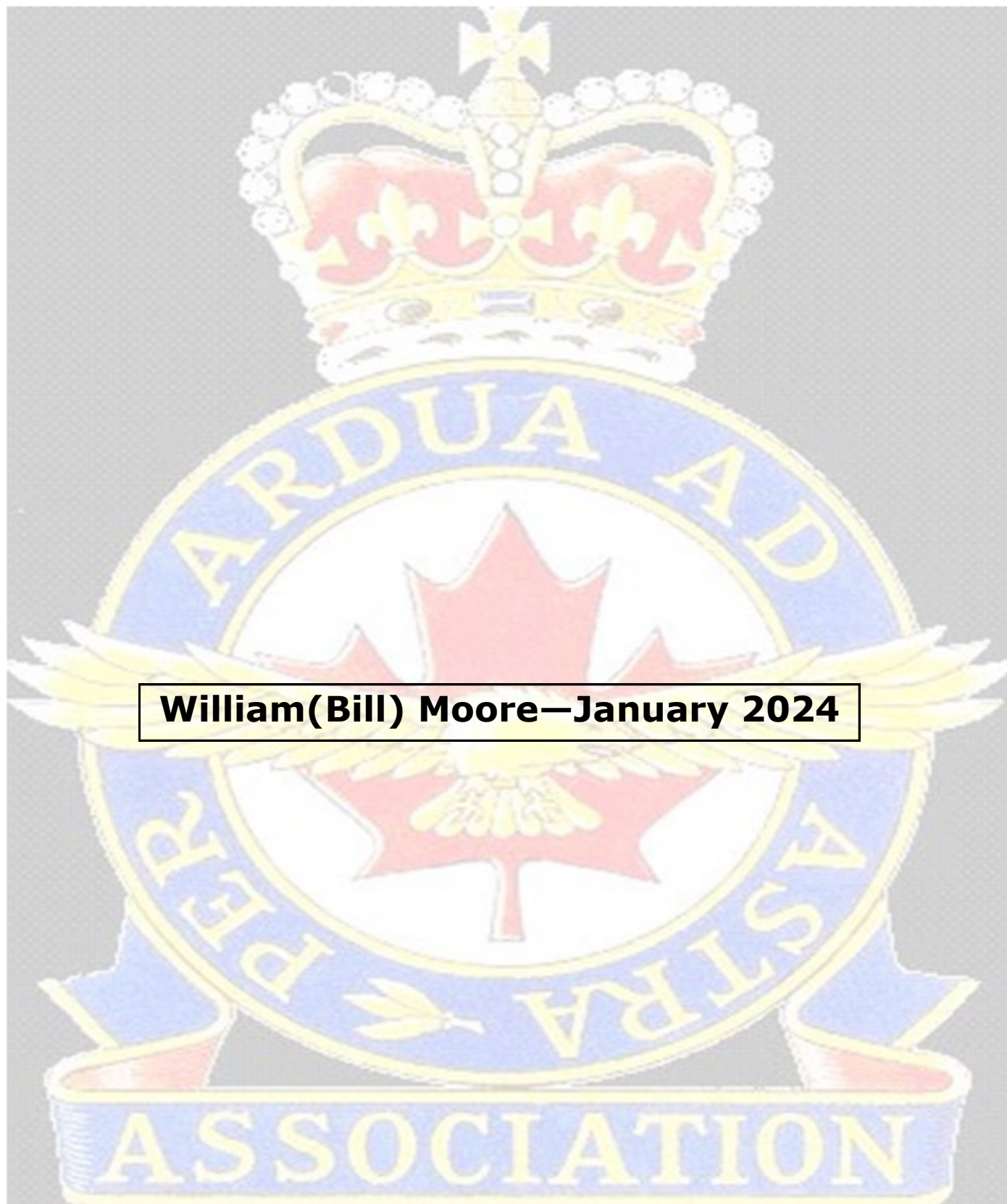
447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents***

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



William(Bill) Moore—January 2024



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.