



*Royal Canadian Air Force Association  
RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing Inc.  
January – March 2022 Newsletter*

Vol 6 Edition 1



## **2021 – Happy New Year – 2022**

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:

This is the time of year when we love to gather with family and friends. However, the COVID pandemic has once again restricted those activities. Thank goodness our Wing members were able to get together for the Christmas Social at Royal Canadian Legion in Barrie for a delightful evening. Jane Coxon, Lorraine Carney, Cooky Ellis, Sherry Tobin-Green and Mark Tobin did an outstanding job making it fun and memorable for all of us. I had been looking forward to seeing Wing members in person at our 2022 meetings, but we need to stay safe. As such, our January and February meetings will be done online via Zoom. In closing, I also want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year. Per Ardua Ad Astra.

3. Honours and Awards: On 23 December, General (Retired) Rick Hillier, OC, CMM, ONL, MSC, CD was named as the 2021 Recipient of the Colonel John Gardam Lifetime Achievement Award. His outstanding character, service and achievements exemplify the qualities of this prestigious award, and he joins the august company of previous recipients Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman, CMM, CD and General (Ret'd) Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD. As Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Hillier inspired a generation of soldiers, sailors, and aviators thanks to his outstanding visionary leadership, and he remains a tireless champion in reminding all Canadians of the sacrifice, courage and commitment of the men and women who serve in Canada's Armed Forces.

Within 441 (Huronion) Wing, have numerous members who have actively supported the Wing to achieve its mission and goals in 2021. I would ask that you 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. Please send your nominations to the Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee, Andy Galton, at < [andrew@vinegraphics.ca](mailto:andrew@vinegraphics.ca) >.

#### 4. Wing Fund Raisers:

The winners of the draws for the “\$100-a-Month Draw” for 2021 were:

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 – James Carman - #292.

Tickets for the **2022 “\$100-a-Month Draw”** are available from Les Ball. Of the 300 tickets that were printed, there are still 15 tickets left to be sold. If you wish to buy tickets or help sell them, please contact Les Ball. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The first draw in 2022 will take place after our online meeting on Tuesday, 11 January. For those of you who still have not returned your ticket stubs or money to Les, please do so by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Les’ email address is < [loles@rogers.com](mailto:loles@rogers.com) >.

**Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World Tickets:** Michael O’Shea has handed out 19 books for the 2022 draw to our members to sell. Cost is \$10.00 ea, or a book of 11 tickets for \$100.00. Note the Wing was given \$1,000 by the Kiwanis Club for selling the tickets last year. 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 at < [moshea808@rogers.com](mailto:moshea808@rogers.com) > if you are interested in buying tickets or willing to help sell them. He would like the stubs and money returned to him as soon as possible, but no later than February 1, 2022.

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).

#### 5. Wing Christmas Social:

The Christmas Social for 441 Huronia Wing was held on Tuesday, Dec 14th 2021 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #147, Barrie. It was organized by Jane Coxon, Lorraine Carney and Cooky Ellis with Sherry Tobin-Green and Mark Tobin providing the snack boxes, dessert containers, and soft drinks. There were 27 members in attendance who enjoyed getting together in-person to socialize and catch up with each other and seeing what they had been doing to cope with the Covid restrictions.

Jane Coxon was the master of ceremonies and assisted Les Ball with the \$100-a-Month Draw that was won by James Carman of Barrie for December. She then conducted the 50/50 draw, followed by the draw for the raffle prizes that had been donated by Wing members and local businesses. Everyone in attendance won one or more prizes. Chairman Bill thanked Jane, Lorraine, Cooky, Sherry

and Mark for organizing the wonderful Social event and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a healthy and happy New Year, and a safe trip home prior to conducting the Closing Ritual. Jane, Cooky and Lorraine handed out handmade Christmas ornaments to each guest as they departed as a thank you for attending.



Lorraine Carney, Bob and Jane Coxon Cooky and Sandy Ellis conducting the raffle at the 441 Wing Christmas Social.



Dr. Garry Lee Willard, Bill Jr and Bill Coyle Sr enjoying the snacks made by Sherry and Mark.



Sherry Tobin-Green, Andrea Sloan, Peter Levedag and Mark Tobin.



Wally Capsticks and Raywin Raaflaub

#### 6. 441 (Huronion) Wing By-Laws:

At the RCAFA Ontario Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2019, it was proposed that the Group and each of its Wing's draft a set of By-Laws so that they would be in compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) when it was proclaimed into law on 19 Oct 2021. Michael O'Shea, Greg Merrill and Bill Sergeant represented 441 Wing at the AGM and worked on crafting the Ontario Group By-Law template. It affects nonprofits in many important ways, such as:

- The requirement to get an audit

- Members’ rights to make proposals and call members’ meetings, and
- The number of directors.

Non-profits have three years after proclamation to transition to the new rules. In the meantime, the rules in articles and bylaws will continue to be valid provided they were valid under the previous legislation (Ontario’s Corporations Act). As such, Michael, Greg and Bill will be presenting a draft set of ONCA compliant 441 Wing By-Laws to the Board of Directors for their consideration at their January meeting. Once the Directors are satisfied with its content, they will be sent out to the membership for their consideration and a subsequent vote.

7. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
11 Jan 22	Wing Directors’ Online Zoom Meeting	1800 hrs
11 Jan 22	Wing Online Zoom Meeting – Guest Speaker Colonel Darryl Taylor, WComd 16 Wing	1900 hrs
8 Feb	Wing Directors’ Online Zoom Meeting	1800 hrs
8 Feb	Wing Online Zoom Meeting – Guest Speaker Sherry Cullings – RCL Provincial Veterans Svc Officer	1900 hrs
8 Mar	Wing Directors’ Meeting at the Legion	1800 hrs
8 Mar	Wing General Meeting at the Legion – Guest Speaker TBD	1900 hrs
12 Apr	Wing Directors’ Online Zoom Meeting	1800 hrs
12 Apr	Wing Online Zoom Meeting – Guest Speaker TBD	1900 hrs
23 Apr	Annual Charter and Awards Dinner at the Legion	1700 hrs
21-23 May	Ontario Group AGM – Cornwall, ON	Ramada Inn

8. Annual Charter and Awards Dinner: Our Charter and Awards dinner will take place at the Barrie Legion on 23 April 2022. It will honour our rich heritage over the past 64 years. If you would like to be part of the organizing committee, please speak with Chair Bill. The details about the dinner will be published on our website and should be available soon. We will also need a guest speaker for that evening. If you know of someone who would be an interesting speaker for our members and their spouses, please let Bill know.

9. RCAF 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee - Update:

The Wing’s planning committee for the RCAF’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary met on the 15 Dec 2021 to review ideas that had been discussed with 16 Wing and with the

Colonel Maggie Jacula, the national Campaign Manager - RCAF 2024. The ideas that our Wing are looking at for the RCAF centennial are:

1. a Freedom of the City parade in Barrie done in conjunction with the Battle of Britain parade in 2024. Murray Conley will look be the OPI for the Wing;
2. production of a '100th Anniversary of the RCAF' pin which could be done in conjunction with the national staff – OPI Norm Marion;
3. Celebrate Thomas Arthur (Art) Stiff's 100th birthday in May 2022 at Woods Park, Barrie. Art was a Hurricane pilot during the Second World War and trained at 1 SFTS Station Borden before going overseas;
4. Official presentation of the 441 Wing's Standard. Bob Coxon has the old one, which could be formerly retired and laid up and the current one officially presented to the Wing. This could be done during the lead up to the 100th Anniversary;
5. Conduct special tours of the BBMM Air Annex that highlight 100 years of the RCAF; and
6. Write articles for local magazines that generate interest in the 100th Anniversary as well as the 'Birthplace of the RCAF' – Jean Maurice and Norm Marion were asked to develop a list of topics that we could write articles about;

To read more about what our Wing's planning committee has been discussing, please click on the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/15BSliWWWQJb97sMAS7bSSoL-SUUFc8\\_1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111063905078091888349&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15BSliWWWQJb97sMAS7bSSoL-SUUFc8_1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111063905078091888349&rtpof=true&sd=true)

10. TIME CAPSULE: "The RCAF and Korea": By Randolph Rice

There has been much focus on the Canadian Army and its participation in the Korean War, however both the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy contributed significantly.

The RCAF's contribution consisted of 1,000 personnel and aircraft, primarily transport. This contribution to the air effort began in the early stages of the war when 426 Transport Squadron was attached to the U.S. Military Air Transport Service. By June 1954, when this assignment ended, 426 Sqn had flown 600 round trips over the Pacific, carrying more than 13,000 passengers and 3,000,000 kilograms of mail and freight without loss. It made round-trip flights between McChord Air Force Base in Washington state, USA and Haneda Airfield in Tokyo while working with the USAF's Material Air Transport Service. RCAF fighter logbooks show that 20 percent of all combat missions, including MiG aircraft "kills" by Canadian Sabre pilots in Korea, were flown in the Canadian built F-86 Sabre.

In November 1950, the first RCAF combatant pilot, Flight Lieutenant Omer Levesque, spent one year on exchange duty with the United States Air Force. I

met Omer in 1999, during the last RCAF reunion in Ottawa and had a long conversation with him at the Aviation Museum in front of a Sabre. Omer was also credited with spotting the German pocket battleship dash through the English Channel just before he was shot down and picked up by the Germans in 1941.

RCAF fighter pilots served for six months or 50 combat missions, whichever came first. They flew with the USAF's 4th Fighter Wing and the 51st Wing. A combat mission normally consisted of flying about 322 km over enemy territory to the famous "MiG Alley" near the Chinese border. A round trip mission normally took 90 minutes, 30 minutes to MiG Alley on drop tanks and 60 minutes on internal fuel tanks.

The combat missions were hectic and demanding, double-mission days were frequent and there were some triple-mission days. It is estimated 75 percent of MiG "kills" were across the Yalu River which really impeded the communist offensive. There were no Canadian fatalities, however, Squadron Leader Andy Mackenzie had to eject during a mission and was a PoW for two years.

The RCAF pilots accounted for nearly 900 combat missions with nine MiG "kills", two "probables", and ten damaged. Twenty-two fighter pilots and a number of technical officers served with the US Fifth Air Force.

During the Korean war, RCAF pilots acquitted themselves well. They received eight U.S. Distinguished Flying Crosses and ten U.S. Air Medals. Of note, this number would have been higher except for a strange rule imposed by the Canadian Military directing that only one U.S. medal could be awarded to each Canadian serving member. Members of the RCAF can be rightly proud of the skills and accomplishments of the veterans who served in that war.

#### 11. 441 (Huron) Wing – Future Board of Directors Election:

The last Wing elections took place in May 2020. In 2021, due to the pandemic, the members of the Board of Directors agreed to stay on for a second year since we were not holding 'in person' meetings. As such, the Wing will be holding elections for a new slate of up to seven Directors and then they will elect the 'Executive' members from those who were elected. Nominations for the Directors will be accepted up to and including 30 April 2022 by our Immediate Past President Bob Coxon. He will then turn over the names of the nominees to the Wing Returning Officer (we are looking for someone to volunteer to take on this responsibility) prior to the May meeting when the election will take place. The new Board will be installed by Bob at the June 2022 meeting.

12. 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/>

13. 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

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