WING



HAPPINESS

IS FOUND AT

418 WING

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The Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization whose aim is to commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's Air Force since its inception, advocate for a proficient and well-equipped Air Force and, support the Royal Canadian Air s.



418 (Belleville) Wing

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

10 Dixie Place, Belleville, ON,

K8P 5A9

March 2022



"HAPPY"



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608 Air Cadet Sqn Belleville

Liaison	Cynthia Russell	613-922-8580
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Regalia	Murray Hope	613-962-8222			
Sick & Welfard	e Evelyn Mitchell	613-968-3125			

WING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Belleville Shrine Club, 51 Highland Ave. Executive Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. General Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday except in July, August and December.

NOTE: Members will be notified by e-mail or telephone of the date and time of upcoming events.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Murray Hope
Padre Larry Hurley
WO1 Ethan Lane
WO2 Maggie Bateman
Sgt Gracy Joseph
Capt Garret Watts
Pastor Ian Robb
Pat Hope
Evelyn Mitchell





418 (BELLEVILLE) WING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that Spring is just around the corner! COVID protocols are being dropped. However, with the uncertainty of this Virus, we will always inform you of what is appropriate for our meetings.

Thanks to **lan Robb** for the submission of his autobiography for this issue. For the newer members, lan served as the 418 Wing Padre from Sept 2010 to 2014 and continues to be a member.

On March 21st, long time member **Mickey Lake** celebrated her 102nd Birthday. Congratulations **Mickey**! Also, **Bill Robertson** will be celebrating his 101st Birthday on June 13th. Members who wish to send a card please contact me for their addresses.

On March 26th, **Stephen Shirk, Pat** and **I** will attend a "modified" Quinte Regional. This conference will be held at 413 Wing Trenton for a morning meeting and lunch – no sports this year.

The Ontario Group Annual Meeting for May 20-22 has been cancelled due to the lack of participation by the Ontario Wings. COVID is still on peoples' minds!

As of this publication no nominations have been received for Board of Directors. (You may still volunteer!) However, if none are received, the present Directors have volunteered for another year.

We are communicating with both 608 & 704 Cadet Squadrons about the possibility of a Deseronto Remembrance Service for Saturday June 11th at 11am at the Deseronto Cemetery. Further information to follow.

Remember to put the Vimy/VE/Battle of Britain Service for May 8th at 2pm on your calendar. Hopefully there will not be any restrictions on the attendance this year.

Receiving emails and telephone calls are extremely important to convey to you up to date information for all activities and events. As **Pat** has mentioned in her article and at meetings, you have been excellent in responding whether you will be attending the activities. Your response assists in planning activities and booking venues. Note: **Pat** will be contacting you early next month about your attendance at our Hello Spring Meeting April 26th at Sans Souci.

Regardless of our small membership, we have proven to be able to have successful meetings. This was indicated by all the socializing and positive comments at our February Pizza Dinner.

In closing, we would like to congratulate our Liaison Officer Lt Asak Assefa on his recent promotion to Captain.

Thanks for your support.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Murray Hope



PADRE'S CORNER

Rev. Larry Hurley

The not all-powerful God!

The song leader encouraged us to sing it as we meant it as the organist started playing, and we sang, with vigour:

God can do anything, anything; anything:
God can do anything but fail
God can do anything, anything, anything
God can do anything but fail
He's the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul
God can do anything, anything, anything
God can do anything but fail."

The ongoing war in Ukraine seems to indicate the Christian God cannot do everything.

The church elders and minister in the church where I grew up told me, "If it's God's will, it will be done." They never gave me a satisfactory answer about Adolph Hitler and similar despots of history. The god of the Israelites commanded war and didn't seem to worry about periphery damage and the marauding tribe's horrendous acts of war. Somehow the love message of the Christ didn't get much thought from the elders and minister as they stressed the 'end' times when, according to their Bible, all hell would break loose. Non-believers were going 'to get theirs' for sure!

Some members of our RCAFA Wing have been through suburbs of hell and know someone who knows 'Saving Private Ryan' was a too true-to-life' depiction.

Our daily news shows what millions are experiencing in Ukraine and follows the exodus of millions of others. Vlad appears to have gone mad, and the Christian god, the Muslim god, the Orthodox god, the Jewish god, appear to be silent.

Where is the 'he can-do-everything' god in all this? That god did nothing about Hitler, Attila the Hun, Ivan the Terrible, Alexander the Great, or the Roman empire. History has no shortage of cruel despots!

Yes! There are incredible acts of love and sacrifice by Ukrainians; there are volunteers from around the world coming to Ukraine and offering money; millions of dollars of weaponry, handguns for Grandmothers, rifles, shotguns, assault style weapons and Molotov cocktail recipes.

I'm sorry, but I don't have many answers, only observations and questions. So you may offer prayers, financial support and more as we try and figure out what to say, do and think.



As Yosemite Sam said, 'Say your prayers, rabbit."

Padre Larry Hurley

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418 WING NEWS

608 Duke of Edinburgh Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron

Cadet Correspondents
WO1 Ethan Lane, WO2 Maggie Bateman, and Sgt Gracy Joseph









It has now been more than two years of virtual Cadet learning and after such a long time online, our senior Cadets and staff have gotten into a rhythm of effectively delivering the program in this way. Technical issues have become the bane of our existence and receiving a good connection is a rare, but very welcome, experience. Despite the online difficulties, 608 has persevered and we are now at the point where we are, once again, moving to in-person meetings. We are in the process of onboarding all Cadets onto CADET365, the Microsoft platform designed specifically for the Cadet program, that will streamline the way we communicate, meet, and share resources.

A recent highlight for 608 was having guest speaker, **Lola Reid Allin** attend for the second year in a row. She spoke to the Cadets about her experiences in a variety of exotic and impressive careers, and most specifically about her life as a pilot and women in aviation.

This summer, our level 1 and 2 Cadets will have the chance to attend the Cadet Activity Program (CAP), which replaces the General Training and basic level courses. The CAP is meant to ease younger Cadets in the longer overnight courses that older Cadets attend. Level 1 Cadets will be attending their local CAP for one week, Monday to Friday, during the day. The Level 2 Cadets will attend for two weeks with 3 overnight stays.

The Squadron's optional training nights are back in full swing. Cadets have been doing Effective Speaking and Debate as well as Ground School, with Band and Marksmanship now underway too. Band members attend practices, virtually, and learn basic music theory, instrument care and other skills for their music proficiency levels. The Marksmanship Team has been practicing for the target mail-in shooting competition, quickly approaching in April.

Our Effective Speaking Team just recently competed in our Squadron's Effective Speaking Competition, where we had three Cadets at different levels of the Cadet program compete with a variety of relevant topics. All the Cadets did an outstanding job, and we have **WO2 Maggie Bateman** representing 608 at the Regional Competition this week.

As mandates are being lifted throughout the province, Cadets are gradually heading back to the Belleville Armouries. Just over March Break, we had an optional training night where Cadets could come into the Armouries and were issued their long-awaited Field Training Uniforms (FTUs). The FTUs are a new order of dress for Air Cadets – olive drab fatigues – for regular parade nights and field training exercises. We are also now getting back to a hybrid model of training with Cadets participating both virtually and in-person. This lets Cadets become more involved in the hands-on aspects of their training, such as building bottle rockets, maintaining their uniform, teaching lessons, and many other fun activities that can't be conducted virtually.

We will be saying goodbye to our Squadron Commander as **WO1 Ethan Lane** will be turning 19 in April and aging out of the Cadet program. He has had a full and impressive Cadet career and is a shining example of the leadership qualities, perseverance, and commitment that the Cadet program fosters in young people. We wish him the very best in his pursuit of excellence as he continues his university studies and embarks on adult life. He will be missed.

We hope to continue this training year both in-person, and virtually, and see all the wonderful things 608 Cadets continue to accomplish.



Garret Watts



For the past two years we have all adapted to the great changes in our world. We have had to learn to live and work in new ways. This has not always been pleasant, but we accepted it as a necessity to protect our friends and neighbours. Along with everything else, the Cadet program and the personnel of 704 Squadron have done likewise. We have had to change what we do and how we do it in

some incredible ways. Using new and existing technologies we have found creative ways to communicate, collaborate, and learn. It has been a very unique opportunity, as hard as it has been. We have seen our numbers decline as many Cadets did not wish to continue with online training or were more focused on other needs. It was sad to see some of them leave. We have still retained a great number of dedicated and motivated Cadets who are ready to take on all of the challenges that are put before them.







Happily, now the Cadets and staff of 704 Squadron are very excited to be able to begin parading in person again. We were very fortunate to begin in person training at 413 Wing's building on Monday, March 7th. Even with masks worn, it was great to see the smiles on the faces of the Cadets and staff. It was like a new energy was starting to sweep through the whole group. Instructors were able to see the Cadets and answer questions side by side, something many have not done in a long time. It was also a rare thing to see our new Cadets so excited to be able to do drill in person and to start learning all of the movements needed to master this skill. Once the instructors took care of some cobwebs and rust in their own skills, a great training event was falling into place.

On our most recent night, we were able to celebrate some special occasions for some of our personnel. Four of our newer Cadets were privileged to receive their first promotion, from Air Cadet to Leading Air Cadet. This is a proud moment for any Cadet as they advance through their career. Also, we were able to make a very special presentation. **Capt. Alan McDonald**, our Training Officer, who finally received his Commission Script. This was well overdue but very happily received.

As we resume more in person activities, we are very excited to see what else we can incorporate into our remaining training year. We are looking forward to incorporating new events and practices into our routines and building on the momentum that has now built up for the remainder of the training year.

Capt. Garret Watts
Commanding Officer
704 "Air Force City" Squadron

"The Story of Me, Pastor Ian Robb."

March 1st. 2022

A few years ago, **Pat Hope**, the secretary of the 418 Wing of the RCAFA asked me if I would write an article about my life in all its gory details. I declined. More recently **Pat** approached me once again and I said I would produce something which might be of interest, and hopefully might inspire those who were on a difficult health journey to gain new strength and continue onward with their challenges. So here goes. I hope at least you might gain some information on how varied a life can be if you will it to be ... different!

I was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1943 while WW2 was raging. My mother always told me that I was born on the kitchen table while my father was fire watching on the roofs of Glasgow's municipal buildings. Life at that time was sparce to say the least and along with my 2 siblings we had little in the way of extras. At one point during that period my brother and sister were evacuated to a country area in which my grandmother lived. They went to school there.

Fortunately, we were not victims of German bombing, though other parts of Glasgow and Clydebank (where the shipbuilding yards were churning out all kinds of craft for the war effort) were badly hit.

I started school in Glasgow in September 1948 when class sizes were huge to say the least. 40+ to a class and walking to school each day from my home through busy traffic, yet we thought nothing about it as this was normality for us. I recall that post war, were one of the only families to own a vehicle due to my father beginning his business once again as a manufacturer's agent, his previous occupation being closed as the war began.

During my early childhood the family moved out to an area which bordered the country in Renfrewshire, and a place where trees and fields were in abundance; roads were quiet and junior school was now a pleasant place to be, although still a long walk to get there. As an early teen, now at high school, I spent much of my free time on the local golf course, culminating in winning the school golf championship. At the age of 16 I was rushed to hospital when my appendix burst, and an op was inevitable. In these days scope surgery had not been practiced, so 9 days in hospital plus a few weeks of recovery were in order which decimated my high school year. I went back to school the following year, however never really recovered academically. My father's business was doing well, and he co-opted me into his company for three years while I again found my feet in life.

I was a scratch golfer in these days, yet fortunately realized that I would never make the national or international scene, winning only local tournaments to my credit. In 1968 I married the girl of my dreams who lived just down the road. We were a young couple in their early 20's just having purchased their first home and making their way in life together. My passion to be an airline pilot ceased as the cost of training was quite beyond our means. I turned to special steel sales and became a junior with a national steel distribution and processing centre. It served me well and the book learning which I should have completed while at high school was directed to learning about the metallurgy of special steels and especially stainless steel and tool steels.



Achieving a certain level of competence within the steel industry I joined another smaller distributer and covered Scotland and Ireland sales for them. This was in the early 1960's when business in that field was booming. I developed a particular niche for sales of coiled stainless steel for the vessel manufacturers in Ireland, moving there to Eire with my wife and living just southwest of Dublin. Unfortunately, while on the way to a client one morning, I was hit by an out-of-control truck and had to be cut out of the wreckage of my 4-week-old car.

Another month in hospital in Eire, and 4 months in recovery saw us back in Scotland for 6 months while we decided our future.

Atlas Alloys, the merchanting division of Atlas Steels of Tracy, Quebec also the Welland area came into our lives, and I spent several years working for them as Branch Manager of their Scottish office as well as Birmingham and Luton, England.

While working for Atlas I became interested in Pipe and Tubular products, as well as their associated fittings. We were living north of London at the time, and I had the opportunity to establish, and become the Managing Director of a company which was involved in Special Steel Sales and warehousing of these products throughout Scotland, England, Ireland, and parts of Europe as well as a fledgling company in Canada (Montreal, Toronto, and Calgary.) It involved a great amount of travelling to visit suppliers located as far apart as Finland and Japan and South America. I lived with a suitcase ready packed for my next port of call. It afforded us some wonderful vacations in Europe with, by now, our three children. About 3 years later in 1984 I was asked to join the Canadian operation as V. President. Our Canadian life commenced at that point as I considered it a wonderful place to bring up our family of young children.



While working in Canada I fulfilled a lifetime ambition by obtaining my pilot's license, flying out of Oshawa Airport. Well, life goes on and it was several years later that I opened my own company representing a manufacturer of special aluminium plates for a segment of the chemical industry. Again, travel was needed for this venture and in 1993 I filled another lifetime ambition by going back to university at the age of 50 years to study Theology. This resulted in a degree in Theology which I then decided would be put to better use as a Minister in the

United Church of Canada. I studied for another 3 years before being commissioned to ministry in 1999. My pastoral Charge at that time was the two-point pastoral charge which I had originally joined when we came to live in Canada. Ministry was the culmination of many years of study, and I finally found myself in "gainful and satisfying" employment.

As I was preparing for the Christmas services in November of the year 2000, I suddenly found myself in need of Gall Bladder surgery which I was assured would take just one day using 'scope surgery.' I accepted a surgery cancellation in November; had the operation, and severe complications started immediately. I left hospital 6 months later in 2001, breathing from an oxygen container and in a wheelchair, unable to slowly walk more than a few paces. My ministry was at a standstill, and I was placed in retirement.

In 2002 (if it is possible) my condition deteriorated, and I was told that unless I was able to receive a lung transplant, I did not have too many more months left on Mother Earth. I was accepted into a program which worked me up to a pre-transplant condition, attending Toronto General Hospital 3 times per week for 3 hours each time. On the 7th. July 2003 I was called into TGH and prepped for lung transplant. My wife and myself said our goodbyes at the bedside and late in the evening I was wheeled into the operating room for 12 hours of surgery and 2 new lungs. These skilled operations can have patients up and about in 24 to 48 hours however, since then I have realized that I am a 'slow learner.' I finally came out of TGH in September 2003 to begin my new life as a Transplant Recipient. The following 2 years were a gradual work down from the intense hospitalization pre operation.

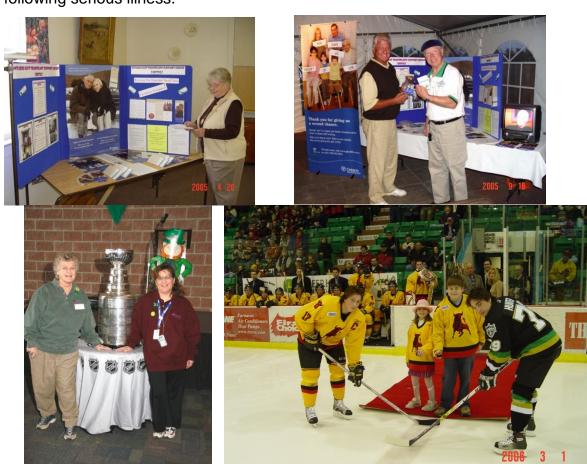
The friends I had met on work up to transplant at what we used to call "Dance Class" (Rehab to the uninitiated) got together and decided that we could/should do something to increase the donor rate in Eastern Ontario. We did this by means of displays and talks to interested groups. We must have been a pain in the '----' to many people, however we helped to take the signed-up donor list from about 17% of Ontarians to closer to 40%, and I believe it is now in 2022 at 52% of the population. Our emblem for



the group was this folded green ribbon which is now in universal use throughout Canada. Among the presentations which we made was asking the *Belleville Bulls* Hockey Team to allow us to have a 'puck drop' at centre ice with two young transplant recipients. That was a wonderful occasion, supported by a caring organization named '*The Belleville Bulls*.'

Many coffee mornings and displays were carried out on behalf of Transplant Awareness, and one of these of which I am also very proud is the display of Lord Stanley's Cup. We arranged with the Hockey Hall of Fame to have the cup brought to Belleville and, as you can imagine, it is every boy and girls wish to see it firsthand, and perhaps be allowed to touch the Stanley Cup.

In the picture which follows, the Stanley Cup is in full evidence, surrounded by those who coveted the occasion to be a part of its presentation to the public at large rather than watching from an arena seat, and a long-distance view of it in all its glory. Here are two of our original members of the Ontario East Transplant Support Group with the Stanley Cup during its debut in Belleville. I gratefully acknowledge the power of this memento and thank the Hockey Hall of Fame and the keepers of the cup for bringing it out to our event. This also included 'The Belleville Bulls' who helped to secure its presence as a motivator for those who needed to believe that there could be life following serious illness.



These and other pictures of events fill my photo album. Also in that album are photos of the Canadian Transplant Games in which competitors from all across North America come to compete for the honour of being the premier athlete in their own event speciality. It does not take a Philliadelphia lawyer to work out that I entered for the Golf Tournament on the three occasions I attended the games. (Edmonton, 2006, Windsor, 2008, and Montreal, 2010). These athletes are good ... very good ... and I was fortunate enough to win some medals while I was there. But I digress....

In 2005 I again took up my ministry with the United Church and served several pastoral charges as an appointed minister. The congregations that come to mind were Bloomfield over a Christmas supply situation followed by terms at South Bay, followed by Westminister United and Eastminister United as well as being the Chaplain for 418

Wing, RCAFA for several years. I formed close connection with Pat and Murray Hope, the secretary and President of the 418 Wing respectively.





Due to my wish not to have a 40-hour week I mainly worked part time on 20- or 30-hour weeks. I retired once again in 2013 when we moved home from Prince Edward County to Brighton where we currently live.

Further demand for 'interim' ministers caused me to take up an appointment for a further two years at Smithfield Carman providing worship and pastoral care, weddings etc. before the COVID Virus hit the World. As someone who is permanently immune suppressed, I am more exposed to being affected by such a virulent virus, and as such, have received vaccination on four separate occasions.



I am still a member of the 418 Wing, RCAFA and still attend monthly meetings as I am able. One of my dear friends, also a transplant recipient, was a navigator with the RCAF for many years. His AD ASTRA stone is in the Air Park at Trenton.

My work with the United Church now is more of regional work as a member of the East Central Region Elders Forum and the Covenant Support Group serving an area from Pickering in the West to Kingston in the East and Peterborough in the North. In that same region I chair the Retirees Forum with **Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht** as our Secretary where we try to bring together retired clergy for useful and interesting interaction.

I started out by saying that it was an interesting life I have and am now still leading. Helping others not to give up when they go through a dark patch of life; encouraging them to move towards the light, at whatever level they are able to achieve, is now my

mission in life and has been since transplant or before. Being the very best that you can be is surely our goal, as is seeing a purpose in life and passing it on to others. Our Soldiers, Seamen and Airmen and Women gave us the Gift of Life in all they did, often at the expense of their own lives. We should and must honour them and their gifts. Amen to that.

Peace, Health and Blessings to You of 418 Wing and your loved ones.

Pr. Ian Robb & †

February Meeting

Pat Hope

Our first meeting of 2022 was held at the Shrine Club on Feb 28th. We met in the upstairs room which proved to be suitable for our low numbers.

Our aim for this meeting was to have a Pizza Supper with a few business items and lots of socializing.



Mary Thomas and Maxine Trudeau



Sandra Campbell and Murray Hope

Special thanks to **Kathy Shirk** who made the salad and picked up the pizzas. Also, thanks to **Marilyn Grimmell** for her delicious apple dessert and to **Evelyn Mitchell** for arranging the coffee and tea.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves socializing with their 418 Wing friends.

Membership Evelyn Mitchell

418 Wing Membership now stands at **29**, including 27 regulars and 2 honorary members.





Our most senior member, Marcella Lake has just celebrated her 102nd birthday, with many cards, phone calls, and flowers from the wing. You are amazing, Micky!!!



HELLO SPRING DINNER WITH ENTERTAINMENT

DATE: April 26, 2022 - TIME: 6 FOR 6:30 WHERE: Sans Souci Restaurant, Belleville

COST: \$20.00

DRESS: Blues and greys (no medals) or equivalent

(suit/jacket and tie)

PROTOCOLS: More info closer to date
Will need numbers for catering.
Inform me if you are bringing a friend.

Activities and Events

Pat Hope

As I've mentioned previously preplanning meetings for our Wing is a challenge with the COVID situation and low membership numbers.

Planned:

April 25 – Hello Spring Dinner at Sans Souci – Cost and time TBA – Entertainment - **Mark Russell**

Possible Events:

June 11 – Remembrance Service, 11 AM Deseronto Cemetery

September 18 – Battle of Britain – location & details TBA

November 26 – Charter Night

A few weeks ago, I emailed a questionnaire regarding your thoughts and ideas for future meetings. If you have not done so, your Executive would appreciate receiving your creative ideas on how we can continue as a viable Wing of the RCAFA.

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MURRAY AND PAT HOPE Murray Wing Chairman

2006 to Present
Pat Wing Secretary
2007 to Present



608 Duke of Edinburgh Royal Canadian Air Squadron

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ANN ROSE

In Memory of Robert (Bob)
Past Director, Advisor,
426 Squadron Liaison

