




WING MATE

Newsletter of 408-437 Wing 



February 2020



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA MISSION STATEMENT

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 Cadets.

2020 Executive

President.....	Nick Czernkovich
ncz@aerosafety.ca	416-654-2832
401-21 Tichester Road, Toronto, M5P 1P3	
Immediate Past President....	Kurt Abels
	416-267-8874
Vice-President.....	John Wreglesworth
	416-231-0740
Secretary.....	Margaret Cole
Membership	416-221-6412
Treasurer.....	David Ouellette
	416-449-0618
Wing Mate Editor.....	Terry Sleightholm
	416-208-7905
Air Cadets.....	Jackie Johnston
	[818 Squadron]
	Cécile Thompson
	[110 Squadron]
Events Coordinator.....	John Wreglesworth
Program Speakers.....	Jack Lumley
	416-449-9389
Fellowship Chair.....	Barbara Newman
	416-223-7840

Sick and Visiting

Be sure to advise Barbara Newman, Fellowship Chair, if you are aware of a Wing member who is ill or in distressed circumstances.

Barbara can be reached at 416-223-7840.

Events Schedule 2020

February 19..... Meeting (Movie)
 March 9..... Meeting (Speaker)
 April 13..... Meeting ((Speaker)
 May 11..... Meeting

Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month
 at Branch 527, RCL, 948 Sheppard Ave. W.

January/ February



Bob McBain...January 13
 Cécile Thompson...Feb.5
 Curt Abels...Feb.17
 Peter Rebek...Feb.19
 Jack Lumley...Feb.26

Happy Birthday!



President's



Message

Good morning Happy Campers, welcome back to **Camp-We-Made-It** and we're into the second month already. "Who would have thought, eh?" Our January meeting was a movie night with an adventure/comedy movie titled **Sahara**. February will again be a movie night because of the iffy weather. At this point who knows we could have BBQ weather or a polar vortex. The proposed movie will be **Harry and the Hendersons**, again an offbeat comedy. Unfortunately we had to make do without popcorn since Cecile was not well (but everyone deserves a second chance.) If you were a fan of the old sci-fi movies of the 60's-70's vintage era, 2020s were always the future. Well here we are 'the future.' Looks much the same as before. I still haven't seen any people wearing togas and/or toting ray guns; if you've ever watched **Flash Gordon**, (if you know who he is you're past 39) just vacant looks, ear buds and e-bikes. But then there are certain parts of downtown I don't visit.

Now that we've made it to the future let's have a peep back to see who is still in the food chain...

100 (Bluenose) Wing, Halifax, NS – formed pre-1948 for WDs only

101 (Atlantic) Wing, Halifax, NS – formed pre-1948

102 (Colchester) Wing, Truro, NS – Charter granted 25 June 1949

103 (Cabot) Wing, Sydney, NS

104 Wing, Liverpool, NS

105 (Cumberland) Wing

106 (Kemptville), Kentville, NS

107 (Morfee) Wing, Annapolis Royal, NS

108 (Summerside), Summerside, PEI

110 (Northumberland) Wing, Stellarton, NS

111 (Northumberland) Wing

150 (St John's) Wing

150 North Atlantic Wing, St. John's, Nfld

151 Wing

200 (Summerside) Wing

201 (Confederation) Wing, Charlottetown, PEI

202 Wing, Souris, PEI

250 (St. John) Wing – formed pre-1948

251 (Madawaska) Wing, Edmundston, NB – formed pre-1948

252 (Lord Beaverbrook) Wing, Fredericton, NB

252 (Fredericton) Wing

253 (Moncton) Wing

254 (Chatham or Miramichi) Wing

255 (Restigouche) Wing, Campbellton, NB

256 (Chaleur) Wing, Bathurst, NB

300 (Remembrance) Wing, Granby, QC – formed pre-1948

301 (Air Force Veterans' Association) Wing – formed pre-1948

301 (Albatross) Wing, Montreal, QC

302 (Quebec City) Wing, Quebec City, QC – formed pre-1948

303 (Sherbrooke) Wing – formed pre-1948

304 (Beaver) Wing, Montreal, QC

305 (Montreal) Wing, Montreal, QC

306 (Maple Leaf) Wing, Montreal, QC

307 (Eagle) Wing, Pointe-aux-Tremblant, QC

309 Wing, Drummondville, QC

310 (Wilno) Wing, Montreal, QC

312 (La Tuque) Wing

313 (City of Montreal) Wing

314 Wing, Trois Rivières, QC

316 (Port Alfred) Wing

317 (Lac St. Louis) Wing – Charter granted October 1963

318 (Chicoutimi) Wing

333 (Lord Beaverbrook) Wing

394 Wing

400 (Guelph Wings Club) Wing – formed pre-1948

401 (Air Force Club of Kirkland Lake) Wing, Kirkland Lake, ON – formed pre-1948

402 (Sudbury District Air Force Association) Wing, Sudbury, ON – formed pre-1948

403 (City of Sarnia) Wing – formed pre-1948

404 (Kitchener-Waterloo) Wing – formed pre-1948

405 (Porcupine) Wing, Timmins, ON – formed pre-1948

406 (North Bay and District) Wing – Charter granted 5 May 1949; Charter Revoked 12 May 1994

407 (Grey-Wellington Border) Wing, Mount Forest, ON – formed pre-1948

- 408 (Toronto) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 409 (St. Catherines) Wing, St Catherines, ON – formed pre-1948
- 410 (Ottawa District) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 411 (Chatham) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 412 (Air Force Club of Windsor) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 413 (Air Force City) Wing, Trenton, ON
- 413 (Air Commodore Birchall) Wing, Trenton, ON
- 414 (North Star) Wing, Cobalt, ON
- 415 (Prince Edward) Wing, Picton, ON – Charter granted 30 September 1985
- 416 (Kingston) Wing
- 417 (Richmond Hill) Wing, Richmond Hill, ON
- 418 (Belleville) Wing
- 419 (Oakville) Wing
- 420 (Oshawa) Wing
- 421 (Newmarket) Wing, Newmarket, ON
- 422 (Leamington) Wing
- 422 (North Bay) Wing – Charter granted 1 July 1994
- 423 (Chapleau) Wing, Chapleau, ON
- 424 (Cornwall & District) Wing, Cornwall, ON
- 425 (Huron) Wing, Goderich, ON
- 426 (Brockville) Wing, Brockville, ON
- 427 (London) Wing
- 428 (Peterborough) Wing
- 429 (Elgin) Wing
- 429 (St. Thomas) Wing
- 429 (Georgina) Wing
- 430 (Leaming AFC) Wing, Toronto, ON
- 430 (Warsaw) Wing
- 431 (Krakow) Wing
- 432 (Sault Ste Marie) Wing
- 433 (Renfrew) Wing
- 434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing – Charter granted 15 January 1954
- 434 (Welland) Wing – Charter amended 24 February 1973
- 436 (Mynarski, VC) Wing, Ottawa, ON
- 437 (York) Wing
- 438 (Algonquin) Wing, Pembroke, ON
- 439 (Ontario Hydro) Wing, Hamilton, ON
- 440 (Oxford) Wing, Woodstock, Ontario
- 441 (Kempfenfeldt) Wing, Barrie, Ontario
- 442 (David Hornell, V.C.) Wing
- 443 (Rideau) Wing
- 444 (Scarborough) Wing
- 445 (Aadastral) Wing
- 446 (Brampton) Wing
- 447 (City of Hamilton) Wing
- 448 (Owen Sound) Wing
- 449 (Orillia) Wing
- 450 (Brockville District) Sabre Wing, Brockville, ON
- 451 (Downsview-Norway), Toronto, ON
- 452 Wing, Mount Forest, ON
- 483 Wing, Niagara Falls, ON
- 484 (Frontier) Wing, Niagara Falls, ON
- 485 (Arrow) Wing, Brampton, ON
- 496 (North Shore) Wing, Blind River, ON
- 500 (City of Winnipeg) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 501 (Lakehead) Wing, Port Arthur and Fort William – formed pre-1948
- 502 (Brandon) Wing
- 503 (Flin Flon) Wing
- 504 (Fort Prince of Wales) Wing, Churchill, MB; Chartered October 1962;
- 600 (Regina) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 601 (Moose Jaw) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 602 (Saskatoon) Wing – formed pre-1948
- 603 (Yorkton) Wing, Yorkton, SK – formed pre-1948
- 604 (Prince Albert) Wing, Prince Albert, SK
- 605 (Lloydminster) Wing
- 700 (Edmonton) Wing, Edmonton, AB – formed pre-1948
- 701 (Calgary) Wing, Calgary, AB – formed pre-1948
- 701/767 (Calgary) Wing
- 702 (Lethbridge) Wing, Lethbridge, AB – formed pre-1948
- 703 (Central Alberta) Wing, Red Deer, AB
- 703 (Red Deer) Wing
- 703 (Fred Sutherland) Wing, Red Deer, AB
- 704 (Cypress) Wing, Medicine Hat, AB
- 705 (Rocky Mountain House) Wing
- 737 (Taber) Wing
- 767 (Calgary) Wing
- 783 (Calgary) Wing
- 784 (Cold Lake) Wing

800 (Forbidden Plateau) Wing, Courtenay, BC – formed pre-1948

800 (Forbidden Plateau) Wing, Cumberland, BC – 1948

800 Wing – Victoria, BC. Charter granted 3 December 1960; Charter surrendered 30 August 2003

801 (City of Victoria) Wing, Victoria, BC – formed pre-1948

801 (Vancouver) Wing

802 (Dogwood) Wing, Vancouver, BC – formed pre-1948

803 (Rocky Mountain) Wing, Cranbrook, BC

804 (Prisoner of War) Wing, Vancouver, BC

804 (Semianmoo) Wing, Surrey, BC

804 (White Rock)

806 Wing, Richmond, BC

808 (Nanaimo) Wing

808 (Thunderbird) Wing, Nanaimo, BC

861 Wing, Abbotsford, BC

879 Wing, Veder Crossing, BC

882 Wing, Trail, BC

883 Wing, Kelowna, BC

884 Wing, Duncan, BC

886 Wing, Kamloops, BC

888 Wing, Comox, BC

890 Wing

899 Wing, Vernon, BC

902 (Aero Camino) Wing – Santa Barbara, CA. Charter granted 1 February 1969.

903 Wing

904 Wing

949 (Eagle) Wing, Sacramento, CA

971 Wing, Colorado Springs, CO

Not many I suspect. Which brings me to my favourite grouse now that the season for humility and penitence and hugs is concluded. As we continue our stroll on the deck of the Titanic, confident in the safekeeping of the future of our Organization, sometimes referred to as Wings, one can't help but wonder what the strange markings on the few lifeboats on the promenade marked *MAL* mean. Who gets to sit in those?

As March is on the horizon your Executive is looking at the pending membership dues increase decreed by our National Headquarters at the last NAGM and what to do about it. About 5 bucks – intrinsically this is not an issue. The questions that have been asked by some of our members are: Is there any direct benefit

to the Wing, and has there been any? Would an Associate Membership benefit the Wing?

While we've addressed the Haggis: I'll leave you with this thought.

O wad some Power the giftie gie us

To see ourselfs as ithers se us

It wad frae monu a blunder free us,

An' foolish notion.



*Oh, would some Power give us the gift
To see ourselves as others see us!
It would from many a blunder free us,*

And foolish notion

A belated Happy Robert Burns Day!

And Happy St. Valentines Day!



110 Black Hawk Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets

With Cécile Thomson



Our cadets entering the Biathlon NGTA competitions, set to be held on January 12, are training at Highland Nordic on December 22 and January 5. Some equipment was loaned by DND but more boots, skis and poles had to be rented to enable all twelve participants to train and compete.

The annual banquet was held on November 28 at the Dragon Pearl Restaurant. Our mainly Asian-Canadian boys and girls always enjoy an all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet. We were entertained by a cadet band.

John Evans from OPC was there to present awards as follow:

Certificate of Merit to our treasurer, Kitt Hunter-Wolff; Cadet Instructor Cadre Award of Excellence to Captain Claudia Richter, CD; C/C Junior Officer to O/C Wing-Yi Leung; the 25Year Service Pin to G.E.(Ted) Taylor, CD; the Board of Governors Certificate of Recognition to yours truly,

Cécile Thompson

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets

With Jackie Johnston



818 continues to remain busy throughout February. Kicking off the month, National Course interviews are taking place February 1st. We have 3 cadets going for interviews, hoping for a place on the glider course.

February 2nd we are hosting Range Day. The entire squadron will participate.

February 8th is Sports Day. Everyone is looking forward to that!

On February 20th and 27th the range team will take part in regional competitions. Good luck!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Our annual heritage night is
MONDAY FEBRUARY 17th.

Come eat your way around the world!

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended our annual Christmas mess dinner. Such a wonderful evening.

Jackie Johnston

The Catalina — Canso

The Consolidated PBV Catalina, known as the Canso in the RCAF, is an American flying boat, and later an amphibious aircraft of the 1930s and 1940s. It was one of the most widely used sea-planes of World War II. Catalinas served with every branch of the United States Armed Forces and in the air forces and navies of many other nations.

During World War II, PBVs were used in anti-submarine warfare, patrol bombing, convoy escort, search and rescue missions (especially air-sea rescue), and cargo transport. The PBV was the most numerous aircraft of its kind, and the last military PBVs served until the 1980s. Nearly 80 years after its first flight, the aircraft continues to fly as a water bomber (or airtanker) in aerial firefighting operations in some parts of the world.

The Catalina first flew in 1935 and was produced until 1945, after 3,305 were built, including 629 in Canada and 24 in Russia. Canada's versions were the PB2B-2 built by Boeing Canada for the RAF and RCAF (240 built) and the PBV-1A built by Canadian Vickers, (380 in all: 150 for the RCAF and 150 for the USAAF).

The Catalina/Canso had a crew of 10: pilot, co-pilot, bow turret gunner, flight engineer, radio operator, 2 waist gunners and a ventral gunner.

The aircraft was powered by two Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp radial engines. It had a maximum speed of 196 mph, cruised at 125 mph and had a range of 2,520 sm. It had three 30 cal guns and two 50 cal and could carry 4,000 pounds of bombs of depth

An RCAF Canso flown by Squadron Leader L.J. Birchall foiled Japanese plans to destroy the Royal Navy's Indian Ocean fleet on 4 April 1942 when it detected the Japanese carrier fleet approaching Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

In 1939, F/O Birchall flew convoy and anti-submarine patrols from Nova Scotia, flying with No. 5 Squadron which was equipped with the Supermarine Stranraer.

On June 10, 1940, Birchall was responsible for the capture of an Italian merchant ship, the *Capo Nola*, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, hours after Canada



S/L Leonard Birchall aboard a Canso before being shot down & captured near Ceylon by the Japanese.

declared war on Italy. Birchall had been assigned to locate any Italian vessels still in Canadian waters. Finding the *Capo Nola*, Birchall had been informed of the declaration of war by radio and made a low pass over the freighter, as if making an attack. The panicked captain ran his vessel aground against a sandbank. Birchall then touched down nearby and waited until R.C.N. vessels reached the scene. The *Capo Nola's* crew were the first Italian prisoners taken by the Allies during the war.



Nose Guns, Canadian Vickers PBV-1A Canso A



Christmas—Hannukah Dinner





Merry Christmas



Happy Chanukah!



Christmas — Hannukah Dinner



