

# 434 Niagara

## BULLETIN



### General Meetings

3rd Saturday of each month at

Welland Optimist Club, 38 Patterson Ave., Welland, ON L3B 2C4

# ***We proudly promote the glorious tradition of the RCAF***

## **434 Wing Board of Directors**

Chair – Bill Heron .....	H - 289-820-8712
1 st Vice Chair – Julie Sheppard.....	H - 905-734-6307
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair - Norm Sonnenberg.....	H - 905-834-6722
Treasurer—Julie Sheppard .....	H—905-734-6307
Recording Secretary - George Groff.....	H - 905-734-4948
Membership/Welfare - Jeanette Lee.....	C - 905-359-3531
	C - 289-723-2544
Bulletin Editor – James Allan .....	H - 905-685-6787
Kit Shop Chair - Julie Shepard.....	C - 905-734-6307
Advertising Chair—Rod Lee.....	C - 905-359-1975
	C - 289-686-8636
Honorary Director – F/L Tom Vance.....	H - 905-834-8155
Wing Padre - Rev John Cathcart.....	H - 905-384-4660

### **COMMITTEES**

Air - Cadets Capt - Julie Sheppard  
 Audio Visual - Rod Lee  
 Phone Committee - Jeanette & George  
 Programs - George & Board  
 Sick/Visitation - Jeanette Lee  
 Publicity - Board

### **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIONS**

Port Colborne Branch 56	Hall	905-834-9512
Fort Erie Branch 71	Hall	905-871-8682
Fonthill Branch 613	Hall	905-892-6293



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**434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing**  
 Email: [434wingrcafa@gmail.com](mailto:434wingrcafa@gmail.com)

**Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada**

## ***Report from the Chair July-August 2024***

A new year dawns for 434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing and as we now look ahead the planning for upcoming events has begun.

But if I may just take a moment to reflect over the past few months, as many will know, events do not just simply happen so I will take this opportunity to thank all that have given of their time to help make things a success, without you, it just doesn't work.

James has already mentioned our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ in conjunction with our Spitfire pilot's 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday but I feel I need to make special reference to the following that on that day worked tirelessly to make sure we all had an enjoyable time. Those in particular were Rod Lee who did all of the cooking, Jeanette Lee and Julie Sheppard who organized the food and made sure that everyone had enough to eat & to others that contributed of their time, donations and goods this was a celebration that we can proudly call a success & to quote Joe Biden **“there's nothing we can't do when we do it together”** A banner that hung on the wall of the Toronto Maple Leaf dressing room when Harold Ballard was the owner simply read **“Success comes in cans NOT in cant's**, as a group, we have proven both of these quotes to be true.

Looking ahead. This coming week we will have a Board meeting to put the pieces in place for the Battle of Britain Ceremony please mark this date on your calendar, Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> start time will be 1.00pm Chippawa Park Cenotaph, if anyone has a lead on a piper for this occasion please let one of the Board members know, of course there will be discussion on other topics.

As always since COVID hit, we like many others have trouble securing a speaker. I know I have asked before but if you know of someone that might be willing to take this on, again please let one of us know it will only contribute to making our General meetings more interesting.

As a group I ask you all to consider something that we can do together i.e. a trip to CWH not as individuals but together, it is all too easy to get busy with everyday life and yes I know that we all have commitments but all I am asking is that you give this some thought and bring forward any ideas or suggestions.

Before closing, a reminder that our Giant Tiger BBQ is on Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup>. George will be contacting members to get the volunteers we will need as this is a one day event, we only need help for a few shifts, so if you have some spare time on that day let George know it will help him with drawing up a work schedule.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year with the anticipation that we will have the continuing camaraderie as we have experienced to date.

I wish you all good health.

**Bill Heron (Chair)**

***Per Ardua Ad Astra***



# Fundraising Barbecues

**Our first fundraising barbecue for 2024** was held on Sunday, May 26th at Giant Tiger in Welland.



L to R: Membership Chair Jeanette Lee, audio visual Rod Lee, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Julie Sheppard, Recording Secretary George Groff, Member David Boyd, Bill Heron chair.

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**Our second fundraising barbecue for 2024** was held on Saturday, June 15th at Giant Tiger in Welland.

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2nd Vice Chair Norm on Barbecue, Chair Bill, Treasurer, Julie



Get Your Hot Dogs and Hamburgers !



Julie at the Kit Shop Table



George serving food



## Fundraising Barbecues continued



Bulletin Editor James and Secretary George



Dan cooking hot dogs and Hamburgers to perfection



2nd Vice Chair Norm on Barbecue, Chair Bill and Treasurer Julie serving food.



Julie assisting customer at Kit Shop Stand



## Canada Day 2024



A portion of HH Knoll Lakeside Park, Port Colborne

434 Niagara Wing celebrated Canada Day with a booth in the HH Knoll Lakeview Park where celebrations are held annually for Canada Day. The park is 9 acres located in the City of Port Colborne. Established in 1922, it overlooks Sugarloaf Harbour and Gravelly Bay on Lake Erie. The Celebrations are an opportunity for 434 Niagara Wing to acquaint visitors with the RCAFA and also introduces people to 434 Niagara Wing and opportunities for them in our Wing.

434 members working in the booth gave out:

Over 800 Pins

50 Step Toys

Over 500 poppy seed packages

Individual cupcakes forming a large 100th Anniversary cake donated by Sobeys

Ten to fifteen Wing flyers were given out to interested parties and 10 business cards were taken

We received a donation of \$80.00 and made Kit Shop sales of \$64.00.



George, Julie, Jim and Rod



Cake donated by Sobeys which consists of individual cupcakes which were handed out.



434 Niagara members giving out items to promote 434 Niagara Wing and the RCAF 100th Anniversary.



# Annual Awards Luncheon

434 Niagara Wing's Annual Awards Luncheon was held on Saturday, June 22nd at Branch 613 Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill, Ontario.



**Our Head Table  
Guests**

**This was a year of Awards for former Spitfire Pilot and Honorary Director of 434 Niagara Wing, F/L Tom Vance who will be celebrating his 102nd Birthday in July.**



Secretary George presenting Tom Vance with 434 Niagara Wing Certificate of Appreciation



Secretary George presenting Tom Vance with Outstanding Service Award for 2024



Federal MP, Vance Badawey presenting Tom Vance with Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Government of Canada



**Outstanding  
Service  
Award**



**Certificate of  
Appreciation,  
Government of Canada**



## Annual Awards Luncheon continued



Don Feduk and Sam Newman



MP Vance Badawey presenting  
434 Wing Director and 2nd Vice  
Chair, Norm Sonnenberg with  
Certificate of Appreciation, from  
the Government of Canada



Thank you Crystal for taking photos at the Annual Awards Luncheon



## Annual Awards Luncheon continued



MP Vance Badawey  
presenting 434 Wing  
member Dan Carr with  
Certificate of  
Appreciation, from the  
Government of  
Canada



Sam Newman Silver Dart Award



Secretary  
George  
presenting 2nd  
Vice Chair Norm  
with Certificate of  
Appreciation  
from 434 Niagara  
Wing

L to R, Secretary  
George, Dan Carr  
with Sam Newman  
Silver Dart Award,  
Sam Newman,  
434 Wing Chair, Bill  
Heron



Jo-Ann, Mitch and Jeanette



Dan Carr presented with the Sam  
Newman Silver Dart Award



Let the meal begin!



Wing Padre -  
Rev John Cathcart



613 Royal Canadian Legion  
staff who served a wonderful  
meal

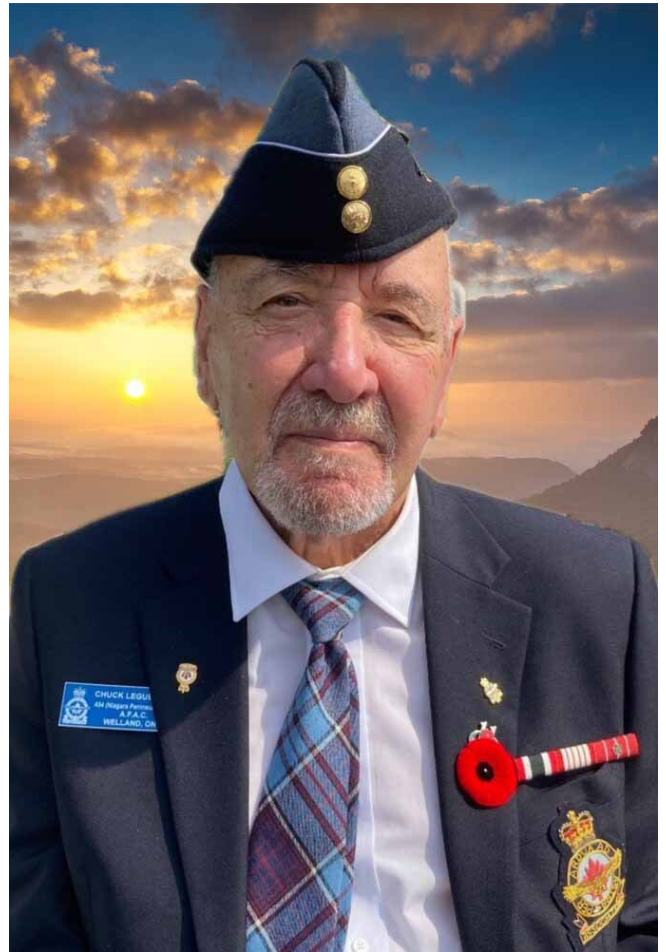


## Charles-Guy Leguerrier 1930—2024

434 Niagara Wing Member **Charles (Chuck)**

**Leguerrier** passed away on May 29, 2024, surrounded by his family. As a Director of 434 Wing, he had served as membership Chair and Editor of our Bulletin for many years. Chuck was born in the small French community of Clarence Creek, outside of Ottawa, he was raised on a small farm, and was one of 17 children. He was the last remaining member of his family.

He joined the RCAF at the age of 20. In 1958 he was transferred to Germany I#3 Wing Zweibrucken and then he was posted to the Decimomannu Air Base in Sardinia in 1960 and became part of a contingent of seventy Airmen to provide logistics to the RCAF squadrons when they came from our bases in France and Germany. The squadrons came with their pilots and ground-crews for a two week period of air to air gunnery over the Mediterranean. In his own words, he indicated, "This posting turned out to be the most enjoyable posting of my Air Force career." Moving back to Canada, his family settled in the Ottawa area, where he completed his 25 years in the service.



He then went on to work for the federal government in the department of communications. In the later 1980's Charles retired and he and his wife, Irene, moved to the Niagara area where he became a valued, beloved member and Director of 434 Niagara Wing.

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## RCAF 100th Anniversary



Photos by  
Bill Heron



In response to a request from 434 Niagara Wing, the City of Welland created a huge, vibrant flower display commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF.



# Flight to Home and Freedom in a Bombardier Global 6000

On June 24, 2024, Julian Assange left London Stansted Airport (STN) at 18:00 local time in a chartered Bombardier Global 6000 executive jet with the tail number 9H-VTD from the flight company VistaJet with an ultimate destination of Brisbane, Australia. It is reported that the charter was arranged and paid for (US \$500,000) by the Australian Government, although Stella Assange has indicated that funds will be repaid to the Government through a crowdfunding campaign which immediately raised over \$500,000 from an anonymous donor.



The Bombardier Global 6000 operated by VistaJet can fly for 13 hours, has a maximum range of 6,000 NM and accommodates up to 14 passengers (with beds for up to seven). It is luxuriously appointed inside, with white leather recliners and handmade cabinetry. The aft cabin converts to a private stateroom, complete with bed and recliner.

Assange was accompanied on the flights by his super lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, Australian Ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Stephen Smith, whom played key roles in negotiating his freedom with London and Washington.

The first stop on the long journey was Bangkok Don Mueang International Airport (DMK). Around 12 hours later the Global 6000 began its descent into Bangkok Airport where it landed at 12:30 local time.

The Global 6000 was scheduled to leave at 21:00 local time for a nine hour flight to Saipan International Airport (SPN) in the Northern Mariana Islands where Assange would plead guilty and be sentenced in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands as per a plea deal. Julian Assange left the court a free man and it was now time to complete his journey from Saipan to the RAAF air base Fairbairn in Canberra. Assange set foot on home soil after a 14 year battle, just after 7:30 pm on Wednesday June 26, 2024



## Using the Bombardier Global 6000 to Get to Super Bowl on Time

After completing an Eras Tour concert for thousands of fans in Tokyo, on February 10, 2024, Taylor Swift rushed to the Haneda Airport and boarded the same Global 6000 later used by Assange, tail number 9H-VTD, to make it across the world to watch Travis Kelce play in the Super Bowl the next day. Many feared she would not be able to make it on time, but the Global 6000 flew across nine time zones and the international date line to make it to Los Angeles with time to spare for the Las Vegas showdown on February 11, 2024

## Or Just for General Use

This same Global 6000 is regularly used by VistaJet founder Thomas Flohr,



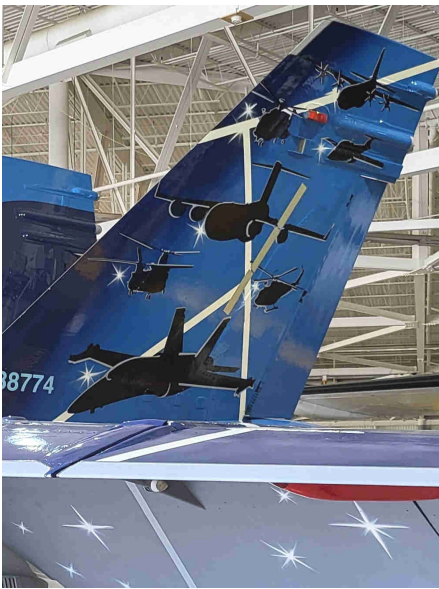
## RCAF 100th Anniversary at CWH



A 100th Anniversary CF-18



100th Anniversary CF-18 at CWH



"Tango"



Sue climbing into Lancaster



New, CC-130J Hercules



## RCAF 100th Anniversary at CWH continued



CH-147 Chinook

Secretary George in the Chinook.

**“But where is the head?” He asks**

Thank you to Sue and George for providing photos of aircraft at CWH



## Tom Vance, Reviewing Officer for ACR of 23 RCACS

There is no stopping F/L Tom Vance, although approaching 102, Tom was delighted to attend as Reviewing Officer for the ACR of 23 RCACS in St Catharines this year.



Tom and CO Capt Sharlene Wilson



Tom presented Cadet Squadron Commander WOI Harris with the Lord Strathcona Medal of Honour



Cadet Squadron Commander WOI Harris presented Tom with appreciation gift



Tom, CO Capt Sharlene Wilson and Rtd 2nd Lieutenant and Reverend David Boyd



Norm Sonnenberg, Tom Vance and David Boyd



## F/L Tom Vance 102nd Birthday

The weather was perfect on July 20th as 434 Wing members and friends gathered at Chippawa Park in Welland for a barbecue and celebration of Tom Vance's 102nd birthday!



Tom, Birthday cake and 434 Niagara Wing members



Rod with barbecue



Tom with his cake



Chair, Bill ready to capture photos



Birthday cake which also celebrates RCAF 100th anniversary



## F/L Tom Vance 102nd Birthday *continued*



Norm  
Sonnenberg and  
Tom

What is a picnic  
without ice  
cream cones



## In The News

### 427 (London Wing) RCAFA

A belated welcome to Jim Donnelly and his wife Dawn Erskine into the RCAFA family. As a Director and Chair for the 427 London Wing we wish Jim great success and hope that 427 Wing will prosper under his leadership.

## Birthdays

### July

Tom Vance

Mitch Mascitelli



# Sponsors

## **Corporation of the City of Welland**

Mayor Frank Campion & Council  
411 Main Street East  
Welland, ON

## **Port Colborne Legion**

Branch 56  
67 Clarence Street  
Port Colborne, ON

## **Giant Tiger**

Wayne Zatorski – Store Owner  
200 Fitch St., Welland, ON, L3C 2V9  
(905) 735-0963

## **M.T. Bellies**

Tap & Grillhouse John Clark  
871 Niagara St., Welland, ON  
(905)-788-9474

## **Sobeys**

287 West Side Road  
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Franchise Owner

## **Vance Badawey**

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Welland, ON

## **Mike Knapp Ford Sales LTD**

Mike Knapp, President  
607 Niagara St., Welland ON, L3C 1L9  
(905)-732-3673

## **Fonthill Legion**

**Branch 613**  
141 Highway 20 East  
Fonthill, ON

## **Welland Optimist Club**

38 Patterson Avenue  
Welland, ON

