May-June 2020 Volume 52, Issue 29

# THE LONDON LINK

ASSOCIATION

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION 2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | <u>WWW.427WING.COM</u>

427 (London) Wing was proud to offer space and services to the 2019 Royal Canadian Air Cadets
Power Pilot Scholarship program conducted at Diamond Flight Centre London. Sadly, the 2020 program has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Here's a look back at 2019 while looking forward to 2021.















See more on page 6 THE LONDON LINK | 1

### ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

The RCAFA is a national aerospace and community service organization to:

- Commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who 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 program.

### 427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director - Acting Chairperson	Gus Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Director - Secretary	Tom Pillon (secretary@427wing.com)	519-660-8099	ve3hor@gmail.com
Director	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	johnston.hojo@rogers.com
Director	Chuck Hardy		chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Acting	Barry Sandler	519-494-1053	basandler@bell.net
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Public Relations and Museum			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer,	519-657-5759	fhsmeltzer@rogers.com
	Charlene Odonnell, Hazil Malone		
Fundraising	B. Sandler, R. McKinnon, G. Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Museum			
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Lottery	Tom Pillon	519-660-8099	ve3hor@gmail.com
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
War Graves, Poppy Fund,	David Smith/Terry Rushton		
Heritage/ History & Veterans'	David Smith		
Memorial			
Tours			

### **CLUB SERVICES**

Wing Manager	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive
London Link Liaisonru	Reg Lownie	rjlownie@gmail.com
London Link graphic artist	Cathy Wood	cathyrwood@gmail.com

**Over 1,000sq ft for Rent at 427 (London) Wing** – This includes two rooms with a bar, kitchen facilities and lots of parking. This clean, attractive setting is great for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you'd like to have. Holds 125.

• Call for rental rates • Catering IS an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.









### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

The COVID-19 virus leaves the Wing (as noted in news articles about the Legion branches) challenged, to put it mildly. The Board is now meeting weekly via teleconference to mitigate loss of revenue and stay abreast of evolving government programs.

Some members have renewed their memberships and made donations already. Thank you. We urge all members to renew as soon as you can. Please do not hold back renewing because you feel the Wing may not survive the emergency. Board members have great ideas to see us through the crisis and beyond.

Gus Cameron reminds us that this emergency is a war like World War II. With our allies, we won then. Together as Canadians, this time along with all countries in the world, this war too will be won.

We are here to help members with any concerns they may have. Contact information for Board members and the Wellness Committee are shown at page 2 of the Link.

> Chuck Hardy Board Member for all members of the Board

### LIST OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 427 (LONDON) WING - as of October 1, 2019

Barry Sandler bsandler@sympatico.ca 519-494-1053

Chuck Hardy chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca 519-452-1379

> Gus Cameron anc@bell.net 519-457-3575

Howard Johnston johnston.hojo@rogers.com 519-657-2499

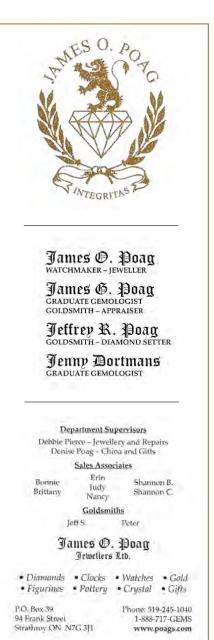
> Tom Pillon ve3hor@gmail.com 519-660-8099

Ontario Group Representative Rene McKinnon renemck@sympatico.ca 519-471-8003

When you normally spend all your time at home anyway but now the government says you have to







### Per Ardua

We live in dangerous times and in some instances, such as the corona virus, it can be a matter of life or death. In others, such as losing money through ignorance or carelessness, it can be painful but not fatal. For instance, think credit cards in the summer.

Credit cards have proven to be very convenient when ordering groceries while confined to being stay-at-home. But summer is coming, and hopefully we will then be able to get out and do our shopping in person. That will be the time to switch from credit to debit cards. The negative aspect of credit cards is that all you need is a magnetic strip and a signature, along with occasional requests to produce identification. Debit cards are more secure because of your personal information number, or "pin."

Nevertheless, there are other precautions you should consider. For example, never use personal information such as your birth date, your address or postal code or telephone number. If you lose your wallet or purse with your debit card in it, your driver's license has all that information that the thief can use. It is suggested that you change your pin every three months and never write the new number down on paper and then keep it in your wallet or purse with the debit card.

When you use your card always keep your pin hidden from the view of others by placing your freehand over the buttons of the card reader, even at an ATM because your card and pin may be photographed by a hidden microscopic camera. You can also pretend to press other buttons when you tap in your pin – it

does seem extreme, but it adds another level of security in an unscrupulous world.

Drive-in ATMs present other dangers, as aggressive robbers have drivers at a disadvantage because they are struggling to insert their card and pin and are not paying attention to their surroundings. Keep the car doors locked and all other windows closed up tightly. Put the car into gear so you can pull away quickly if a stranger approaches or confronts you. In general, it is always a good idea to keep your car doors locked even while driving, and to leave nothing of value in your vehicle. Objects have been stolen by breaking a side window to reach the glove compartment or to steal a GPS indicator or cell phone.

Finally, the internet, which has a large reputation for scams and frauds, when something is offered and paid for in advance but never received. Be particularly careful that you are dealing with a reputable merchant when you must submit credit card information. It is not unusual for scammers to use the legitimate logos of large companies, such as FedEX, to trick you into sending money to have a non-existent package delivered. Another favorite scam will use the name and false address of a friend to send you a message requesting money for an "urgent" need.

Always remember to "treat your cards like a wallet full of cash," and all best wishes for a pain-free summer.

### Reg Lownie

## Here is the Canadian Anti Fraud Centre's latest list of tricks that have been detected as of March 18th:

Cleaning or heating companies offering duct cleaning services or filters to protect from COVID-19 offering "special" air filters.

Local and provincial hydro/electrical power companies threatening to disconnect power for non-payment.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the World Health Organization (WHO) offering fake lists for sale of COVID-19 infected people in your neighbourhood.

Public Health Agency of Canada giving false results saying you have been tested positive for COVID-19 tricking you into confirming your health and credit card numbers for a prescription.

Red Cross and other known charities offering free medical products (e.g. masks) for a donation.

Government departments sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails tricking you into opening malicious attachments to reveal sensitive personal and financial details.

Financial advisers pressuring people to invest in hot new stocks related to the disease offering financial aid and/or loans to help you get through the shut downs.

Door-to-door sales people selling household decontamination services

Private companies offering fake COVID-19 tests for sale.

## Links to protect you from COVID-19 related scams and overall good secure computing:

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/features-vedette/2020/covid-19-eng.htm

WHO – Beware of criminals pretending to be WHO: https://www.who.int/about/communications/cvber-security

How to spot phishing scams arising from COVID-19: https://cba.ca/covid-19-email-scam

Canada – False and misleading claims: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html

CISA – Defending against COVID-19 cyber scams: https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/current-activity/2020/03/06/defending-against-covid-19-cyber-scams

StaySafeOnline - COVID-19 Security Resource Library: https://stay-safeonline.org/covid-19-security-resource-library/

IT World Canada: https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-covid-19-scams-continue-heres-how-to-avoid-them/428588 Global News: https://globalnews.ca/news/6686585/how-to-protect-yourself-against-phishing-and-malware-coronavirus-scams/

5 tips from homeland security to help you avoid COVID-19 scams: https://www.forbes.com/sites/leemathews/2020/03/08/5-tips-from-homeland-security-to-help-you-avoid-covid-19-scams/#3cf9c0487955 NCSC issues guidance as home working increases in response to COVID-19: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/home-working-increases-in-response-to-covid-19

From Air Cadet League of Canada, Ontario Provincial Committee

## Stay Calm and Carry On by Linda Brimson

We hear much talk of the economy today - local businesses closed or struggling, provincially-mandated essential services; and the world economy. A couple years ago, I realized there is another critical grassroots economy, one that 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association plays a part in.

I'm referring to the non-profit and registered charitable groups and their army of unpaid volunteers. Take a moment to think about all the important work these groups and their devoted members offer - week in, week out across this great country of Canada.

These volunteers are most definitely an essential service to the people and projects they work for and support. There are the social agencies that offer help to people experiencing domestic violence, homelessness, addiction. There are groups supporting the lonely and isolated, for example the Alzheimer Society. There are volunteer workers in the hospitals, Long Term Care homes and schools. All these organizations cannot function without their volunteers to fundraise, offer hands-on work, be drivers, answer the phones, make deliveries, support outreach efforts in the community.

There are the arts and entertainment organizations. At times naysayers dismiss the value of art, music, and performance in dire situations, insisting they are unnecessary. History has proven humans need the creative release and connection that art in all its forms bring to both artist and viewer.

The environmental groups are essential to earth's health and recovery from abusive practices. In London I have been thrilled to volunteer a few times with Reforest London. There is a wonderful feeling when planting trees for a future legacy. And so many young people are involved and knowledgeable. it is wonderful to see.

Today our 427 (London) Wing is at a crossroads. Even before the current catastrophe of a worldwide pandemic, some

people questioned whether historical service groups may have outlived their usefulness. Long-time service groups such as Legions, Lions and Kin Clubs, and dozens of other non-profits face challenging times.

How each individual group chooses to respond will say something about their leadership, their will to survive and commitment to serve their communities. In many groups, lack of funds will be the final nail in the coffin. When groups cannot meet their monthly expenses, there are few options.

Please know the directors of your 427 Wing have been meeting weekly via telephone conference. Plans were being discussed refundraising months ago. There are commitments and brainstorming sessions to deal with each week's crisis and survival planning. Members are most welcome to offer positive suggestions and ideas.

Your directors do not operate within a bubble of unreality. They face the harsh reality that many non-profit and charitable organizations may not survive this unprecedented time where groups cannot host their events to generate funds. Our members are in the high-risk group for the COVID-19 virus due to age or possible health challenges. We pray each of our members and friends are able to take necessary precautions.

No one knows the future. The virus is calling the shots. I take comfort in the resilience and goodness of people within the Wing, and within my community and country. Canadians respond well when asked to be generous and when confronted with tremendous challenges. Earlier generations have given us a great example - Stay Calm and Carry On, works well.

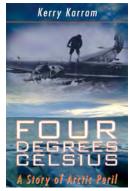
Each day I count my blessings and remind myself I have much to be thankful for. Most of us are serving our forced confinement in the comfort of our homes, with sufficient food and the means to maintain human connections. In this unusual time, let's open our hearts to the suffering of others, remain committed to our goals of service and unselfishness, and rededicate ourselves to a purposeful life.

### Canadian Aviation Historical Society Memberships

Do you find yourself searching the sky when you hear the sound of an aircraft engine? Are you interested in Canadian aviation history – the aircraft that made it, the companies that made them, or the people who brought both to life? Then the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) is the place for you!

Give the gift of a CAHS membership to yourself or a loved one. When you purchase a CAHS membership, you receive all Journal issues for the calendar year in which you join. You can upgrade any level of membership to a Family Rate; for an additional \$25, you can get the PDF version of the Journal delivered via email to two additional family members.

www.cahs.com/membership.html



Kerry Karram has kindly arranged with her publisher (Dundurn) for the Canadian Aviation Historical Society to sell her book Four Degrees Celsius: A Story of Arctic Peril as a fund-raiser at a discounted rate for the buyer. The retail price online and at your local bookstore is \$22.99 plus GST. The CAHS is offering this book at \$18.00 (GST included) plus \$6.00 shipping per copy in Canada.

Kerry was inspired by her grandfather Andy Cruickshank's diary to tell the story of the 1929 Arctic search and rescue efforts to save eight prospectors of the Dominion Explorers lead by C.D.H. MacAlpine. Grossly under-equipped, the

expedition ran out of fuel and was stranded above the Arctic Circle. Within days, Western Canada Airways sent a rescue team headed by Captain Andy Cruickshank, in what was to become the most extensive aviation search in Canadian history. The searchers encountered trouble: turbulent weather, forced landings, and plane crashes. The prospectors were also struggling, as they waited edgily for freezeup and the anticipated crossing to Cambridge Bay. While Cruickshank and his team were trying to reconstruct a damaged aircraft, MacAlpine and his men were forced to run more than 112 kilometres on barely frozen ice to arrive at Cambridge Bay, where they still awaited rescue.



















### **TEST FOR GREY CELLS**

Something for seniors to do to keep those "aging" grey cells active! And for you younger ones, to get them growing!!

- 1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
- 2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
- 3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
- 4. How much dirt is there in a hole... that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
- 5. What word in the English Language... is always spelled incorrectly?
- 6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
- 7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
- 8. What was the President's Name...in 1975?
- 9. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
- 10. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
- 11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in a third field?

### Here are the Answers: (No peeking!)

come one big one.

- 11. One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all be-
  - 10. Meither, the yolk of the egg is yellow [Dun] second place, not first.
- 9. You would be in 2nd. Well, you passed the person in
- Same as is it now Donald Trump [Oh, come on ..] camera to take pictures.
- 7. You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a
  - Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere.
    - p. Incorrectly
    - There is no dirt in a hole. very good at this are you?]
  - Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet. [You're not
    - 2. Meat.
    - 1. Johnny, of course.

### **GROCERY DELIVERY OPTIONS**

Not an exhaustive list, but here are some grocery delivery options available in London:

### On The Move Organics 519-266-2667

Organic Food delivery https://onthemoveorganics.ca

Men in Kilts 1-800-777-5458

London@meninkilts.com Grocery delivery https://meninkilts.ca

Grocery Guy 519-636-8533

Grocery delivery https://www.groceryguy.ca

**Out 'N Back Catering** 519-668-3360

Homemade frozen prepared meals https://www.outnbackcatering.ca

### **London Volunteer Task Force**

Grocery delivery https://www.londonvtf.ca

#### Loblaws

Grocery delivery https://delivery.loblaws.ca

#### Food Fund

Produce delivery https://foodfund.ca

London Drugs 1-888-991-2299 Medication and drug store items (including grocery) delivery

https://londondrugs.com Most drug stores offer delivery

### **Metro Grocery**

https://metro.ca/en/online-grocery

Walmart Grocery 1-800- 328-0402 https://www.walmart.ca/en/grocery/N-117



### Membership Report

#### **Obituaries**

Since the last edition of the Link, we are saddened by the loss of **DIANA CUTHBERT** 

WHO PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 27, 2020 Diana's obituary will be published in the Free Press when the Wing reopens. A date will be arranged for a memorial service at the Wing. She is survived by daughter Anne and son Paul.

Diana served as 2nd Vice President of 427 (London) Wing during her eleven years as a member. She was a Fitness Instructor and a Music Therapist at Dearness Home. Diana taught many of us how to play euchre and attended weekly as well as provided snacks for the players. She enjoyed gardening and spent many hours planting and tending the Wing flower beds.

Diana was a life member of the performing arts community. That included producing and acting in plays at the Gallery Theatre (Palace Theatre) along with her husband Ted. Diana's daughter Anne also worked at the theatre with her mother.

- WE WILL REMEMBER HER -

### **ALLAN (AL) MCNEE**

Al is survived by daughter Alanna and son Paul. Al passed away in University Hospital at the age of 80. Forest Lawn is arranging a family service. Family and friends can make a donation to the Wing in memory of Al.

Al served 11 years in the RCAF and was an Air Cadet in Goderich in the 1950's. He regularly attended the Friday lunches and enjoyed playing euchre every Tuesday.

In civilian life he worked in the automotive field, hardware and for Walmart.

### - WE WILL REMEMBER HIM -

At this writing, it is not known when we can resume the Friday lunches, rentals, euchre and other events as a result of being closed because of COVID-19.

Very little income is coming in. Please renew your membership as soon as possible if you have not done so. Flo visits the Wing most days from 12:30 until about 1:30. If renewing by credit card, please call her at (519) 455-0430.

### MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

One of you who has renewed her/his membership with payment received by the Wing by May 15th, will be reimbursed the full membership paid as a token of our gratitude for your continued loyalty and dedication to the well being of this fine organization.

The names of members who have renewed their membership will be placed in a container and the draw will be made as soon as possible after May 15th and the winner will be notified by email or phone. The draw will be witnessed by at least one other member.

To all members, thank you and stay well.

### Chuck Hardy, Membership Chairperson

### We Are Veterans.

Contributed by Frank Birch Source unknown

We left home as teenagers for an unknown adventure. We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own life. We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew. We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth. We found new friends and new family. We became brothers and sisters. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times. We didn't get enough sleep. We smoked and drank too much. We picked up both good and bad habits. We worked hard and played harder. We didn't earn a great wage. We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events. We didn't know when or even if we were ever going to see home again. We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all. We fought for our freedom as well as the freedom of others. Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't. Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't. Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare. We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain. Not all of our sacrifices were physical. We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie. We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all. We have dealt with victory and tragedy. We have celebrated and mourned. We lost a few along the way. When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new. Some of us never came home at all. We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures. We share an unspoken bond with each other that most people don't have and few will understand. We speak highly of our own branch of service and poke fun at the other branches. But we know that if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one in a heartbeat. Being a veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away. It has no monetary value, but at the same time, it is a priceless gift. People see a veteran and they thank them for their service. When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not. So from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country. Try to remember the good times, and forget the bad times. Share your stories. But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran



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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **VIMY 105**

Three years ago this month, the Vimy Flight Team had a most marvelous adventure in France as part of Canada's 2017 mini expeditionary force. The memories of that country and the people are etched forever in our minds.

In a time of coronavirus, we have no concept of what a new normal might be when this dreadful plague is finally over... But a thought of gathering two years hence at Lens Benifontaine Airfield for Vimy 105, has been broached.

For those who are able, such a meeting, once more, in the land that hosted, with the people who welcomed, would be proof that Remembrance efforts made on behalf of Canada's First World War Fallen, can and will endure.

### **RCAF MARKS 96TH YEAR:**

Read article at: https://www.skiesmag.com/news/rcafmarks-96-years-of-service/ Due to the COVD-19 pandemic 427 Wings events are cancelled until at least May 15th. For more information on the Wing please call 519 455-0430 and leave a message and we will get back to you.

## Preserve your family history and memories

Safekeep your precious memories, share with friends, create photo books and more.

### **Photo Digitize Service**

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GVERWAY)

bigbikegiveaway.ca
519-200-5496 call/text
donate@bigbikegiveaway.ca



Big Bike Giveaway (bigbikegiveaway.ca) is providing free bicycles to lower-income essential workers to get to work more safely compared to crowded public transit.

If you have a used working-condition bike to donate, it will be accepted at any of the City of London municipal EnviroDepots until September. For locations & hours visit http://www.london.ca/.../Garbage-.../Recycling/Pages/Depots.aspx

### **Benefits Payment Calendar 2020**

Below are dates for recurring Government of Canada benefit payments administered by Canada Revenue Agency. If you signed for direct deposit, payments will be made to your bank account.

January 29, 2020 February 26, 2020 March 27, 2020 April 28, 2020 May 27, 2020 June 26, 2020 July 29, 2020 August 27, 2020 September 28, 2020 October 28, 2020 November 26, 2020 December 29, 2020

CPP payments include the CPP retirement pension, CPP disability, children's benefits and survivor's benefits.

OAS benefits are made out on the same dates and include the OAS pension,
Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.

## VISIT http://flylondon.ca/flag for a list and links to all the great London International Airport attractions:

**427 Wing** 

Secrets of Radar Museum
London Amateur Radio Club
Play Away Indoor Park
Jet Aircraft Museum
Katana Kafe
Crumlin Creek Golf



### MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Harry Beukeboom, Bob Brown, Harry Campbell, Walter Chmela, Joan Clark, Jack Clark, John Gill, Don Hatch, Robert Johnson, Hazil Malone, Tom Pillon Wayne Quick, Mike Seabrook, Liyuan Shi, David Smith, Chuck Spurgeon, Bill Webb

### JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wayne Chuter, Mike Desjardins, Pilsu-qua Lloyd, Tammy Newman, Sam Newman John Pietraszko, Les Prosser, Terry Rushton



"The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune." -English Proverb



### LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June17th. September/October: August 18th • November/December: October 18th.

Please forward any articles that you consider of value to the Wing members and we will do our best to get it to print. Sometimes submissions are of such a size that we then make them a two, or three part series.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your photos, stories etc with our members. (For good reproduction at reasonable size, photos should be fairly high resolution)



### **Expo Insurance Brokers Inc.**

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Steven W. Levschuk, MAS, President

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Jean Zavitz

7 Edgemere Crescent London, ON N5Z 4M6

Ph: 519-659-7829 Fax: 519-659-8190

laserinc@execulink.com www.laserlifeinc.ca

## Please call 519-455-0430 or visit the 427 (London) Wing Facebook page for updates.

## May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	celled	9
10	11 Maly	12 - Alin <b>a</b>	activit	ies Car	15	16
17	All May	Mins	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					colled	
7	8	9	activit	ies car	12	13
14	a Jurie	Win 16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				