



*Royal Canadian Air Force Association
RCAF 441 (Huronia) Wing Inc.
March – April 2023 Newsletter*

Vol 7 Edition 2



Happy 99th Birthday - RCAF

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 and Space Force, and to support and encourage the civil aviation component within the country.

2. Chairman's Message:

With life returning to a semi-normal routine, time seems to be flying past. The 100th Anniversary of the RCAF will be here before we know it and there are several projects that the Wing is preparing for. These include the Battle of Britain commemoration events, the RCAF Tulip gardens, and the T-33 Parkette at the former RCAFA 441 Wing building on Hwy 90. These do not include the events that 16 Wing Borden is spearheading. We are also proposing two resolutions for the Ontario Group AGM in May. The first is to lobby the RCAF and DHH to reinstate the Air Force Cross and Air Force Medal awards (see Randy Rice's Time Capsule article for more info) and the proposal for an RCAFA Scholarship for Air Cadets to learn more about Remotely Piloted Vehicles. Per Ardua Ad Astra.

3. Honours and Awards: The H&A Committee, under Chair Andy Galton, will be submitting its nominations that were written up for the 2022 Awards of Merit and Member of the Year to our RCAFA Ontario Group Central Region Director, Brenda Lynn Rice-Wilson, for consideration by Ontario Group. Brenda will be in attendance at our Charter and Awards dinner on 5 May 2023 at the Legion to assist with passing out some of the awards. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP by Friday, 21 April to Andrea Sloan at 705-734-9449 or by e-mail at 441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca

4. Wing Fund Raiser:

Dinner for 2 Anywhere in the World Draw – There were no 441 Wing winners when the draw took place on Feb 14th. However, the winners were: 1st Prize #2379 John Lord, 2nd Prize #3384 Sharon Zacchinga, 3rd Prize #2161 Juanita Garrity. Good news though, a cheque from the Kiwanis should be delivered shortly to our Wing as a donation to us for selling 24 books of the tickets.

5. RCAF 99th Anniversary Pins:

Bob Thompson has completed the artwork for the pins and Norm Marion has forwarded it to 'Awards Canada', the company that produces the pins, for a quote. Norm is waiting for a price from them before giving them the go ahead to produce them. Unfortunately, the pins will not be produced and delivered to us by 01 April.

6. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
11 Mar	RCAFA Ont Group Central Region Director's Meeting at 447 Wing in Mount Hope.	1000 hrs
14 Mar	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Online + In person	1800 hrs
14 Mar	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Online + In person Dave Hadfield – Guest Speaker – Hurricane Flight	1900 hrs
1 Apr	RCAF's 99 th birthday – No major event planned	N/A
11 Apr	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Online + In person	1800 hrs
11 Apr	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Nominations for the Wing Board of Directors & By-Laws Discussion LCol Koussay – Guest Speaker – RPVs	1900 hrs
5 May	Annual Charter and Awards Dinner at the Legion – British Theme 'Coronation Day'	1730 hrs
10 June	Barrie Airshow – Snowbirds and CF-18 Demo A/C	TBD
11 June	Barrie Airshow – Snowbirds and CF-18 Demo A/C	TBD
13 June	Wing Directors' Meeting – In person	1800 hrs
13 June	Wing Members Meeting – In person – Swearing of new Wing Board of Directors members	1900 hrs

7. RCAF 100th Anniversary Committee - Update:

Members of the Wing's planning committee for the RCAF's 100th Anniversary have been in touch with Capt Rutvik Bhatt, the OPI for 16 Wing, and with Colonel Maggie Jacula, the national Campaign Manager - RCAF 2024. The ideas that our Wing are looking at for the RCAF centennial are:

1. Creation of the T-33 Parkette on the site of the former 441 Wing building on Hwy 90. OPI is Rudy Mak.
2. Official presentation of the 441 Wing's Standard. The old one 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 – OPI is Murray Conley;
3. Planting specially bred RCAF tulips at Ad Astral place, in Barrie's Military Heritage Park and other locations around Barrie – OPI is David Farnsworth;

4. Production of a '100th Anniversary of the RCAF' pin which could be done in conjunction with the national staff – OPI Norm Marion;
5. a Freedom of the City parade with 16 Wing in Barrie done in conjunction with the Battle of Britain parade in 2024. Wing OPI – Murray Conley;
6. Assist 16 Wing with the production of an RCAF 100th Anniversary edition of the books that were previously published for the 75th and 80th anniversaries of the RCAF;
7. Conduct special tours of the BBMM Air Annex that highlight 100 years of the RCAF during the 2024 Air Show at CFB Borden; and
8. 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;

8. TIME CAPSULE: "The Air Force Cross (AFC) and the Air Force Medal (AFM)": by Randolf Rice

For many years Canada's awards system was governed by the British system. In 1972 that all changed and Canada instituted its own awards system breaking tradition with Britain. Two medals in particular disappeared completely from the Canadian system. They were the Air Force Cross (AFC) and the Air Force Medal (AFM).

Gallantry medals had been awarded for actions in the face of the enemy, not so the AFC and the AFM. Between 1918 and 1966, the AFC and the AFM were awarded to Canadian Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force personnel for actions not in the face of the enemy.

The Army and the Navy each had their own system of awards whereas the new Royal Air Force during World War One was lacking such a thing. As a result, four new honours were established on June 3, 1918 to recognize members of the Royal Air Force and Dominion Air Forces. They consisted of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Distinguished Flying Medal, the Air Force Cross and the Air Force Medal. The criteria for the last two was quite unique for its time and covered a wide range of actions not associated with combat. They would encompass Air Force personnel as a whole.

The Air Force Cross was to be granted to Officers and Warrant Officers while the Air Force Medal was to be granted to Non-commissioned Officers. The criteria for both in part stated, "for an act or acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty performed whilst flying though not in active operation against the enemy". Amendments were made through the years and for Canada the most significant was allowing for recommendations in respect of dominion personnel to be made by the appropriate dominion minister. Thus, the way was cleared for Canadian personnel serving in Canada to be recommended for the AFC or AFM through a

purely Canadian channel of communication, for example RCAF personnel of the British Air Commonwealth Training Program or Coastal Command and so on. The arrival of these medals were applauded, particularly because they differentiated between combat and non-combat service and both would cover a wide range of exceptional performance by Air Force personnel during World War 2 and particularly in the post war RCAF.

The awarding of the AFC and the AFM in a post war RCAF was rare and fewer were given out then in WW2. The following are some actions for which the two medals were awarded; Mercy and Rescue Work, Airlifts ie; Korean, Training and Development, Meteorological Flying and General Duties.

Of note, no member of the RCAF was decorated with either medals for worked associated with the aerial mapping of Canada in the fifties, odd considering it was a significant tasking assigned to the RCAF and involved hazardous duty.

Today the Air Force Cross and the Air Force Medal are medals from a bygone era and have been replaced by a system of awards that is all inclusive to Canadian Armed Forces members regardless of their branch. That being the case, what made the AFC and the AFM so special was the fact they were uniquely Air Force medals, nominated and selected by Air Force Chain of Command for Air Force personnel. As the RCAF continues into a new century maybe its worth a look to the past and revive the spirit of the Air Force Cross or the Air Force Medal.

9. RCAFA Ontario Group Baord Needs Volunteers:

Ontario Group Chair Walter Peckham is looking for members to fill the Directors positions on the Ontario Group Board. Currently they are sitting at five (5) Directors out of nine (9) with the recent addition of David Farnsworth, who volunteered from our Wing. If you wish to volunteer with the Ont Gp Board, please let Walter Peckham know. There will be elections at the AGM in May.

10. 441 (Huron) Wing – Board of Directors Election:

The Wing will be holding its annual election in May 2023 with Jane Connolly acting as the Wing's Returning Officer. Five members will be stepping down from their Director positions and duties when their current term ends, and they or other members should be elected to replace them. A Director may serve 2 consecutive terms if elected and appointed by the General Membership. The current terms end on 30 June 2023 for the following members / positions:

Bill Sergeant, Chair;
Deputy Treasurer; (Vacant),
Norm Marion, Public Affairs;
Gerry Pepler, Ad Astral Place Board Chair;
Art Cameron, Director At Large.

Nominations for the Directors will be accepted up to and including 30 April 2023 by our Membership Chair, Andrea Sloan. She will then turn over the names of the nominees to Jane Connolly, the Wing Returning Officer, prior to the May

meeting when the election will take place. The new Board will be installed at the June 2023 meeting. The nomination form can be found at the end of the this newsletter for those wishing to serve as a Wing Director from 2023 – 2025.

11. Wing Name Tags:

There has been a hiatus in the procurement of name tags since the start of Covid. We have had 14 new members join the Wing since that time. Traditionally, new members were given the option of ordering an RCAFA 441 (Huron) Wing name tag and paying \$10 for it when it was received. Any Wing member who would like to purchase a name tag is to contact Randy Rice to order one. The procurement of the name tags will also be discussed at the Members' Meeting on 14 March 2023.

12. RCAFA Ontario Group Annual General Meeting 19 – 21 May 2023:

RCAFA Ontario Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Hamilton on the May long weekend. 441 Wing will be sending 3 voting delegates to the AGM, but other Wing members may attend if they wish. Should you wish to attend, please click on the following link and fill out the form and submit as per the instructions on it.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PA3fseeMNFzvrV-sTEIqJDf7fGezevPy/edit?usp=share_link&oid=111063905078091888349&rtpof=true&sd=true

13. 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:

The Battle of Britain Flag Raising is planned to take place at Barrie City Hall on Monday, 11 Sept, 2023. We are planning to commemorate the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain on Sunday, 17 Sept 2023. The ceremony is being organized by Murray Conley and will feature the Wing Colour Guard consisting of Murray, Randy Rice, Les Ball, Andrew Galton, and Wally Capsticks along with participation by military personnel from 16 Wing, the RCL #147 Barrie, and local Cadet organizations.

14. Monument in Orillia to Honour Hunter Boatyard, Firefighters, and AC1 Stanley Peacock:

Rick Purcell, the Royal Canadian Legion Orillia Br # 34 President, said that Orillia City Council has approved funding for the memorial obelisk to commemorate the Fairmile boat explosion that killed AC1 Stanley Peacock on 13 Oct 1943. There will be three (3) plaques displayed on the monument. The plaques would depict Hunter Boatyard and Fairmile boats that were made there, Air Cadet AC1 Stanley Peacock, as well as the two (2) Firefighters who were awarded the King's Medal for Bravery. Rick has approached Orillia City Council for permission to place the monument near the Legion and the waterfront. The exact location for the obelisk still needs to be agreed, but it should be dedicated on the 80th anniversary of the explosion, which is this fall. 441 Wing and its Colour Guard have been asked to be involved with the unveiling ceremony.

Anyone who is interested in making a donation to fund the memorial may do so through the Wing via the RCAF Association Trust Fund.

16. 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/>

17. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2020-2022:

POSITION	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chair	Bill Sergeant – 2023	Newsletter, H&A Committee Member
Deputy Chair	Wally Capsticks – 2024	Special Events, H&A Committee Member
Treasurer	Andrea Sloan – 2024	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O
Secretary	Andrew Galton – 2023	Honours and Awards Committee Chair
Director	Gerry Pepler – 2023	RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair
Director	Art Cameron – 2023	RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member
Director	Murray Conley – 2024	Director of Ceremonies
Director	Joep Dening – 2024	Wing Web Master
Director	Norm Marion – 2023	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director	Randy Rice – 2024	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

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***Royal Canadian Air Force Association
RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Inc.***

*401-200 Collier St,
Barrie, ON, L4M 1H7*



***You are cordially invited to attend the
65th Charter and Awards Dinner***

Saturday, May 5th, 2023

5:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m.

Barrie Legion, Branch 147

410 St. Vincent St. (enter from Ferris Lane)

***The lower bar will be open for purchase of beverages. Dinner will be
Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding.***

***Price: TBD per plate, payable at the 11th of April meeting or by cheque
to RCAF 441 Wing at the address above.***

This year's Long Service Pin recipients are:

***5 years — Terry Barton, Wally Capsticks, Rob Debling, Vic Lefaive, Allister 'Mac'
Macdonald, Bill Martel***

***10 years — James Carman, Denis Lajoie, Kent Smerdon, Sherry Tobin Green,
Mark Tobin***

15 years — Gerry Pepler, Jim Purchase

20 years — Stanley Bieniawski

35 years — Dave Wismer

45 years — Bill Buck

***RSVP by Friday, 21st April to Andrea Sloan at 705-734-9449 or by e-mail at
441wing.rcafa@airforce.ca***

RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing, Inc. RCAF Association
Statement of Acceptance of Nomination for 2023-2024

Nominations for the Wing Board of Directors normally take place at the April General Meeting. By submitting this acceptance form it would give us a heads-up to see what a member's intentions are for the coming period. The Elections normally take place at the May General Meeting with the new Board of Directors being installed at the June General Meeting. Also bear in mind nominations can be made from the floor with the nominated person either present or this form of acceptance signed by the nominee and submitted to an attending member for presentation at the nomination meeting. As per Art.201 of our By-Laws, the following rules will apply:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven (11) elected members who shall be appointed to their respective positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Public Affairs, Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Chair of the Ad Astral Committee, Website Manager, Chair of the Veterans Liaison Committee and 2 Directors at Large) by the elected members of the Board.
- b. The Board shall appoint a Secretary who will be a non-voting member.
- c. The term of office shall be two years, or until their successor is elected.
- d. Board members may be reelected at the end of their current term but not for more than two consecutive terms, following which they will not be eligible for re-election until one additional 2-year term has expired.
- e. The terms for the Board members will be offset by one year so that six (6) of the Board members will be elected in year one (2023) and the remaining five (5) members in the following year (2024).

Self nominations from Regular Members or nominations of Regular Members who wish to stand for election to become a member of the 441 (Huron) Wing Board of Directors will be accepted by the Wing elections convenor, Jane Coxon until close of nominations at the 9 May 2023 Wing Members' Meeting. Please complete and sign the form below and submit it to Jane Coxon, either in person or via email < jane.1946.ellen@gmail.com >

I, _____ will accept nomination for a position on the 441 (Huron) Wing Board of Directors.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____