



Royal Canadian Air Force Association RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Inc. November - December 2023 Newsletter

Vol 7 Edition 6



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

2. Chairman's Message:

Our Wing is active and has welcomed seven new members this fall. As you will read in this issue, 441 (Huron) Wing has supported the RCAF mission statement by commemorating the Battle of Britain, attending the Memorial Service for AC1 Stanley Peacock, celebrating Mac Macdonald's 100th birthday and is preparing to participate in various Remembrance Day activities. Our Christmas Social is coming up on Friday, 1 December and it will be a fun time for all in attendance. Congratulations goes to HCol Wayne Hay for being given a 3 year extension as CFSATE's Honourary-Colonel. Per Ardua Ad Astra. Bill

3. David Allister "Mac" MacDonald's 100th Birthday Celebration:

Wing members are invited to help Mac celebrate his birthday on 4 Nov 2023.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF
FRIENDSHIP & LEGACY AS

DAVID ALLISTER MACDONALD TURNS 100

JOIN US FOR LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS FROM 1-4PM ON
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH 2023

OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS INCLUDING
COLOUR PARTY & CAKE CUTTING
START AT 2:00PM

STAYNER COMMUNITY CENTRE
269 REGINA ST. STAYNER, ON.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL IF
YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND WITH
THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES BY
OCTOBER 6TH 2023

BEST WISHES ONLY

4. Last Flight:

Joan Marie Muir (née MacDonald), passed away on Sept 11, 2023, in Calgary. She was born in Sydney, NS on Dec 21, 1927. Together she and her late husband, Fraser Alexander Muir, raised five children: Donald (Heather) Toronto,

University, with a house full of 5 kids and a live-in mother-in-law. Wasaga Sheona (John), Quesnel, BC, Ellen (Dan) Rosemere, QC, Sandy (Heather) Calgary, AB, and Brenda (Dalton) St Albert, AB, ten grand children and four great grandchildren. Joan began her teaching career at the tender age of 20 years old in Sydney, but included Halifax, Montreal and then Rosemere. Always a high achiever, Joan decided to complete her master's degree from McGill Beach was also home for 20 years, as was her snowbird residence at Golden Acres in Dunedin, FL. A wonderful 95th birthday celebration led to her more recent move to Calgary, where she continued to forge new friendships with staff and residents at Trinity Lodge. Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, Sept 16,2023 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Calgary.



Fraser and Joan Muir – long time members of 441 Wing

Mary Frances Levedag (née Macdonald) May 12, 1935 - October 4, 2023 Frances passed away peacefully at her home in Barrie with family at her side on Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at the age of 88 years. Beloved wife of Peter Levedag for 57 years. Loving mother of Donald (Sue) and Kathryn and proud grandmother of Sara and Jonathan. A proud Northerner, Frances was born in The Pas, MB and lived in Island Lake, Gods Lake and Sherridon before moving to Winnipeg at age 15. After obtaining an RN Diploma from St Boniface Hospital, and practicing rural nursing in Northern Ontario, she took on the challenging role of Operating



Frances and Peter Levedag

Room nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. The time spent assisting some of the most celebrated surgeons in Canada remained the highlight of her nursing career. Her concern for the needs of others knew no bounds and countless people and pets have benefitted from her kindness and support. She was such a lot of fun, was greatly loved and will be deeply missed. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. A private family interment will take place in the future. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice and are greatly appreciated by the family.

5. New Wing Members Inducted:

Ontario Group Past President Les Ball inducted our newest members: Tammy Dupuis, Dr. Gary Lee Willard, Marcel Pigeon, Les Racicot, Bob Banks and Gillian Parker into 441 Wing at our Members' Meetings on 12 Sept and 10 Oct, 2023. These members are a great addition to our Wing.



LCol (ret'd) Dr. Bob Banks receiving his membership package from Andrea Sloan and Bill Sergeant on 10 Oct 2023



LCol Gillian Parker has also joined 441 (Huronion) Wing. She is with the Dir of Flight Safety in Ottawa

6. Battle of Britain Commemorations 2023:



The 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated by 441 (Huronion) Wing at Barrie City Hall on Monday, 11 September, 2023. Barrie's Mayor Alex Nuttall declared the week of 11 - 17 September as Battle of Britain Week in Barrie. He was joined by MP John Brassard, MPP Andrea Khanjin, a

member of RCAFA 441 (Huron) Wing, and representatives of MP Doug Shipley and MPP Doug Downey as he hoisted the RCAFA Ensign to honour the 'Few'. The following Sunday morning, 17 September, the 441 (Huron) Wing Honour Guard and several 441 Wing members attended the 16 Wing Borden Battle of Britain Commemoration service at the RCAF Cairn in Borden. CTV News Barrie was there and the Wing received good coverage on the evening news.

7. Remembrance Day Commemorations:



For this year's Remembrance Day Commemoration, the City of Barrie and the Barrie Legion have agreed to hold a parade along Dunlop Street with a service at the Barrie Cenotaph on the 11th of Nov. The parade will march off at 1030 hrs with Fern Taillefer as the Parade Marshal. Rogers Cable TV will broadcast

the ceremony live that morning and will also arrange for the ceremony to be streamed to the internet. For other services in the surrounding area, please see below:

Stayner - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 will be holding Remembrance Day ceremonies at the cenotaph in front of the Clearview Township municipal offices on Gideon Street. Parade form-up is at 10:30 a.m. in the parking area on Huron Street.

Penetanguishene - Events held at the Memorial Park cenotaph. Parade at 10:15 a.m. with ceremonies starting shortly before at 11 a.m.

Midland - Service begins at 11 a.m. at the cenotaph on King Street. It is preceded by a parade featuring members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80, the Midland Police Service, the Midland Fire Department and others.

New Lowell - Ceremony of Remembrance starts at 10:30 a.m. at Royal Canadian Legion New Lowell. Chili and hot chocolate will be served inside after the service.

Alliston - The ceremony will feature the unveiling of a second wall mural on the west side of the Alliston Memorial Arena. To catch the bus to the cenotaph, be at the legion by 10 a.m. A reception will be held after the service at the Alliston Legion, 111 Dufferin St. S. A dinner will be held at the legion later in the evening. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is Retired Lt.-Col Greg Stasyna.

Angus - The parade forms up outside the Angus Legion at 10:30 a.m. and a service will follow at the cenotaph. A reception will be held at the legion after the service.

Collingwood - Remembrance Day ceremonies take place the cenotaph at The Station on St. Paul Street in Collingwood at 11 a.m. This is followed by lunch at the Legion.

The Blue Mountains - ceremonies take place at Jack Acres Park Cenotaph, Russell Street, Thornbury, at 11 a.m., followed by a ceremony at Ravenna Hall Park Cenotaph on Grey Road 119 in Ravenna at 1 p.m.

Elmvale - Cenotaph outside of the Elmvale Library. The parade leaves the Elmvale Legion at 10:30 a.m. and arrives at the Elmvale Cenotaph just prior to 11 a.m.

Springwater Park - Assembling at 10 a.m. A Remembrance Day Ceremony in honour of the Vespra Boys and all who fought so we may be free. The gates will be open to the public for this event and no parking fees will be required.

Midland - The service begins at 11 a.m. At the cenotaph on King Street. It is preceded by a parade featuring members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80, the Midland Police Service, the Midland Fire Department and others.

Orillia - Orillia Legion Branch 34 Remembrance Day memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at Cenotaph, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, followed by parade down Mississauga Street and reception with Veterans at Legion, 215 Mississauga Street East at waterfront, 705-325-8442. Buses depart Legion at 10 a.m. and the Cenotaph Ceremony is at 10:45 a.m.

8. Honouring AC2 Stanley Peacock on 13 October, 2023:



The Peacock family members with OPP Insp Coyer Yateman and Orillia Fire Chief Michael Clark.



Legion President Rick Purcell and the Peacock family members laying a wreath in honour of AC1 Stanley Peacock

On Thursday 13 October 2023, Royal Canadian Air Cadet AC1 Stanley Peacock was honoured at a wreath laying ceremony at his grave in St. James' Anglican Cemetery, Orillia. AC1 Peacock was killed 80 years ago while helping as an electrician's apprentice to build a Fairmile Motor Torpedo Boat at the Hunter Boats shipyard on 13 Oct 1943. The annual commemoration was initiated by the late Raywin Raaflaub, a friend of Stanley Peacock's in 99 RCAC Sqn, Orillia. The moving ceremony included the 441 Wing Colour Party. The service consisted of the traditional Last Post, minute of silence, the Rouse by Tony Beresford, the Act of Remembrance, the reading of "High Flight" by Norm Marion, the laying of a wreath in memory of AC1 Peacock by his family members who were escorted by RCL Branch #34 President Rick Purcell, and a Closing Prayer by Legion Padre Gerry McMullen. In addition to the ten members of 441 Wing present were Orillia

Mayor Don McIssac, OPP Inspector Coyer Yateman, Fire Chief Michael Clark, Bugler Tony Beresford, along with RCL Branch #34 Pres Rick Purcell and Rob McCron & three members of Stanley Peacock's family. Members of 441 Wing then walked over to Ray Raaflaub's grave and laid a wreath in his memory before going to the Orillia Legion.



9. 441 Wing Christmas Social:

The 441 (Huron) Wing Christmas Social will be held on Friday, December 1st, beginning at 5 pm in the upstairs banquet hall of the Barrie Legion. Dress will be – jacket and tie or Christmas casual. There will be a 50/50 draw and several door prizes as well as some games with prizes and a silent auction. RSVP to Jane Connolly by e-mail at jane.1946.ellen@gmail.com no later than Sunday, 20 November. Please advise of any special dietary needs or allergies at that time. Any Wing member, or their guest(s), who wishes to donate an item for the silent auction, please bring it to our November meeting so that it can be catalogued for the auction bidding.

10. Wing Fund Raiser:

“Dinner for 2 Anywhere in the World” Tickets:

Bob Debling has books of tickets for members to sell. They will be \$10.00 each or a \$100.00 for a book of 11 tickets. Contact Bob to purchase tickets or to sell tickets. He can be reached via email <robert.debling@sympatico.ca> or phone 705-737-4765. Last year, the Wing received a donation of \$2,500 from the Kiwanis Club of Barrie as a tribute to Michael O’Shea and to support both of our Air Cadet Sqns.

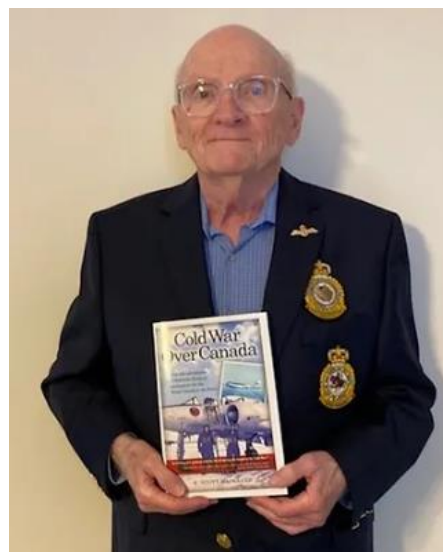
11. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
27 Oct	Wearing of Poppies Commences	0001 hrs
04 Nov	David Allister ‘Mac’ MacDonald’s 100 th Birthday – Stayner Rec Center	1300 hrs
05 Nov	Change Clocks Back 1 Hour	0200 hrs
05 Nov	Services of Remembrance at local churches	Various
05 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade in Wasaga Beach - form up at the OPP parking lot at 1045 hrs.	1055 hrs

09 Nov	Veterans' Club of Barrie Remembrance Dinner at the Barrie Legion	1700 for 1800 hrs
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade in Barrie	1030 hrs
14 Nov	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1800 hrs
14 Nov	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1900 hrs
15 Nov	1 st Holly Scout Group – Zoom Call with 441 Wing	1830 hrs
19 Nov	RSVP deadline for 441 Wing Christmas Social	2300 hrs
25 Nov	Veterans' Christmas Dinner at Barrie Legion	1700 hrs
01 Dec	441 Wing Christmas Social at Barrie Legion	1700 hrs
09 Jan 24	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1800 hrs
09 Jan 24	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1900 hrs
TBC - April	RCAF 100 th Anniversary Dinner / Dance	TBC
01 May 24	Display RCAF Memorial Banners in Barrie	6 weeks
11 Jun 24	Bradford - History of RCAF Presentation	1830 hrs
12 Jun 24	Bradford RCAF members / veterans talks	1830 hrs
14 Jun 24	Bradford's RCAF 100th Anniversary Celebration Parade with the Governor-General of Canada	1000 hrs
15-16 Jun	Borden Airshow-Snowbirds and CF-18 Demo A/C	Weekend

12. Scott MacLagan has written a book called 'Cold War Over Canada':

441 Wing member Scott MacLagan has written a book called 'COLD WAR OVER CANADA' where he writes about what it was like to be in the Cold War in the late 50's. MacLagan, 86, was a backseat navigator and radar operator until 1959 when he was grounded for eyesight deterioration. He decided to write about his story while being isolated by the COVID-19 pandemic. "I wrote this story to get recognition for my pilot," he said. "We saved three other aircraft during our time together by guiding them into emergency landings." Without the exceptional piloting talents of Dave Strachan, MacLagan says he and other RCAF members wouldn't be alive today. It was just published. Congratulations, Scott!



13. Veterans' Christmas Dinner and Dance – Saturday, 25 November 2023:

The Peacekeeping Association will once again be hosting the Veterans Christmas Dinner and Dance this year. It will take place at the Barrie Legion upstairs on

25 Nov 2023 starting at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. There is no charge for the dinner but those wishing to attend should bring one unwrapped toy for the Children's Christmas Cheer. There will be a cash bar.

14. TIME CAPSULE: "The VC and Ian Willoughby Bazalgette, DFC
by Randolph Rice

From 3 Sep 1939 to 8 May 1945, RAF Bomber Command lost a total of 8,325 aircraft on operations in Europe. In human terms, this overall loss represented 47,268 individual aircrew members killed in action (one of which Ian would become). Faced with the prospect of an initial tour of operations comprising a nominal 30 sorties before being temporarily 'rested', the life expectancy of any member of a bomber crew was slim; enter Squadron Leader Ian Bazalgette RCAF.

During the Second World War, the RCAF grew to a strength of 249,662 with 38 Squadrons serving overseas. Of that number 28,000 Canadian aircrew personnel served with RAF units.

Born of English parents in Calgary, Alberta on 19 Oct 1918, Ian Bazalgette attended early school in Canada and, in 1927, he was brought to England to complete his education. On 16 Jul 1939, he enlisted in the Royal Artillery (RA) and was promoted as a Second Lieutenant on 7 Sep 1940; serving initially with the Searchlight Section, RA, and later as an instructor. With little hope of active fighting, Ian volunteered for the RAF, where he was officially promulgated as a Pilot Officer, RAFVR with effect from 24 Jan 1942 and posted to 115 Squadron to fly Wellington aircraft.

By the time Squadron Leader Bazalgette's day with destiny arrived, he was a bomber veteran having completed one complete tour of operations. It was at this time he stated to a fellow pilot, "3 Group finished me after completing my 29th trip". For a short time, he was temporarily 'rested' as an instructor. When word was circulated that the RAF was looking for experienced bomber crews for the famed Pathfinder bombers, Ian jumped at the opportunity and was accepted after completing the required training to the famed 635 (Pathfinder) Squadron.

On 12 Jun 1944, England suffered its first attack by V1 flying bombs and Bomber Command was tasked with the destruction of the V1 launching sites along the French coastal areas. In the first two weeks of July, Bazalgette flew six more sorties against V1 sites, railway yards, and German troop concentrations; three of which saw him either marking or illuminating the target. His 54th operational sortie was a daylight raid on Chappel Notre Dame on 1 Aug 1944, on which he was yet again selected as deputy to the Master Bomber. On 4 Aug, the Pathfinder Force (PFF) mounted a daylight raid on another V1 site. The raid consisted of 61 Lancasters with 635 Squadron as the Pathfinder Sqn that would mark this important target. Of the 14 crews from 635 Sqn, Ian was the Master Bomber. His crew consisted of six men, a very cohesive team, one of whom was loaned to Bazalgette for this particular sortie in place of the regular mid-upper gunner. In the aircraft behind his came his Deputy Master Bomber, Beveridge,

running across the target to assess markers for accuracy. Beveridge's Lancaster received direct hits, erupted in flames, and dove into the ground at high bore. Flak was everywhere and Ian's aircraft was blanketed by it. Through the barrage came Bazalgette's Lanc, hellbent on dropping his markers accurately. In the ensuing fire storm, his Lancaster was hit in several places including both starboard engines, which were knocked out of action, the starboard wing was on fire and flames licked along the fuselage. In addition, Flight Lieutenant I.A. Hibberd, the bomb aimer, had his arm and part of his shoulder shot away and was given morphine. In the mid-upper gun turret, Flight Sgt Leeder, RAAF, was overcome by fumes.



Things were now critical within the flaming inferno, fuel and smoke everywhere. At this point Bazalgette maintained control of his aircraft to finish his marking run while his crew fought to manage the injured and control the fires. But it was too late, after consulting with his Flight Engineer, Sergeant George Turner, Ian managed to get the aircraft to 1000 feet and gave the command to bale out. At this point the

remaining four members of the crew obeyed their skipper and out they went, while Ian, considering the two injured aircrew aboard, thought a landing was possible. Approaching the village of Senantes, FR, he was seen to turn away from a cluster of buildings and let down in a nearby field. The Lancaster touched down in a perfect landing-then exploded.

The four baled-out crew members were rescued by the Marquis and hidden till war's end when Ian Bazalgette's gallantry was revealed by his surviving crew. At the crash site locals retrieved Ian's remains and he was buried in the local cemetery, while those of Hibberd and Leeder were whisked away by the Germans.

On the 18 Dec 1945, Squadron Leader Bazalgette's Victoria Cross, DFC, and other decorations were presented to his mother at an investiture.

LEST WE FORGET

15. RCAF 100th Anniversary Lapel Pins:

Following a well-established tradition, commemorative pins will be produced again in 2024 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force on April 1st, 1924. Norm Marion proposed four (4) aircraft for the 2024 pin. They were: the AVRO 504 – a fighter aircraft that represents the birth years of the

RCAF (1923-1924); the Vickers Vedette – an amphibious aircraft that was the first new aircraft ordered by and delivered to the RCAF (1923-1924); the Sopwith Camel – the fighter aircraft flown by First World War Ace William (Billy) Barker; and the Armstrong Whitworth (AW) Siskin – a new advanced bi-plane fighter aircraft that was entered service in 1928. The Siskin was used as a training aircraft at Camp Borden (the birthplace of the RCAF) and was Canada's first aerial display aircraft. The AW Siskin was selected by the Wing membership as the aircraft to grace the RCAF 100th Anniversary pin. Norm has approached Bob Thompson about producing the graphics. The directors voted for the Wing to purchase 200 pins for 2024.

16. Biennial Election of Directors and Trustees to the RCAF Association

Ontario Group Chair Walter Peckham is encouraging all Wing members to note the email from the Executive Director of the RCAF Association regarding the upcoming election for the RCAF Association Board of Directors. As you can see by the Asterisks (*) below, we are in need of new directors with new ideas, skills, forward thinking, etc. Walter knows that many of you can fill these requirements and can be instrumental in keeping our Association alive and well in the future. He would like you to please add your name to the slate. The more the merrier, many hands make light work. If there are any questions let Walter know (613-743-5779) or <vchairontgroup@gmail.com> or email Dean Black no later than 6 November 2023 at <director@airforce.ca> to submit your application.

The RCAF Association Board of Directors (9 elected directors and 3 appointed directors) - terms of office for individuals annotated by an asterisk (*) are up for renewal. (Individuals normally serve a two-year term, before submitting to an election, and may serve a second consecutive two-year term, before voluntarily stepping aside to encourage others to also serve. After another two-years have lapsed they may resubmit their names to be included on the ballot.) All of the incumbents named below are believed to be interested in continuing to serve, except for Col (Ret) Terry Chester, CD, who has signaled his desire to formally step down on 01 April 2024, subject to the results of any interim election. The names of others wishing to continue to serve will be included on the ballot, along with the names of anyone wishing to submit an application in response to this e-mail, on or before 6 November 2023.

*Col (Ret) Terry Chester, CD

*LCol (Ret) Henri Levasseur, CD

*Maj (Ret) Herb Harrison, CD

Guy. S. Vallieres

*CWO (Ret) Michael Roy, CD

CWO Ralph Murphy, CD

*Thomas Morin-Cabana

Walter Peckham, CD

Capt (Ret) Steven Dieter, CD

17. Wing Gardening Crew at Ad Astral Place:

The Wing would like to thank Sherry Tobin-Green, Andrea Sloan, Art Cameron, Murray Conley, Bill Sergeant, Bob Garrett, Jane Connolly, Patrick Nittoly and the members of the 1st Holly Scout Group who came out in June and again in September to prepare the garden at the Ad Astral Place flag poles for planting pollinator plants. Ranger Bob and Scouter Alyx Calder donated the plants, and we are hoping that the garden will soon be designated as part of Canada's Butterfly Way. The garden looks great, and we can hardly wait for next spring when the plants start to grow and bloom.



18. Bill Sergeant Honoured with a Veterans' Ombudsman Commendation:

Wing President Bill Sergeant has been awarded the Canadian Veterans' Ombudsman Commendation for 2023 in the individual category by Colonel (ret'd) Nishika Jardine. It is one of only eight commendations awarded annually in Canada. Bill has made a sustained and significant contribution to the well-being of Veterans in our local community as well as throughout Canada. There are very few people more dedicated to helping others than he is. His being awarded the Veterans Ombudsman Commendation is fitting recognition of his continuous, selfless efforts.

19. RCAF 100th Anniversary Banners of Remembrance Committee:

Jean-Maurice Pigeon, Les Ball, Randy Rice and Dave Farnsworth are the members of the 441 Wing committee who are overseeing this project and will review the names that have been submitted by Wing members or their families to determine who would grace the banners in May 2024 in Barrie. The nominees so far are: Tom Carney Snr, Bob Middlemiss, Allan Frederick Smerdon, Bill Jack,

Fraser Muir, Gord Steane, Jean Steane, Ken Mitchell, George Mitchell, Rob Warman, Bill Coyle, Jim McPhee, Jill Taylor, Bob Moisey, Alister (Mac) Mac Donald, Michael O'Shea and Stan Bieniawski. If you would like to nominate someone for a banner, please contact a member of the committee.

20. Contact Information:

Wing Mailing Address: 77 Violet St, Barrie, ON, L4N 9N3

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/>

21. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2022-2024/5:

The RCAFA has encouraged its Wings to align its By-Laws with the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). With that in mind, and to ensure continuity for the running of the Wing, the new slate of Directors will be sworn in at the Sept meeting and their portfolio in the Wing confirmed.

POSITION-TIME	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chairman-2025	Bill Sergeant	Newsletter, H&A Committee Member
Vice Chair-2024	Wally Capsticks	Special Events, H&A Committee Member
Treasurer-2024	Andrea Sloan	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O
Secretary-2024	Andrew Galton	Honours and Awards Committee Chair
Vice Treas-2025	Tammy Dupuis	Membership Vice Chair
Director-2025	Gerry Pepler	RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair
Director-2025	Art Cameron	RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member
Director-2024	Murray Conley	Director of Ceremonies
Director-2024	Joep Dening	Wing Web Master
Director-2025	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director-2024	Randy Rice	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

2023 – Happy New Year ! – 2024