



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

Vol 7 Edition 5



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:

I hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We have seven (7) new members join our Wing this summer with hopefully more to come. The new members are Dr. Bob Banks, Dr. Garry Lee Willard, Col. Gabriel Doré – WComd 16 Wing, LCol Gillian Parker, Tammy Dupuis, Marcel Pigeon, and Les Racicot. They have a wealth of military experience and will be welcome members of our Wing.

Per Ardua Ad Astra. Bill

3. Allister (Mac) MacDonald – Join us to Celebrate his 100th Birthday:



LAC Mac MacDonald in his RCAF blues, about 1945.



David Allister MacDonald leaning out of the cockpit of a Halifax bomber, Leeming, Yorks, England, 1945

Second World War veteran Mac MacDonald will be turning 100 on November 2nd, 2023 but the celebration for him is being planned for Saturday Nov 4th at the Stayner Community Centre in the afternoon. People that he has met through his association with the 441 have had a tremendous impact on him. He really

enjoyed going to the meetings in Barrie. Although never feeling that he deserved the attention, he and his family appreciated him being not only being involved but honoured. The Quilt of Valour being only one of the honours that he received. Mac is aware that the celebration is being planned but ever humble he wants it kept small. Can't see that happening.

4. City of Barrie - Banners of Remembrance:

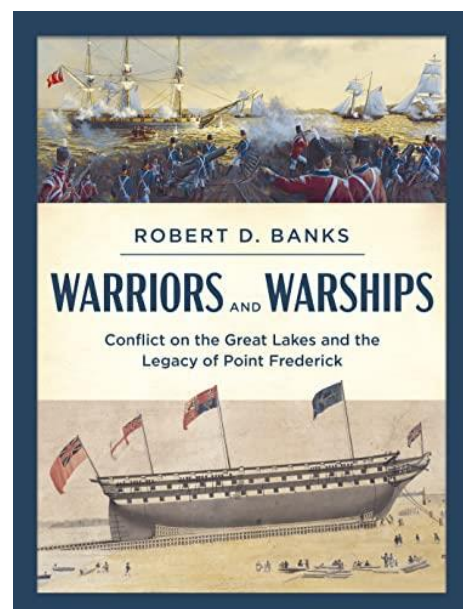


Each year the city of Barrie runs two banner series – one in the spring and another one around Remembrance Day. They have offered to make memorial banners up in honour of the loved ones of our 441 Wing members for their series in the spring of 2024. Should there be sufficient interest from our Wing members (some have already indicated that they would like to fund one) the banners would be placed at City Hall (5), the library (5) and an additional 3 at the Tiffin Street/Lakeshore. The banners would be 48” x 168” and would cost about \$200 per banner. The banners are printed single sided only as can be seen in the photo on the left. If you are interested in this program or would like to purchase a banner to honour an RCAF veteran, please let Bill Sergeant or David

Farnsworth bavo572@gmail.com or know by Sept 12th. We would like to have orders for the 13 banners to make this endeavour worthwhile.

5. “Warriors and Warships” a book by Dr Bob Banks:

One of our newest Wing members has written a book called, “Warriors and Warships: Conflict on the Great Lakes and the Legacy of Point Frederick”. It is a very interesting read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Bob has an easy-to-read writing style and goes into detail about many famous early Canadians such as Lt-Gov John Graves Simcoe and MGen Isaac Brock, as well as Kingston’s military history. He also describes the day-to-day activities at Point Frederick, beyond shipbuilding and military campaigns, such as skating parties, sleigh rides, theatricals, disease and death, and crime and punishment. Bob shares the moments of hardship, triumph, and tragedy of both the warriors and the warships in this important contribution to Canadian history.



Bob was interviewed by Barrie Today about his book and even presented a copy to Mayor Alex Nuttal. You can read more about Bob and his book at this link. <https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/pilot-to-publishing-city-man-pens-history-of-warriors-warships-6595375>

6. Wing Fund Raiser:

The Wing received a \$600 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Barrie for selling the BBQ draw tickets this spring. Many thanks to Bob Debling for coordinating the ticket sales on behalf of 441 Wing. The winners of the draw were:

1. Freezer, Barbecue, 48 – 6 oz. Filet Mignon, 48 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, Box of Peameal Bacon, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox’s Bakery - \$400 Winner - #1446 – Jeff McIlravey.
2. Barbecue, 24 – 12 oz. New York Steaks, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox’s Bakery - \$250 Winner - #1222 – Kerry Andrews.
3. Barbecue, 24 – Box of Peameal Bacon, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox’s Bakery - \$225 Winner - #2060 – Chantelle Vroom.
4. Barbecue, 1 Box Regular Bacon, 24 – 6 oz. Hamburgers, , 4 Kg. Box of Chicken Breasts, Gift Card from Fox’s Bakery - \$200 Winner - #1565 – Graeme Thomas.
5. Gift Cards – DJ Meats \$250, Fox’s Bakery \$250 Winner - #1492– D. McIlravey.
6. Gift Cards – DJ Meats \$200, Fox’s Bakery \$200 Winner - #1702 – Charley Peebles.

7. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
09 Sept	RCAFA Central Region Director’s Meeting – Mt Hope	1000 hrs.
11 Sept	Battle of Britain Flag Raising – Barrie City Hall	1300 hrs
12 Sept	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Mtg (In person at the Legion)	1800 hrs
12 Sept	Wing Members’ Hybrid Mtg (In person at the Legion)	1900 hrs
17 Sept	83 rd Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Battle of Britain – 16 Wing Borden. Dress is Full RCAFA Regalia with Medals	1000 hrs
28 Sept	Veterans’ Club of Barrie Dinner at the Barrie Legion	1700 hrs
10 Oct	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Meeting	1800 hrs
10 Oct	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting	1900 hrs
13 Oct	Ceremony Honouring AC2 Stanley Peacock at St. James’ Anglican Cemetery, Orillia	1100 hrs

8. 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:

The Battle of Britain Flag Raising ceremony is planned to take place at Barrie City Hall on Monday, 11 Sept, 2023 at 1300 hrs. All are welcome to attend. We are also planning to commemorate the 83rd Anniversary with a ceremony at the RCAF Cairn at 16 Wing Borden at 1000 hrs on Sunday, 17 Sept 2022. The ceremony is being organized by Sgt Arthur Currie (great grandson of Sir Arthur Currie) and will feature the Wing Colour Guard consisting of Murray Conley, Randy Rice, Les Ball, Andrea Sloan, Andrew Galton, and Wally Capsticks along with participation by military personnel from 441 Wing, 16 Wing and local Cadet organizations. If you are available, please come out to one or the other commemorations of this pivotal air battle of the Second World War.



9. TIME CAPSULE: “The RCAF and the Battle of Britain”: By Randolph Rice

Each September it is time again to remember and honour the Canadians who participated in the Battle of Britain, who lived and died in one of the most pivotal clashes of the Second World War.

The Battle of France was over. The RAF had left the European continent and were poised back in Britain for the defence of their island home against Hitler's Luftwaffe. The Battle of Britain was about to begin. It was to be a relentless aerial battle like no other to dominate the skies and pave the way for a German invasion of Britain.

The air battle over Britain and the channel was fought in four overlapping phases; Jul 10 to Aug 11 – Luftwaffe focused on shipping in the channel, harbours and docks; Aug 12 to Sep 23 – it concentrated on fighter airfields, radar sites and aircraft factories; Aug 24 to Sep 6 – a massive assault by fighters and bombers to destroy the RAF on the ground and in the air (much of the aerial drama was witnessed by people on the ground); and Sep 7 to Oct 31 – the last phase known as the Blitz.

By far the largest number of aerial defenders were Britons, however Canada contributed some 80 airmen – of these 26 were in the RCAF's No. 1 Squadron, 16 flew as a team in the RAF's 242 “Canadian” Squadron, and the remainder

were scattered among a dozen RAF Squadrons. Also of significance, another 200 RCAF airmen served in Bomber and Coastal commands during the battle.



The famed No. 242 “Canadian” Squadron, pictured, was a Royal Air Force squadron that – at least initially – included a large number of Canadians. S/L Douglas Bader (centre) was its Commanding Officer (CO) RCAF Photo

No. 1 Fighter Squadron RCAF became the first RCAF unit to engage enemy planes in battle when it met a formation of German bombers over southern England on August 26, 1940. It shot down three of them and damaged four others with the loss of one pilot and one plane. Its next encounter with the Luftwaffe was not as fortunate as it was attacked out of the sun by Messerschmitts and lost three planes. By mid-October, the squadron had accounted for 31 enemy aircraft destroyed and 43 more probably destroyed or damaged. It lost 16 Hurricanes; three pilots had been killed.

No. 242 (Canadian) Squadron RAF, which had formed in 1939 from some of the many Canadians who flew directly with the Royal Air Force, was now reinforced with veterans from the French campaign and joined in the battle. On August 30, nine of its planes met a hundred enemy aircraft over Essex. Attacking from above and scattering the enemy formations, the squadron claimed 12 kills and escaped with no losses.

The climax of the battle came on September 15, the day officially known as the anniversary of the Battle of Britain. This was the turning point when the

Luftwaffe pulled out all the stops in an all-out assault. They were well received in advance by the RAF with the help of ground observers and radar, soundly took a licking, in most cases turning back from their intended targets.



RCAF members of No. 1 RCAF Squadron, S/L Ernest McNab, CO (centre)

On September 27, during the third phase of the battle, No. 1 Squadron and 303 Squadron RAF attacked during daylight the first wave of enemy bombers. Seven, possibly eight enemy planes, were destroyed, and another seven damaged.

When the Battle of Britain ended the overall score was 1,733 German aircraft destroyed for a loss of 915 British fighter aircraft. In 53 days of combat the Canadian pilots of No. 1 RCAF and 242 Squadron had destroyed an estimated 72 aircraft; with other Canadian pilots serving in RAF squadrons.

From July 10 to October 31, the dates officially recognized as the opening and closing dates of the battle, 23 Canadian pilots made the supreme sacrifice. Many of the survivors went on to senior command in the RCAF and became well known aces.

Three members of No. 1 Squadron received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two ground crew members received a British Empire Medal or Mentioned In Dispatches for their contribution.

The following is a list of the Canadian RCAF fallen:

	Rank, Initials, Name	Squadron	Status	Remarks
1	P/O R.W.G. BELEY	151	KIA Sept 7, 1940	Rossland, BC
2	P/O J. BENZIE	242	KIA Sept 7, 1940	Winnipeg, MB
3	P/O C.R. BONSEIGNEUR	257	KIA Sept 3, 1940	Gull Lake, SK
4	F/O J.G. BOYLE	41	KIA Sept 28, 1940	Casselman, ON
5	P/O J. BRYSON	92	KIA Sept 24, 1940	Montreal, QC
6	P/O N.N. CAMPBELL	242	KIA Oct 17, 1940	St. Thomas, ON
7	Sub/Lt. (FAA) J.C. CARPENTER	Fleet Air Arm, 229 / 46	KIA 8 Sept 1940	Toronto, ON
8	P/O G.H. CORBETT	66	KIA 8 Oct 1940	Victoria, BC
9	P/O H.D. EDWARDS	92	KIA Sept 11, 1940	Winnipeg, MB
10	F/O R.L. EDWARDS	1 (RCAF)	KIA, Aug 26, 1940	Cobourg, ON
11	P/O W.M.L. FISKE	601	Died of wounds, Aug 17, 1940	Montreal, QC
12	F/L H.R. HAMILTON	85	KIA Aug 29, 1940	Oak Point, NB
13	P/O D.A. HEWITT	501	KIA July 12, 1940	Saint John, NB
14	P/O R.A. HOWLEY	141	KIA July 19, 1940	Victoria, BC
15	P/O J.T. JOHNSTON	151	KIA Aug 15, 1940	Brandon, MB
16	P/O J.E.P. LARICHELIERE	213	KIA Aug 16, 1940	Montreal, QC
17	F/O G.F. McAVITY	3	KIA, Oct 19, 1940	Hampton, NB
18	P/O O.J. PETERSON	1 (RCAF)	KIA Sept 27, 1940	Halifax, NS
19	P/O H.W. REILLEY	64 / 66	KIA Oct 17, 1940	London, ON
20	P/O K.M. SCLANDERS	242	KIA Sept 9, 1940	St. John's, Nfld
21	F/O R. SMITHER	1 (RCAF)	KIA Sept 15, 1940	London, ON
22	P/O A.A.G. TRUEMAN	253	KIA Sept 4, 1940	Toronto, ON
23	P/O R.R. WILSON	111	KIA Aug 11, 1940	Moncton, NB

When Churchill stated, '**Never in the field of human conflict was so much been owed by so many to so few**', he was paying tribute to the enormous efforts made by these fighter pilots and bomber crews.

Lest We Forget

10. Annual Memorial Service for AC1 Stanley Peacock – 13 Oct 2023:

On Friday, 13 October, 2023, Royal Canadian (Air) Cadet AC1 Stanley Peacock will be honoured at a wreath laying ceremony at his grave in St. James' Cemetery, Orillia. AC1 Peacock was killed while building a Fairmile Motor Torpedo Boat at the Orillia shipyard on 13 Oct 1943. The annual commemoration was initiated by Raywin Raaflaub, a boyhood friend of Stanley Peacock's in 99 RCAC Sqn, Orillia. Special guests in attendance will be

Councillors of the City of Orillia, representatives of the OPP; Orillia Fire Dept; Mr. Richard Purcell, RCL Branch #34 Orillia President. This moving ceremony will include the 441 Wing Colour Party. The service will consist of the traditional Last Post, minute of silence, the Rouse, the Act of Remembrance, reading of “High Flight” and the laying of a wreath in memory of AC1 Peacock as well as a Closing Prayer.

11. RCAF Association Cairn:

At the Ontario Group AGM in Hamilton in May 2023, the membership was briefed regarding the proposed RCAFA Cairn. The Cairn is to have the original 56 Ontario Wings listed on it and is to be placed at the National Air Force Museum in Trenton. Ontario Group is petitioning National to have the cairn approved. The Group Chair has asked for comments from the membership about the design and funding of the Cairn in a recent email. Many of you have provided comments already to Bill. For those of you who have not, then please do so. Your opinion is important.

12. RCAF 100th Anniversary Project - CT-133443 Parkette :

Despite the slow approval process to get the T-33 transferred from Crown Assets Disposal to the possession of Springwater Township, we are optimistic that this will occur in the near future. Once that happens, there are a number of volunteers who are ready to assist with the restoration of the aircraft. We are also looking for hangar space to conduct the restoration in. Rudy has pressed ahead with the site preparation as can be seen in this picture. The educational panels are being reviewed and will be revised accordingly. There is plenty of work for volunteers if you are interested in helping with this project.



13. RCAF 100th Anniversary Tulips:



Four Fringed, Feathered and Flying Tulips specially selected to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Pre-Sales begin in May of 2023, for delivery in the Fall and Blooming in 2024. Every Donation of \$20 to the Canadian Tulip Legacy receives 16 Blended RCAF Bulbs.



Flight of Fancy Tulip Bulb Blend



TRAINER (Hampton)



SNOWBIRD (White Trumpeter)



RESCUE (Flying Parrot)



FLYERS (Red Wing)

David Farnsworth has been in touch with the Mona Boyd of the city of Barrie to see if the Wing can order a batch of these tulips through them at a reduced price (\$0.50), when compared with the price being quoted by the RCAF 100 committee (\$0.78). This would be a fund raiser for the Wing. If you are interested in ordering tulips for delivery in Sept – Oct, please let David know how many - bavo572@gmail.com.

14. Humour in Uniform: by Randolph Rice



In this and future issues of the 441 Wing newsletter, we will be publishing cartoons that Randy Rice originally created for the CFB Trenton base newspaper, 'The CONTACT' while he was posted there from 1983 to 1988.

15. Gardening Day at Ad Astral Place:

On Tuesday, 20 June, Sherry Tobin-Green led a group of Wing members as they fixed up the garden at Ad Astral Place. Many thanks to Sherry, Art Cameron, Murray Conley, Sandy Ellis, and Bill Sergeant for making the garden look great around the flag poles. The next gardening session will be in Sept.

16. 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/>

17. 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	Vacant	
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 Diening	Wing Web Master
Director-2025	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director-2024	Randy Rice	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

