



Royal Canadian Air Force Association

RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Inc.

March 2024 Newsletter

Vol 8 Edition 2



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:

The 100th Anniversary of the RCAF is rapidly approaching. The list of events to honour this historic milestone is a long one, and many members of our Wing are actively involved in them until November 2024. Whether the events are taking place locally or one has to travel to enjoy them, I would encourage all of our members to make the most of their time and attend as many of these events as possible.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

3. Last Flight:

William "Bill" Edwin Buck: April 1, 1930 - January 5, 2024

Bill Buck was born in Windsor, ON in 1930 to parents Margaret and Harold Buck (deceased). Bill was known for his ability in sports, in high school, including swimming, basketball, and baseball. His skills in baseball drew the attention of major league scouts and he was drafted by the Toledo Mud Hens Baseball team, a Detroit Tigers minor league farm club team. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, was awarded a scholarship, traveling to Great Britain on an Air Cadets international Exchange. The die was cast, and upon his return, he finished high school and enlisted in the RCAF.

Shortly after joining the RCAF, Bill married Sophia Andrashuski (deceased)

from St. Thomas, while in basic flight training. At the end of the Korean War pilots were no longer needed in substantial numbers, so Bill re-mustered into Physical Education Training. Bill and his young growing family, served in



France at RCAF 2-Wing Grostenquin. Upon his return to Canada, he served in Centralia and Base Borden. While in Borden he served on a 6-month peace keeping mission in Cyprus. After his return to Canada, he was stationed, to RCAF Base Gimli, MB, as the BPERO, and he organized Gimli Air Shows, and he was the drum major for the Gimli RCAF Marching band. Returning to Base Borden in 1966, he was assigned the task of training soldiers from across the military to perform in the Expo 67 Cross Canada Cdn Forces Military Tattoo.

After Borden, the family transferred to CFE Lahr, West Germany where he was BPERO for Baden and Lahr Physical Education programs. Bill and family returned to CFB Kingston where he was tasked with training officials and field judges for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. His final posting was to CFB London, where he ended his 31-year career in the military – but not before serving with another UN Peacekeeping Force in Egypt as his retirement gig. Through his life’s journey, Bill managed to compete in twenty-one marathons and countless other shorter competitions over 4 decades. Upon retiring from the military, Bill worked with Stinson Security Services. His final retirement job was at Western University Hospital, London, as Manager of Security and Protective Services.

Bill and Sophia had four children, Richard Buck, wife Barbara Buck (deceased) with three children Tiffany, Melissa and Brandon, daughter Penny (Buck) Fettinger with two children Keith and Jamie, daughter Heather Buck and daughter Patricia (Buck) Wright, husband of The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert Wright and have two sons Benjamin and Sean. Bill met and married Jean MacDonald Buck (deceased) and they lived at Big Bay Point.

Bill’s Celebration of Life was held Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 1:00 pm, at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 54 St. Paul’s Crescent, Barrie (Innisfil), L4N 0M2.

4. Ad Astal Place Flags Fly at Half Mast in Honour of PM Brian Mulroney:

Former Canadian Prime Minister and Conservative stalwart Brian Mulroney has died at age 84. The former Tory leader died peacefully, surrounded by family, on Thursday, 29 February, 2024. His tenure as prime minister was marked by momentous economic change and two tumultuous attempts to reform the Canadian Constitution. A state funeral for him will be held on Saturday, 23 March 2024. The flags at Ad Astral place will fly at half mast until the end of his state funeral as a sign of respect for him.

5. RCAF Association Cairn in Honour of the RCAF 100th Anniversary:

Our Wing has made a \$700 donation (\$10 per member) towards the Cairn that will be unveiled on 28 Sept 2024 at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton. Other members of our Wing have generously made private donations as well. Ontario Group Chair, Walter Peckham has been the prime mover behind this initiative and needed at least half of the \$18,000 required in advance to proceed with ordering the Cairn. With your generous donations, there has been \$***** donated so far. Anyone who would like to make a donation can do so via the following:

- Pay by Check; Make the cheque payable to the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust Fund. On the memo line bottom left of cheque annotate the **RCAF Association Cairn**. If this isn't filled in it may go into Non-Designated Funds and not the Cairn Fund. Mailing address; RCAF Association Trust Fund, 222 Somerset St, West. Suite 405, Ottawa, ON. K2P 2G3
- Paying by Credit Card; CC can be done via Wendy at accounts@airforce.ca. Or call Wendy at 613-232-2303.
- E transfer is to, accounts@airforce.ca.

6. Ontario Group AGM:

The Group's AGM will take place during the long weekend from May 17-19, 2024 at 413 (Trenton) Wing/ Ramada Hotel Trenton. Our Wing normally sends three (3) delegates to represent it at the AGM. The registration, transportation, and reasonable accommodation costs are reimbursed by our Wing for the delegates. Anyone who would like to be a Wing delegate at the AGM should forward their name soonest to the Wing Chair or Deputy Chair. Should more than three members wish to be a delegate, then a draw will be held to select the delegates. The registration forms for the AGM are at the end of the Newsletter.

7. Request for new Ontario Group Board Members

As you all know Ontario Group's BOD is very overworked since only 5 of the 9 positions are filled. The Board is asking any and all willing members of the RCAFA, to join the Board. Many hands make light work. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Board is requested to forward a Letter of Intent to their Wing Chair who will, in turn, pass it along to the Central Region Director, Brenda Lynn Rice Wilson. Once she has received all Letters of Intent she will forward them to your Ontario Group Chair, Walter.

8. Honours and Awards:

Andy Galton and his H&A Committee have been busy doing the write-ups for the 2023 awards. The awards and the membership pins will be given out at the Charter and Awards meeting on Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at the Barrie Legion. This format was decided on since there are so many other activities going on in commemoration of the RCAF 100th. You will hear more about this as plans are firmed up.

9. Illumination Blue Light - Celebrating the RCAF 100th Anniversary:

April 1st is just around the corner to light up in BLUE many heritage buildings, monuments and more on that date. 441 (Huron) Wing will be participating in this nation-wide project. Several local Royal Canadian Legion branches have agreed to take part, including Branch #147 in Barrie. The city of Bradford has agreed to have its city hall and public library participate in this project too, with a total of 300 buildings participating in Canada. As a side benefit of this project, should sufficient municipalities and organizations

participate in it, it could be considered for a Guinness Book of World Records entry. Based on the parameters given to us by Guinness, the Legions qualify as a landmark. On top of a photo requirement, Guinness World Records requires the following:

- All landmarks must remain illuminated for a minimum of 10 minutes at their respective time of illumination. Timestamped video evidence of each landmark illuminated must be provided.

If you wish to help with this project, please let Chair Bill know. Let's set a record.

10. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
12 Mar	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1800 hrs
12 Mar	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion – Guest speaker F/O (ret'd) Hal Taylor talking about his flying career in the RCAF	1900 hrs
23 Mar	Dedication of RCAFA 441 (Huronian) Wing Banners in the Rotunda at Barrie City Hall – Banners on display until end April	TBC
02 Apr	Dedication of Refurbished BBMM Air Annex and the Ad Astral Project Beacon at CFB Borden	0900 & 1130 hrs
02 Apr	RCAF 100 th Centennial Homecoming Dinner / Dance at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood	1700 hrs
02 Apr	Display of Outdoor RCAFA Memorial Banners in Barrie	2 months
09 Apr	Wing Directors' Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion	1800 hrs
09 Apr	Wing Members Hybrid Meeting – Barrie Legion – Guest speaker – TBC 102 (Silver Fox) RCACS	1900 hrs
14 May	441 Wing Charter and Awards Meeting	1900 hrs
17–19 May	Ontario Group AGM – 413 Wing Trenton	Weekend
TBC – May	Dedication of the Rudy Mak's RCAF 100 Parkette	TBC
TBC - May	Dedication of the Orillia Obelisk in memory of Stanley Peacock, the Fire Fighters and Hunter Boats – RCL #34 Orillia	TBC
TBC – May or June	Freedom of the City of Barrie Parade in honour of the 100 th Anniversary of the RCAF	TBC
10 June	RCAF Week in Bradford – Flag Raising at City Hall	TBC
11 Jun	Bradford - History of RCAF Presentation	1830 hrs
12 Jun	Bradford RCAF members / veterans talks	1830 hrs
14 Jun	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
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11. TIME CAPSULE: “Air Marshal George Mitchell Croil, CAF, RCAF”:
By Randolph Rice

The Royal Canadian Air Force came into being on April 1st, 1924; however, at the time it remained a department of the Air Ministry. It remained so until 1938 and the efforts of one man to effect an historic change. That man was Air Vice Marshall George Mitchell Croil who due to his unrelenting drive to make the RCAF a strong independent National Air Force saw his vision come to fruition. On November 19th, 1938 an Air Council was formed and he was appointed its first Chief of the Air Staff. At the same time the Air Force as a whole was organized into three Air Commands: Western, Eastern, and Air Training Command.

George Mitchell Croil was born on June 5th, 1893 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. On graduation from Robert Gordon College in Scotland he studied Civil Engineering obtaining a British Engineering Certificate. When the Great War erupted, Croil was commissioned in the British Infantry. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corp (RFC) in 1916 and after two months of flying training was awarded his wings. He was then transferred to the RFC as a Flying Officer. As a pilot flying bombers he saw service with No. 47 Squadron in the Mediterranean theatre. On occasion he flew the famed T.E. Lawrence to various desert camps. At wars end, Croil had logged in excess of 1,100 hours flying time on 18 aircraft types. On June 3, 1919 he was



awarded the Air Force Cross for his service in the Middle East. In 1920, he returned to Canada and was appointed to the Canadian Air Board (CAB) after which he left in 1923 and joined the Canadian Air Force (CAF) as Squadron Leader. Between the wars, Croil served at various Air Force Stations and attended numerous military courses, always advocating for an independent National Air Force. Of particular note, George Mitchell Croil served as Station Commander from December 5th, 1927 to December 9th, 1932 at Camp Borden, near Barrie. In January 1935, he was promoted to Air Commodore (A/C) and won admission to a seat on the Defence Council. On August 4th, 1938, Croil succeeded, after extensive lobbying, in removing supervision over the RCAF by the Army's Chief of the General Staff (ACGS) office when he was promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal (AVM) at which point he reported directly to the Minister of National Defence. His goal had been achieved.

A reserved man, strict and professional AVM Croil stood out as a conscientious and dedicated officer. Due to these personality traits, when war broke out in 1939, he clashed with the Minister for Air, Chubby Power and was asked to step

down in 1940. Less than a year later, Power was replaced as Minister for Air! During the war years, Croil was responsible for the development of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and was appointed Inspector-General of the RCAF.



Rt. Hon. [W.L. Mackenzie King](#) inspecting No. 110 (City of Toronto) Squadron, R.C.A.F. The aircraft in the background is Westland 'Lysander' II 417. [L-R]: Hon. [T.A. Crerar](#), Air Marshal G.M. Croil, Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King, W/C W.D. Van Vliet, Hon. [Norman Rogers](#), 13 January 1940.

In March 1953, a 171,200 square foot Technical Training School was dedicated as Croil Hall at RCAF Station Camp Borden and continues to this day to train air personnel for the RCAF. I had the privilege of working at Croil Hall during my Air Force career.

Air Marshal (Lieutenant-General) George Mitchell Croil passed away on April 8th, 1959, in Vancouver, British Columbia, a dream fulfilled.

LEST WE FORGET

12. RCAF 100th Anniversary Memorial Banners for Barrie:

The Wing's Committee overseeing the design and production of the RCAF 100th Anniversary Banners are finalizing them with the printers. Of the 22 names that they had, they were able to get pictures and permission to produce 15 of them. These banners will be hung in the rotunda of Barrie's city hall for the last week of March and the month of April. It has been proposed that there be a formal

dedication ceremony around the 4th weekend of March to dedicate the indoor banners. All family and Wing members will be invited to the ceremony. CTV News Barrie will also be invited to cover the event. On 7th of March, Cheri Harris had good news for the Wing: the city will pay for the production of 13 outdoor banners that will be displayed in honour of the RCAF 100th. The committee quickly put together a new design and sent the template to her for production.

13. RCAF 100th Anniversary Lapel Pins:



Following a well-established Borden tradition, commemorative pins are to be produced again in 2024 to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the RCAF on April 1st, 1924. This year's pin, selected by the membership, is the Armstrong Whitworth Siskin. It was a new advanced bi-plane fighter aircraft that 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. Norm Marion has ordered 200 lapel pins for the Wing that will be sold during 2024.

14. RCAF 100th Anniversary T-33 Parkette – Status Update:

Rudy Mak has almost finished the preparation of the Parkette area for displaying CT-133443. The bases for the flag poles and info signs were installed. The front 3 gardens have been planted with 1200 tulip bulbs. Good news from Ottawa, DND has signed off on the release of the aircraft so ownership can now be handed over to Clearwater Township. We now need volunteers and a site to work on it. In the event we cannot get one on Base, Rudy has a hangar at Edenvale that can be used, however, it's not heated and would involve trucking twice, but at least it's a backup.

15. Contact Information:

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

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/>

16. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2022-2023:

The Wing had half the directors stand for election for two (2) years from June 2023 to June 2025, thereby fulfilling our requirement under ONCA (Ontario Not For Profit Corp Act).

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



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
74th ANNUAL ONTARIO GROUP
CONVENTION

ROARING 20'S

17 - 19 May 2024

Convention Co-Ordinator Judy Rorabeck afacair1@bellnet.ca

Registration Judi Rutley jdrutley@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

Check One: Group Executive Accredited – Voting
 Fraternal – Non-Voting Companion Program

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Companion Information:

Name: _____ Name on Tag: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird deadline: **15 March 2024** Registration deadline: **30 April 2024**

Special Needs: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Full Weekend: Delegate = \$250 + Wing Wind Down (included) + Donation (optional)
Companion = \$250 + Wing Wind Down (included) + Donation (optional)
Specify donation to 413 Wing or 704 RCAC Sqn.

Saturday Only: Meeting or Tour + Gala Dinner = \$160

Sunday: Closing ceremonies, Remembrance service, lunch,+ wind down (included in registration)

Payment Information: (Cheque or E-Transfer to jdrutley@gmail.com Make cheques payable to **2024 Ontario Group Convention, c/o 413 Wing RCAFA**(Receipts will be provided at Registration.)

Sending funds via E-transfer: **Question:** AGM Where & When? **Answer:** Trenton 2024

Return completed forms & cheques to: Judi Rutley: **34 Cedar Creek Way
Frankford, Ontario
K0K 2C0**

UPON ARRIVAL REGISTER AT: 413 Wing	230 North Murray St
2pm – 5 pm	Trenton, Ont. K8V 6R7
ACCOMMODATIONS; Ramada Trenton Hotel	99 Glen Miller Rd
Doubles \$119.00 +tax Loft suite 149.00+tax	Trenton, Ont. K8V 5P8 613-394-4855

Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Arrival – Toronto)

Airline Flight No. _____

Date & Time of Arrival _____

Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Departure – Toronto)

Airline Flight No. _____

Date and Time of Departure _____

Events and Registration Fees	(Check if attending)	Delegate / Companion
Friday - 17 May 2024		
Ontario Group Board Meeting (Grp Members Only) - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All Delegates & Guests Welcome		
Opening Ceremonies & Chairman's Dinner -6:00 to 9:30 PM. Lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread and dessert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday –18 May 2024 – 8:00AM – 3:30PM		
Delegate Meeting – All RCAFA Wing Representatives		
Breakfast, two Coffee Breaks, Aviator's Luncheon	\$160 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar		
Companion Tour – These 4 Walls		
Breakfast, Transportation, Admission & Lunch	\$160 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar		
Sunday – 19 May 2024 – 0900 – 11:30AM		
Breakfast, Business Session Wrap-up (if necessary.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remembrance & Closing Ceremony	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch following closing ceremonies		
AGM WIND DOWN PARTY – 5 pm cost included in registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
413 Wing Our Theme is Roaring 20's		
Live Band (THE SHADOWZ)		
7 pm – 11 pm		

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO AND FROM THE HOTEL