

# THE LONDON LINK

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



On 1 April 2024, over 500 buildings worldwide were lit up in blue in honour of the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF. Of those, 38 were world heritage sites, which enabled the RCAF to be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records.

**How many of the sites below can you identify?**

*From the Canadian Military Family Magazine:*

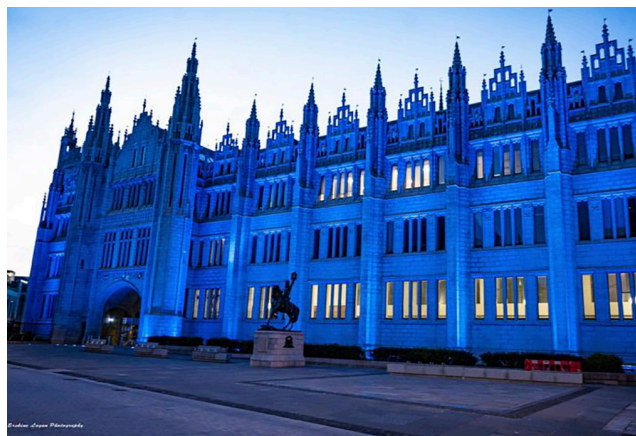
“The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) has entered into the storied pages of history after setting a record for illuminating the most landmarks around the world in 24 hours.

The prestigious Guinness World Record recognized the efforts of the RCAF after setting a world record on April 1, 2024.

The Guinness World Record was set in recognition of the RCAF’s centennial anniversary.

“We are incredibly proud to have set this Guinness World Record. This illumination event was a visual spectacle and a heartfelt tribute to RCAF personnel, past and present, who have served our country with distinction. We are grateful to all Canadians and our global partners who participated and helped us light up the nation and the world in celebration of our Centennial,” said LGen. Eric Kenny, Commander of the RCAF and Chief of Air Force Staff.

The record was set with 56 landmarks illuminated in 24 hours. The previous record was 38 illuminated landmarks. Moreover, over 500 sites, including landmarks, were illuminated worldwide.”



# 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.

## THE LONDON LINK - PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Six editions each year beginning with the Jul/Aug edition.

Articles of interest to all readers including items about all components of the military both of a historic and more recent nature; articles written by Air Cadets of all Squadrons; regular Board articles; items from all readers as space allows.

To promote the Wing to the wider and diverse population with the aim of attracting new members and/or seeking volunteers who may not wish to join as members.

## 427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director - Chairperson	Jim Donnelly	ixat@rogers.com
Director	Mike Watts	mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Director	Lee Cassar	lcassar@gridpoint.ca
Director	Fred Pettit	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Scott Lyons	S-LYONS@hotmail.com
Security Officer	Mike Watts	
Secretary, Director	Chuck Hardy	chuck.hardy@sympatico.c

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### Vacant Positions – Entertainment, Sports, Lottery

Website	Lee Cassar		lcassar@gridpoint.ca
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	VE3hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhsmltzer@rogers.com

### Fundraising

Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	djc.clarke@hotmail.com
Air Cadet Liaison, Director	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
Advisor	Frank Birch		fbirch@rogers.com

Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.  
Heritage/ History & Veterans'  
Memorial, Tours

## CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Joe DiPietro	dipietroj101@gmail.com
Bar Steward/Rentals	Joe DePietro	dipietroj101@gmail.com
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive
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 519-455-0430 for more information.





## CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD REPORT

### Welcome to Summer at the 427 (London) Wing.

The profile of the Wing continues to rise after our recent events and very successful 100th Anniversary luncheon on Friday April 5th. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Our Membership continues to grow. The number of rentals for outside events has continued to increase. The new 7 days per week 427 Wing Cafe has been a success and continues working well with Tom and Angelo as well as our Wing Manager Joe DiPietro. The gardens and the Spooner walkway have been rejuvenated in both April and July by our member Rob of RJM Landscaping. We do continue to look for assistance in writing successful grant applications. The latest was aimed towards completing the 427 Wing as a Museum. Lunches will continue every Friday all Summer at 11:30am. Several of us did attend the Ontario AGM in Trenton on the May long weekend. It was a success and illuminating to me as a recent Chair. Our Wing 427 now has two representatives on the Ontario Group with Rene McKinnon continuing as Western Region Vice President and me as a newly appointed Director. I also wish to congratulate the RCAF and RCAF Association for their new place in the Guinness Book of World Records with the greatest number of illuminated landmarks worldwide in a 24 hour period (over 500) on April 1st 2024.

Our storage rooms are being reorganized on the West Building and we have arranged and purchased a large storage trailer to be located on the north side of the building. This will alleviate some of the cramped storage and allow us to better sort and control our books, other items and our artifacts on the Wing premises.

September 23rd is International Women in Aviation Day. On September 24th we have planned a special event featuring Jackie Book. Jackie is a retired RCAF Officer with several international tours, including the C-130 Hercules, and is currently a key leader of the Aviation Department at the University of Western Ontario.

In closing I would like to salute and remember our departed members, including my predecessor as Chair, Linda Brimson, who contributed greatly to the 427 Wing during very challenging times. I would also wish to thank all current members, including all Advisors and Directors, of the Board of Directors for their time and ongoing contributions of service to the 427 (London) Wing.

**Jim Donnelly**



The London International Airport is pleased to offer fun, free, recreational sports to our community! Now open for the summer season, enjoy our Pickleball court and Beach Volleyball court! Visit our website for more details and

locations:

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## Benefits Payment Calendar 2024

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.

**CANADA PENSION AND OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT and GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT**  
January 27, February 24, March 29, April 26, May 29, June 28, July 27, August 29, September 27,  
October 27, November 28, December 20, 2024

**GST / HST CREDIT:** January 5, April 5, July 5, October 4

**ONTARIO TRILLIUM:** The 10th every month, except November which will be on November 8.,

**VETERAN DISABILITY CREDIT:** January 30, February 28, March 27, April 29, May 30, June 27, July 30,  
August 29, September 26, October 30, November 28, December 23

**CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE:** January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15

# Remembering Linda

by Cathy Wood

Family, friends and a long list of acquaintances who had been privileged to know her were saddened by the loss of Linda (Boland) Brimson in June. Many others who never met her, benefitted from her long hours of dedicated volunteer work.

I met Linda, then a phototypesetter with Murray Kelly Printing on Adelaide Street, when hired as a proofreader, about 1975. Linda patiently taught me how to mark up a 'galley proof' (this was before the advent of desktop publishing, PDFs and email) with standard proofreading marks and a red pen.

Here's just one of many stories of how a moment's thoughtfulness from Linda could have long-ranging impact on others: Some 20 years after we worked together at Murray Kelly's when Linda was working in the pre-press department at London Life and I had worked in various design agencies, newspapers and print shops, she called to say that Diamond Aircraft had posted a job opening for a graphic artist / marketing coordinator that she felt was meant for me. She was right: I worked 18 years there.

At age 50, Linda changed career direction, became a Registered Nurse and worked at The Sisters of St. Joseph until just recently retiring.

Retire? Hardly. With her life-long interest in local history – especially rural and aviation history – and writing, work ethic and natural generosity of spirit, Linda devoted countless hours of volunteer work for the RCAFA 427 (London) Wing, the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (CHAA), Re-Forest London and others. As an article contributor to the 427 Wing newsletter and as author of *The CHAA Story*, she helped preserve local history. A hard worker, she took on the tedious in-depth tasks of writing proposals for government funding for 427 Wing and developing fundraising campaigns, as well as the more fun chores of event planning. Her 2022 calendar featuring 427 Wing history was a big hit.

"Linda contributed greatly to the 427 (London) Wing, said Jim Donnelly. "She led the organization through some very difficult times in recent years. As a new Chairperson, whenever I reached out to Linda she freely answered my questions and did her best to assist myself and the RCAFA organization. She will be missed by all at the 427 Wing."

Of course, family was always foremost. Linda was the dear mother of Trevor and proud grandmother of four. Trevor recalls that she was the 'Baseball Mom' who brought water, popsicles and snacks for the team. Linda is also survived by her mother Theresa Boland, her three brothers and their wives, and her nieces and nephews.

"Mom did a lot during her 69 years with us," says Trevor. "She accomplished a great many things, she met an even greater number of people but most of all she touched all our lives in some way and we're all better for having known her."







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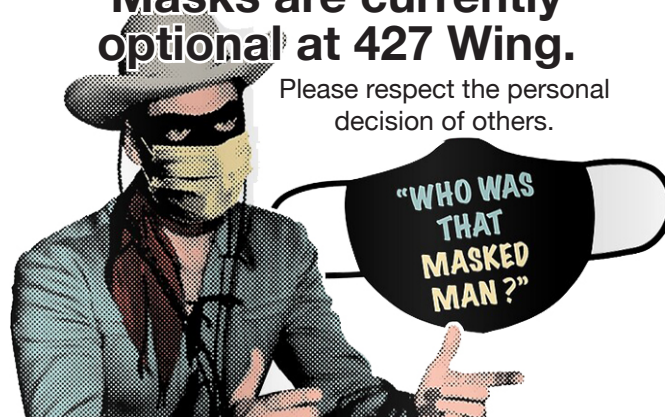
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**ADVERTISE IN THE LONDON LINK  
Call 519-455-0430 for details!**

**Masks are currently  
optional at 427 Wing.**

Please respect the personal  
decision of others.





## Show Your Pride with RCAF Centennial Regalia



**Caps, Shirts and Mugs  
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**Caps                    \$20.00**

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**Mugs                    \$15.00**



**To place your order, please contact**

**Fred Pettit**

**[info@427Wing.com](mailto:info@427Wing.com)**





# BIRTHDAY BRATS

## JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Pablo Calcaterra, Lee Cassar, Nick Corrie, Jean McGinnes, Cathy Newman, Veronica Solis-Oba, Jan Sydorko and Joe Wyatt.

## AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Gerard Ancil, John Brotzel, Dan Barnes, Larry Calver, Don Clarke, Geoffrey Corfield, John DeWIT, Jim Donnelly, Dhira Ghosh, Chuck Hardy, Maya Hirschman, Laurie Lewis, Irene Mathysen, and Greg Popelas.

*"The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune."*  
~English Proverb



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## LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

**January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June 17th.**  
**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)

# Proud to support the 427 Wing



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## Membership Committee Report for July-August edition 2024

by Chuck Hardy

### OBITUARIES

It is with profound sadness that two of our Wing members have passed away.

#### BILL DICK 1937 TO 2024

Bill passed away on June 5, 2024. He was an active Wing member since November 2021. Bill came to most of the Friday lunches and enjoyed telling and listening to stories of members of the Harvard table. He was a manager at Bell for many years and he served as a Lieutenant in the 1st Hussars. He is survived by a sister and brother.

#### LINDA BRIMSON 1954 TO 2024

Linda passed away on June 16, 2024 at the age of 69. She was the Chairperson of the Wing Board of Directors for three years. She led the Wing in organizing the annual Doors Open as well as the annual London Vintage Fair. Linda successfully applied for grants that benefited the Wing during her time on the Executive Team. Linda was a Nurse RPN at the Sisters of St. Joseph in London. She was also a member of the Harvard Association. Linda is survived by her mother and brothers.

### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

If you move, change your email address, please let a member of the Membership committee know, so that we can keep the records current.

Close to 60 members have not renewed their membership as of June 29th. Most joined between January and March of 2024 and paid until June 30, 2024. If you have not paid your membership dues for the membership year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, please do so by the end of July 2024. If you are not sure if you renewed, please contact me at [chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca](mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca) or phone the Wing at 519-455-0430.

For all Wing members: a renewal form was received for Julie Lucas. An application for membership was not received. If you know her, please let me know how to contact her.

Your comments about articles in the Link are welcome. Please let members of the Board of Directors know.

Best wishes and enjoy reading this edition of the Link.



**James O. Poag**  
WATCHMAKER - JEWELLER

**James G. Poag**  
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST  
GOLDSMITH - APPRAISER

**Jeffrey R. Poag**  
GOLDSMITH - DIAMOND SETTER

**Jenny Dortmans**  
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST

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Denise Poag - China and Gifts

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## JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 DFC	2	3 DFC	4	5 DFC LUNCH	6
7	8 DFC	9 RENTAL	10 DFC	11	12 DFC LUNCH	13
14	15 DFC	16	17 RAA DFC	18	19 DFC LUNCH	20 RENTAL
21	22 DFC	23	24 DFC	25	26 DFC LUNCH	27
28	29 DFC	30	31 DFC			

## AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 LUNCH	3
4	5	6	7	8 WT	9 LUNCH	10
11	12	13 MAC	14 BCC	15	16 LUNCH	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 LUNCH	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 LUNCH	31

**WING CAFE OPEN 7AM TO 7PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**  
**Take out is available.**

AGM: Annual General Meeting

BCC: British Car Club

GM: General Meeting

LVRG: London Vintage Radio Club

RAA: Recreational Aircraft Association

WD: The Women's Division

LARC: London Amateur Radio Club

DFC: Diamond Flight Centre

WT: Woodturners