

434 Niagara

BULLETIN



Vol. 25 no 6 July-Aug, 2023

General Meetings

3rd Saturday of each month at

Welland Optimist Club, 38 Patterson Ave., Welland, ON L3B 2C4

Future meeting dates will be advised by email and telephone.

We proudly promote the glorious tradition of the RCAF

434 Wing Board of Directors

2020-2021

Chair – Bill Heron	H - 289-820-8712
1 st Vice Chair – Julie Sheppard.....	H - 905-734-6307
2 nd Vice Chair - Norm Sonnenberg.....	H - 905-834-6722
Treasurer—Julie Sheppard	H—905-734-6307
Recording Secretary - George Groff.....	H - 905-734-4948
Membership/Welfare - Jeanette Lee.....	C - 905-359-3531
	C - 289-723-2544
Bulletin Editor – James Allan	H - 905-685-6787
Kit Shop Chair - Julie Shepard.....	C - 905-734-6307
Advertising Chair—Rod Lee.....	C - 905-359-1975
	C - 289-686-8636
Honorary Director – F/L Tom Vance.....	H - 905-834-8155
Wing Padre - Rev John Cathcart.....	H - 905-384-4660

COMMITTEES

Air - Cadets Capt - Julie Sheppard
Audio Visual - Rod Lee
Phone Committee - Jeanette & George
Programs - George & Board
Sick/Visitation - Jeanette Lee
Publicity - Board

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIONS

Welland	Branch 4	Office	905-734-3611
		Canteen	905-734-6601
Port Colborne	Branch 56	Hall	905-834-9512
Fort Erie	Branch 71	Hall	905-871-8682
Fonthill	Branch 613	Hall	905-892-6293

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434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing

Email: 434wingrcafa@gmail.com

Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada

Report from the Chair July 2023

We are now well into the summer months with some of our planned activities behind us, and I wish a safe and happy time for all, stay safe especially if you plan to travel.

Our Big Red fundraiser in April was yet another great success for the Wing and I thank Julie Sheppard and Jeanette Lee for their organizing skills and to all that participated by purchasing.

The presenting of a cheque to 87 Eagle Squadron RCAC took place May 03 with yours truly and Secretary George Groff in attendance. Prior to the presentation, we watched the Squadron go through their drills for their upcoming Annual Inspection, very impressive.

May 07 our Wing made a good representation at The Battle of the Atlantic commemoration at the Navy Hall in Niagara on the Lake, due to inclement weather the planned flyover had to be postponed.

May 20 saw us attend the Ontario Group AGM in Hamilton. Representing the Wing was the Chair, 1ST VP Julie Sheppard and Secretary George Groff, it was well attended and much business was discussed with debate on Associate Membership being a lengthy item. Our Wing picked up 5 Ontario Group awards all very much deserved.

June 24 we held our annual awards dinner at Branch 613 RCL Fonthill. It proved to be a success, although next year I would like to see more of our members plan to attend, this is a once year event and it is done to not only to show appreciation to those that deserve to be recognized, but it also allows us to be able to spend time together as a group and renew acquaintances.

July 15 we held our Giant Tiger BBQ's which proved to be quite successful and once more many thanks to all those that came out and gave of their time.

July 22 saw many members attend a Birthday celebration for our Spitfire Pilot Tom Vance who will be turning 101. Happy Birthday Tom and we will do this again next year.

July 30 we have managed to arrange through member Ray Larson a Wing BBQ AT Dorothy Rungeling Airport here in Welland. 4pm is the planned start time and we should probably wrap up around 7pm. There are some things you need to know if you plan on attending, please note the following. Although this is as stated for family and friends and because it is being held at the airport regulations are in place with some restrictions. There will be no alcohol sold and none is to be brought onto the premises. There are active aircraft moving so please for safety sake no children and the same rule applies to pets. Please bring your own chair. There is no charge for this event but the donation jar will be available should you decide to make a contribution

Our next big event will be Canal Days in Port Colborne, we will be there August 4,5 & 6 we will set up our kit shop canopy next to Branch 56 Legion, if you can spare time to help please contact Secretary George so that he can set up a work schedule.

We round out August with 2 events. Our kit shop canopy will again be set up August 12 &13 for Thunder River at Welland Fair Grounds, & on August 28 we will have another Giant Tiger BBQ.

I will close here with thanks to all who give of their time it does not go unnoticed and without your assistance many of the functions we do would never take place.

Bill Heron (Chair)

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region Memorial Service

Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic

With Hitler's failed attempt to dominate the skies over Britain, he turned to his "Plan B" which was to starve Britain into submission by cutting off all supply deliveries to the island. The combined efforts of the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian merchant ships and the RCAF were crucial to the Allied victory in Europe. Members of 434 Niagara Wing were honoured to attend the Memorial Service Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic held at historic Navy Hall in Niagara on the Lake on Sunday, May 7, 2023.



Sunday was a warm sunny day, but not in Niagara on the Lake where rain was coordinated to begin with the commencement of the Memorial Service. This did not deter the many attendees nor detract from the moving Service. We thought of how seaman must have faced much worse weather on the North Atlantic. A scheduled flyover by the Southern Ontario T28's Squadron had to be cancelled because of the inclement weather and we thought about how our members of merchant and naval ships must have felt without the support of the RCAF overhead when weather was overcast.



During the service, 434 Wing Chairman Bill and Secretary George remained astern, admiring the foliage surrounding the edge of the Navy Hall grounds. The Lady with the Umbrella: out of the rain, 434 member Debbie appeared with a large umbrella which she shared with your Editor and with Treasurer Julie which allowed us both to continue taking photos, many of which appear in this article. Thank you so much Debbie. Kit Shop Chair,

Rod was present but disappeared shortly after the service. We presume he fell overboard. Director Wes was present but watched from Navy Hall, out of the rain. Member David was also in attendance.



Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region Memorial Service cont.

Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic



Shipmate Mike Britton, who was Master of Ceremonies, introduced guests and speakers. A short history of the Battle of The Atlantic was given along with its important significance to the war effort. The names of 26 lost ships were called out and as each name was called the bell on the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Cape Mercy, docked at Navy Hall, was tolled and a blue carnation was cast upon the water. At the completion of the service guests were invited to come into historic Navy Hall to enjoy food and beverages. A draw was carried out and many prizes were awarded to lucky ticketholders.



Canadian Coast Guard Ship Cape Mercy



Colour Guard



Niagara Falls Concert Band

Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region Memorial Service cont.

Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic



Attendees Inside Historic Navy Hall



Calling out Winning Tickets

It was a meaningful service and it gave 434 Wing members an opportunity to meet with fellow members of the Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region.

BRAVO ZULU



NAVY HALL

Situated on the Niagara River, Navy Hall was first constructed in 1765. It was the site of Ontario's first parliament from 1792 to 1796. The original building was destroyed in the War of 1812. The wood structure was rebuilt by the British shortly after the War of 1812. In the 1930's the building was moved to its present location by the Niagara Parks Commission and was enclosed in stone. The wooden interior remains as seen in the photos above. It is now managed by Parks Canada and is closed to the general public but is rented out for private functions.



434 Niagara Wing's First Fundraising Barbecue of 2023



The first barbecue for 2023 (known as the Giant Tiger Barbecues) was held on June 3rd in Welland. Generous support including allowing us to use protected exterior space outside the store and encouraging store employees to visit our stand, is provided by Giant Tiger. It was a warm, sunny day and 434 Wing members were out in full force to assist. It seems shoppers cannot resist stopping to purchase a hamburger or hot dog while visiting the store. The day was a financial success and we look forward to our next fundraising barbecue on July 15th.



“Executive Meeting”

Left to right; Directors, Tom Vance, your editor and Norm Sonnenberg



Bill served hot dogs and hamburgers and Debbie took the key position of collecting



George preparing customer's hamburger, Debbie collecting payment and in the background, David (light blue shirt) tending the barbecue.



Part of the crew on hand: L to R: David, Bill, Julie and Debbie.

434 Niagara Wing Banquet and Awards Reception 2023



Our Banquet and Awards Reception was held on June 24th at 613 Legion in Fonthill with a large turnout of our members and guests.

Head Table Guests



Guests enjoying their meal



Don Feduk, Past President, 434 Niagara Wing,
Bill Greenwood, Chair of Fort Erie Wing,
Captain Daniel Rodrique



434 Niagara Wing Banquet and Awards Reception 2023 continued



Debbie Wilkes Whitehall: 434 Wing Certificate of Appreciation

James Allan: Ontario Group Award of Merit and George Groff Choked Chicken Humanitarian Award

Julie Shepard: 434 Wing Certificate of Appreciation

Brian Heikkila: 434 Wing Certificate of Appreciation and Ontario Group Award of Merit

Award Winners with local dignitaries. L to R: Vance Badawey, MP for Niagara Centre; Debbie Wilkes Whitehall, 434 member; James Allan, 434 Bulletin Editor; Julie Shepard, 434 Treasurer; Brian Heikkila, 434 member; Marv Junkin, Mayor of Pelham



Brian Heikkila presented with Award by George Groff



James Allan presented with Award by George Groff



Newly Elected Executive is sworn in by Sam Newman

We would like to thank the following for contributing items as prizes for our draw during the reception:

Tracy Books
Simplicity Candles
George's Wooden Handicrafts
Terry's Unique Hot Sauce
Julie Shepard

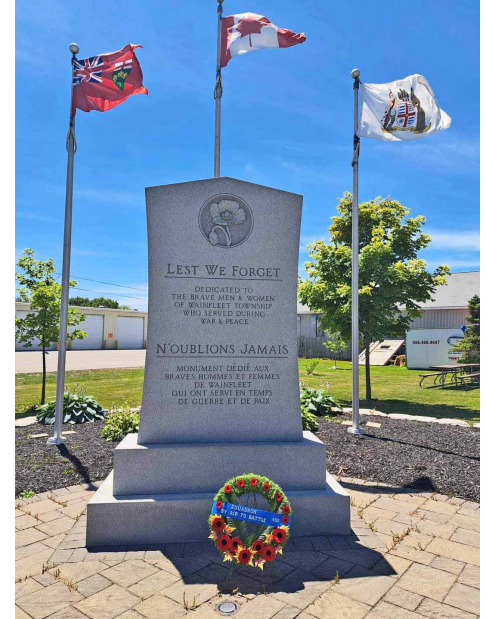
Wreath to Honour Fallen members of 450 Squadron

434 Niagara Wing members Mitch Mascitelli and Rod Lee laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Wainfleet on June 26th to honour the members of 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron killed when their Chinook Helicopter crashed on June 20th in the Ottawa River near Petawawa. Capt. David Domagala of Woodstock, ON and Capt. Marc Larouche of Amos QC were among crew members when the Chinook helicopter crashed.

Along with 434 members, the ceremony in Wainfleet included members of the UN NATO Veterans Group Niagara and the newest group in Niagara, Veterans Canada Riding Club.



Rod Lee



Wreath at Cenotaph in Wainfleet



Chinook Helicopter

Air Cadets

On May 31, 2023 Chairman Bill Heron and Secretary George Groff attended at the Dorothy Rungeling Airport in Welland to present a check to the 87 Eagle Squadron Welland Cadets for \$500.00 from 434 Niagara Peninsula Wing during their weekly Parade Night.



Chairman Bill Heron at Parade Night



Air Cadets practising drills for upcoming Annual Inspection



Presentation Made

Birthdays

July

Tom Vance

Mitch Mascitelli



In The News

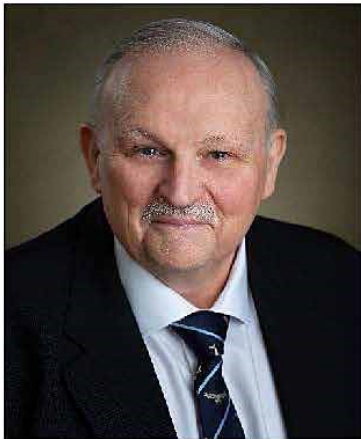
434 Niagara Peninsula Wing member Thomas Taborowski elected National President of the Air Cadet League of Canada



For immediate release

The Air Cadet League of Canada Elects New National President

OTTAWA, ON (June 17, 2023) - The Air Cadet League of Canada (ACL) recently elected Mr. Thomas Taborowski from Toronto, ON, to the position of National President at their 82nd Annual General Meeting held on June 17th in Halifax, NS.



Thomas Taborowski was born and raised in the City of Toronto. He became an air cadet in 1975 and has been involved with the air cadet program ever since. He served as with the Canadian Armed Forces cadet instructor cadre from 1980 to 1988 before joining the Ontario Provincial Committee (OPC) of the ACL. Thomas served with the OPC in various capacities before being elected as Provincial Chair, from 2011 to 2013, and as a Life Member in October 2016. Thomas was elected to the position of National Governor in 2013 and elected to the position of National Vice President in 2018.

Thomas has received several accolades for his work with the cadet program, including: Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012); ACL Certificate of Merit (2012), ACL Certificate of Honor (2014). Ontario Service Volunteer Award (2016); Silver Bar for ACL Volunteer Service Medal (2017); OPC Distinguished Service Medal (2018); and ACL Director of the Year (2019).

Thomas currently Lives in the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario with his partner Jelena Bosanac and has three children. He is the owner of Expo Insurance Brokers, an insurance brokerage in the general Toronto Area.

ACL is a civilian non-profit community based and volunteer led organization which, in collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces and our other partners, is dedicated to supporting the objectives of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program, and to developing in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership; promoting physical fitness; and stimulating the interest of youth in the aviation and aerospace industry, including the Royal Canadian Air Force.

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Contact: Josée Woodford
T: (613) 729-1941 ext 2
E: communications@aircadetleague.com

In The News

India Has Selected Rafale-M for its Navy

The Indian Government is in negotiations to purchase 26 French *Rafale-Marine* deck-based combat aircraft for its Navy.

The new Rafale jets will eventually join the 36 Rafale already in service with the Indian Air Force. India will become the first country to make the same military choice as France by operating both versions of the aircraft.

The twin-engine Rafale-M is intended for India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, the 45,000 tonne INS Vikrant, which was commissioned last year. It will replace the country's old 43-strong MiG-29K fleet. This French jet edged out U.S. F/A-18 Super Hornet in a direct contest to equip the Navy with deck-based fighters.

The Rafale M can carry up to 9.5 tonnes of weapons, fuel tanks and pods on 13 external hardpoints, and is capable of low-level, high-speed penetrations to evade enemy radar.



Rafale-M

Bombardier Delivers Sixth Global 6000 to Sweden to be Configured Into Global Eye Early Warning Aircraft

Bombardier Defense has handed over the sixth Global 6000 to Saab, which will configure the business jet into a GlobalEye airborne early warning and control platform for the Swedish Air Force. The latest GlobalEye integration into the Swedish Air Force exhibits Bombardier's specialty in transforming platforms to match military customers' unique requirements.



Bombardier Defense Global 6000

In 2022, Bombardier commenced the signals intelligence aircraft modification project over a Global 6000 that will replace German defense's retired Breguet 1150 Atlantic reconnaissance plane.

In 2022 Bombardier also delivered the US Air Force's first Global 6000 aircraft equipped with a special mission configuration.

Bombardier vs Boeing

Earlier this year Bombardier entered into a partnership with General Dynamics Mission Systems-Canada to deliver the next-generation Multi-Mission and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) aircraft. Bombardier is competing with Boeing to provide Canada's next multi mission aircraft.

Second Fundraising Barbecue



Taking a break: Background; Jeanette checking her shoes; Mitch checking his cell phone; Norm checking his iPad, Dan holding up column; George checking a Hamburger; David checking the Barbecue.



Ready for Sales: L to R, George, Mitch, David, Dan, Bill



Customers making purchases



Julie on the Kit Shop Table

On July 15, 434 Niagara Wing held its second successful barbecue. 434 Wing members enjoy coming out to help and many were present. Sales from the Kit Shop table which was added helped boost revenue for the day.

Happy Birthday Tom

A Surprise Party to Celebrate Tom Vance's 101 Birthday

434 Niagara Wing 2nd Vice Chair, Norm Sonnenberg organized a surprise birthday party for Honorary Director Tom Vance for his 101 Birthday. UN NATO Veterans Group, Veterans Canada Riding Club members and friends also joined in to make this a large, memorable occasion for Tom.



Happy Birthday Tom continued

A Surprise Party to Celebrate Tom Vance's 101 Birthday



Photos of Tom as Spitfire Pilot in WW2



Tom and your Editor



434 Niagara Wing Chair Bill, Tom and your Editor. Tom discusses photos depicting his illustrious career.



When the glasses are empty the party winds down

National Museum of the United States Air Force

The National Museum of the United States Air Force, the world's largest military aviation museum, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023. 434 Niagara Wing member Debbie travelled to Dayton to visit the Museum during its anniversary year. Our thanks to Debbie for sharing her photos.

A Secret Ambition?



Debbie checking out how she will look in an astronaut suit in space



Debbie wearing her 434 Niagara Wing shirt and her niece inside a US bomber in the museum



Once Upon A Time . . .

Canada was a major military power. The VZ-9 AVROcar was a VTOL aircraft developed by AVRO Canada as part of a secret U.S. military project. The AVROcar was built and tested at the Malton Airport in Toronto. It is now housed at the National Museum in Dayton.

Sponsors

Giant Tiger

Wayne Zatorski – Store Owner
200 Fitch St., Welland, ON, L3C 2V9
(905) 735-0963

M.T. Bellies

Tap & Grillhouse John Clark
871 Niagara St., Welland, ON
(905)-788-9474

Sobeys

Ron Kore
110 Highway # 20,
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0

McDonalds Restaurant

Joanne Martin
569 Main St. W., Port Colborne, ON

Botanix

Steve Moes
1361 Rice Rd., RR2, Welland, ON L3B 5N5
(905)-892-5832

Mike Knapp Ford Sales LTD

Mike Knapp, President
607 Niagara St., Welland ON, L3C 1L9
(905)-732-3673

Boggio

Fonthill Pharmacy
165 Hwy 20
Fonthill, ON
(905)-892-4994

Legion

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4
383 Morningstar Ave., Welland, ON

