



WING MATE



Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada



Fleet Fort

NOVEMBER 2018

Newsletter of 408-437 Wing Toronto

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA MISSION STATEMENT

The Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization whose aim is to commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's Air Force since its inception, advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force and, support the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

2018 Executive

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	[818 Squadron]
	Cécile Thompson
	[110 Squadron]
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Fellowship Chair.....	Barbara Newman
	416-223-7840

Sick and Visiting

Be sure to advise Barbara Newman, Fellowship Chair, if you are aware of a Wing member who is ill or in distressed circumstances.

Barbara can be reached at 416-223-7840.

Events Schedule 2018-19

November 12th.....	General Meeting
	Ted Barris "Dam Busters"
December 10th.....	Christmas/Hannukah Party
	6:30 for 7:00
January.....	Film Night
February.....	Film Night

November



Happy Birthday

Stewart Hamilton

Nov 11

Mort Lightstone

Nov 12



President's Message

Dear members, at this time of the year we are obliged and honoured to remember our comrades who 'did not make it back.' Let us also remember our brothers and sisters of this Wing who are no longer with us, in particular **Charlie Casson** and **Alex Cook** who passed away most recently.

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning we will remember them."

As you know, I recently attended the National General Meeting in Calgary, which is now held every two years. The host unit, 783 Calgary Wing, went all out to provide for an interesting and worthwhile experience. Saturday was spent at the Hotel on association business. I'll come back to this. On Sunday we were bussed about 80 kilometers from Calgary to the Nanton Air Museum for the Remembrance Day Ceremony, joined by members of 783 Wing. The main feature here is a Lanc converted this year to a 'Dam Buster'. Every summer, on several occasions, the Lancaster is towed outside and fired up. The craft does not fly but could be made air worthy with mucho bucks in general repairs. People come from all over to see this. Quite the amazing experience to stand about 50 feet from the four roaring engines.



In the afternoon we were bussed back in the old cheese wagon to the Calgary Military Museum where we received a guided tour and some great stories of the F-86, CF104, and the CF18, by people, now retired, who actually flew the type. Supper was provided "under the wing of the 18." An interesting aside to this is that our Wing actually donated five hundred dollars years back when they were starting to rebuild the craft.

So, what happened at the meeting? Nothing. Nada. Nothing of any consequence. There is no plan nor bolt of enlightenment—not even a hint of one. Perhaps I'm being a trifle abrasive but I did bring this up at the last Regional AGM and off-line at this one and pretty well at every regional meeting we have. I was told on both occasions that it is being looked at and discussed, above my pay grade. It is akin to a politician telling you that they are "*aware, concerned and monitoring*" whatever your issue is. I have learned over time it is double speak: "I've politely listened to you whine. Now get lost." There was not even an attempt at discussing at length our general quandary, declining membership, and what is the NEC's Plan to reverse it. This should have been a line item on the agenda for some serious head scratching. Perhaps to ask for some meaningful input from those present,

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maybe to approve a course of action. After all, the presidents of units from across the country were there.

In fairness, there was an admission that recruiting aging-out Air Cadet members in hindsight was not a well thought-out plan. There was a lengthy presentation re regarding the **Trust Fund** and the general lack of funds in it. Solution: encourage members to remember the *Fund* in their wills—certainly a generous gesture, reasonable request but not an immediate solution. (Think about this for a second.) I won't belabour the point with respect to how it is shrinking and thus not meeting its targets. Oh, yes. And whoever does not support the Trust Fund should not be wearing the "Blazer". I may have a skewed perception, but it seems that the Fund is or is becoming our *raison d'être*.

Moving on, a couple of more concerns worth mentioning were brought forth from the National Headquarters, which is how the NEC prefers to be called now. The question of why there were no resolutions submitted for this General Meeting was asked. I can think of a couple of reasons. In fact there will now be a person or a committee at the National Headquarters to help you with the correct wording. I have a few ideas. The old axiom, "Be careful of what you ask for as you may get it" comes to mind. Also of concern was the sparse attendance by Wings at this BNAGM. It's a lot of money if you can't drive there...to hear nothing. Solution: Wings should have to make it a priority to come up with the funds to be represented. Okay. A sticking point: funds come from membership numbers.

So what is the solution to the kingdom's diminishing shekels. Get professional advice while we can and have the funds, raise our profile, re-invent our organization, target the correct market (age group) and attract new members (my thoughts). But first "they" have to know that we exist, why we exist and why they should join. And for clarification, I mean Wings, not virtual reality. National Headquarters' answer: membership dues will rise by five bucks in June (10%) for various reasons. Not a crushing amount and henceforth *modest* increases every year. And yes, tack on the cost of living annually, as well. Yep.

Last thoughts. MALs now comprise about 50% of the national membership. I can see *some*. But this? And not one is interested in joining a Wing? What is being done to enthusiastically encourage them to do so? What's the word I'm thinking of? Possibly a *resolution* will answer that question and others. Perhaps the joke of the weekend was that there is some serious thought given to forming a virtual Wing for the MAL's

representation at the BNAGM's. I knew that would elicit a smile from you.

CLUE: increase the membership roll = increase the flow of shekels to the national coffer. □

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron Air Cadets



By Jackie Johnston

The squadron had its first CO's parade of the training year on October 29th. WO2 Johnston was promoted to WO1.

The cadets will take part in four Remembrance Day activities:

- Nov 3 Poppy Campaign
- Nov 4 Legion Branch 10 Wreath Ceremony
- 7th Toronto March & Church Ceremony
- Nov 11 Queen's Park Rem Ceremony
- Nov. 17 & 18 Level 5 Workshop Training for qualified cadets

I would like to extend an invitation to all Wing members to our annual Christmas dinner Dec 17. □

Fleet Fort

The Fleet Fort was the only aircraft designed and built by Canadians during World War II. It was also the first all-metal monoplane built by Fleet Aircraft which was located in Fort Erie. Although it was

designed as an intermediate trainer for pilot training after the Tiger Moth and before the Harvard, the Fort Wing Mate November 2018

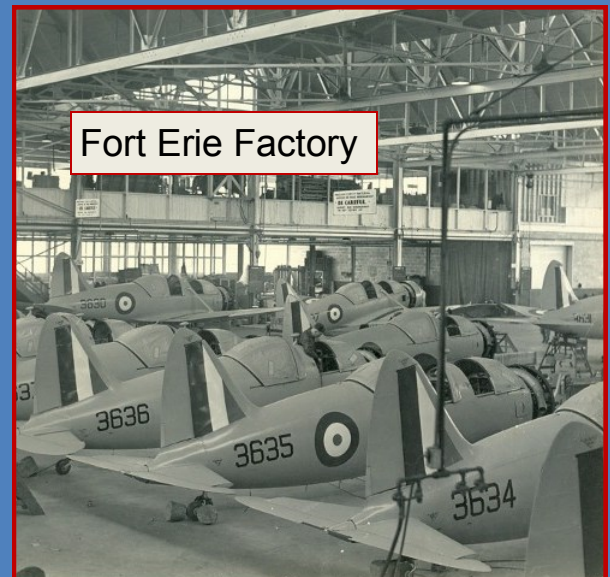
was declared redundant in this role and became a platform to train wireless operators.

A limited number of 101 was produced for the RCAF between 1941 and 1942. The Fort had some unique, if not odd, features: fixed undercarriage but retractable fairings, as well as a raised rear cockpit. A student would become familiar with retracting gear, just not the undercarriage. Thus...fewer pilot errors on landings.

Essentially as the Fort was quite easy to fly, it was deemed unsuitable as a step towards flying a Harvard. The lowly Fort was bumped out by the de Havilland Tiger Moth and the Fleet Finch.



Fleet Fort



Wing Member Gord Hunter

I visited Gord in the Veterans K-Wing at Sunnybrook Hospital on October 21st and 28th and found him in his usual good spirits and more than willing to have a chat. I have made many visits to him during the years that he has been a resident at Sunnybrook. Even though Gord is now blind due to macular degeneration, he continues to be active at Sunnybrook, attending chapel service now on a more regular basis.



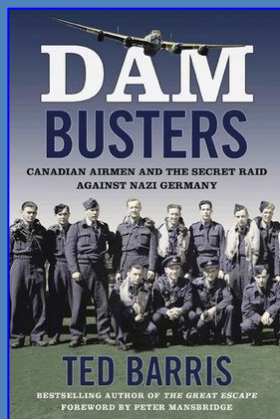
Gord asked me to say hello to his friends in the Wing.

F/L Charles Harold Casson CD

CASSON, Charles Harold CD; P.Eng Retired; MBA; F/L (RCAF) Retired. On Wednesday, September 5, 2018, Charles Casson slipped the surly bonds of earth surrounded by family. He was the beloved husband to Diane; devoted father to Stephanie, Daphne and Gretchen; grandfather to Adam, Jeremy, Ethan, Kyla and Meredith; uncle to nieces and nephews in Canada and England and survived by his brother Richard. An RMC graduate, he completed one career as an operational Air Force officer before finishing a second career as a teacher at Mohawk College. His non-stop life kept him connected with youth as a strong supporter of the Air Cadet program; as well as with his peers with the Air Crew Associations, Heights Officers' Mess and the Royal Canadian Legion. A Celebration of Life is planned for late October. Donations in lieu of flowers to a cancer charity, The Red Cross, or the charity of your choice.



Terry Sleightholm



PLEASE NOTE

OUR NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING WILL FEATURE AS GUEST SPEAKER OUR VERY OWN TED BARRIS PRESENTING HIS LATEST BOOK, *DAM BUSTERS*.

Nick Czernkovich



Alexander F. Cook

COOK, ALEXANDER FRANKLIN October 16, 1922 September 23, 2018 With sadness we announce the passing of Alexander Franklin Cook, at Sunnybrook Veterans Wing, just shy of his 96th birthday. Loving husband of Doris (Willock) for 67 years; father to Susan Lenius (Gary), Judy Bordignon (Giulio); grandfather to Kirsten, Andrew (Tina), Ross and Audra. Pre-deceased by his sister Lillian Howe and her husband Bill. Uncle to Jim (Mary), Ross (Debbie), Brian (deceased) and Cathy Shaw (Dennis). Brother-in-law to Anne Beer, Blake Willock (Betty) and Nancy Henkel (Herb). Will be sadly missed by numerous nephews and nieces on the Willock side. Alex served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II and was a long-time member of the Air Force Association, Wing 408/437. He enjoyed a career of more than 30 years at Imperial Oil in Sarnia and Toronto. Alex volunteered for many years with Meals on Wheels and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Long-time member and sides-man at St. Timothy's Church in North Toronto. Alex was an avid curler and golfer and an active member for many years of the North Toronto Lawn Bowling Association. Heartfelt thanks to all the caregivers and staff at K3C Wing at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre who took care of Alex and supported the family for the past four years. Special thanks to his companion Joan.



Fleet Aircraft is still in existence in Fort Erie, Ontario after 85+ years in aircraft manufacturing. Today it is known as Fleet Canada Incorporated and specializes in detail parts fabrication, composites, metal bonding

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and airframe assembly for military, commercial and civil programs. It continues to be Canadian owned and operated, supplying Boeing, Bombardier, Airbus and Viking Air and other aerospace companies.



Fleet makes parts for the Boeing Chinook

Fleet was started in 1930 by Reuben Fleet of Consolidated A/C to get around import regulations.



Korean War A/C Quiz



1. Douglas Skyknight 2. Grumman F9F Panther 3. Lockheed
F-80 Shooting Star 4. N.A. F-28 Twin Mustang 5. Douglas A-
26 Invader 6. Republic F-84 Thunderjet 7. Grumman F7F
Tigercat 8. Chance-Vought F4U-5N Corsair 9. Douglas AD-5
Skyraider

Answers to Quiz

**2001**

BUR42876 Burnett, Peter.

08 November NEW07795 Newman, Bert.

2002

02 March JAC07735 Jackson, Arthur A.

12 March RICH47023 Richardson, Bruce.

18 March MAT44273 Mather, Alex, Sandy.

02 April MOLL07790 Molland, William.

02 May GAZ07359 Gazey, Harry.

02 August MCA15044 McAvella, B.J.

02 October FUL09461 Fulton, K.R.

27 November STI07769 Stigant, Ronald F.

2003

08 January THO27256 Thomas, Gordon Stanley.

23 January WIL38697 Willis, Jack.

20 February GLO7363 Glover, William.

22 April COM44369 Comat, Giorgina.

30 April MCG07758 McGillicuddy, Hugh Brennan.

27 May VAL07777 Valley, Joseph.

27 May COO07335 Coe, J.H.

30 May ETH07374 Etherington, William.

August SEA07764 Seaman, John T.

23 August JOH107343 Johnson, W.G.

13 November BUR14316 Burnside, Elward.

2004

24 May BAR33318 Barber, Verdun T.

24 October SHE7764 Shelley, Brian

2005

14 March JES38591 Jesshope, Ernest Fredrick.

13 April LUC Luck, Alfred.

September HAS07374 Hasted, Sydney.

06 November HAU07724 Hauth, Jessie.

09 November QUI14353 Quinn, Pat.

16 December SIN44477 Singer, Syril.

17 December MCC07756 McCormack, Fred.

21 December PEN7307 Penfold, George

2006

13 May RIC22354 Richards, Fredrick.

31 December ROB10776 Robertson, Lloyd George.

2007

02 April SAM50131 Samuels, Maurice.

12 May COC44370 Cockburn, William.

12 June SEI07763 Seibert, Bruce Peter.

20 August MCD10761 McDonald, K.J. Ken, Grp/Capt

25 September MUR13044 Murphy, Gerald.

28 October COR73338 Cornbloom, Murray.

28 November CHA39451 Chase, Carmin.

2008

23 April MOZ07793 Mozel, Nicholas.

06 July GRA16363 Gray, Ruth.

HAR07373 Harvey, J. Harland

Charles Fox(see below)

2009

16 February MOO07306 Moore, E Daisey.

14 March BAI20813 Bailey, Ross Halidas.

07 August DEN07343 Dent, Donald W.

22 August LEM01476 Lemmon, Edgar.

07 September CLA16693 Clarke, Roy.

12 September CUR07342 Curnoe, William.

15 September PEN07798 Penny, William S.

29 November RIC47023 Richardson, Ken.

2010

12 November JEF19527 Jeffery, Jeff.

22 November GOE32894 Gorgas, George

12 November JEF19527 Jeffery, Jeff.

01 December MAR07749 Martin. Ed.

2011

17 January	LLO07742	Lloyd, William.
26 January	WRI07787	Wright, John.
01 February	CON09644	Connolly, Betty.
02 April	FLA07351	Flatt, Donna.
20 April	FLA07351	Flatt, Peter.
	OYS45593	Oystnick, Fred.
18 July	NIC07814	Nichols, Howard A.
02 October	WIL44274	Wildman, Ernest Arthur.
05 December	CAH10796	Cahan, Jeanne.
11 December	PHI49815	Phillips, George A.
21 December	CON09644	Connolly, Glen.

2012

12 January	MAC18261	MacKellar, Douglas.
06 September	ELL28511	Ellis, Ross.
20 September	CAR07331	Carter, Nick.
30 October	GAY43231	Gay, Elmer.
11 December	HIL22791	Hill, Ken.

2013

04 January	HEN07728	Henderson, John
08 January	McR28341	McRae, Grant
19 January	BAR07316	Barnett, R. Victor
17 March	MAX25588	Maxwell, Ernest.
18 June	MCG17479	McGuffin, Jim.
29 June	ELL50134	Elliot, Don.
01 July	HER21333	Herbert, R A. (General)
09 August	KAR368860	Karatsis, Dimitirs.
25 November	BEN28485	Bent, James.
04 January	HEN07728	Henderson, John
13 January	MCR28341	McRae, Grant
19 January	BAR07316	Barnett, R Victor

2014

25 April	POI38372	Pointer, Ronald
28 May	ROM07760	Romansky, Alex.
08 June	COL34824	Cole William.
04 August	SHU49849	Shulman Hy
22 December	SMI30603	Smith, Harry

2015

06 January	RIT50852	Ritchie, David.
20 June	MAS23427	Maslen, Robert.
20 July	CAH10796	Cahan, Jack
27 September	155980	Huck, Gordon.
20 October	WEB343670	Weber, George Dr.
06 December	MAR209880	Martin, George F.
28 December	RVP RCAFAC	Cuffe, Gerry.

2016

07 January	ROD07807	Rodmell, Roy
21 February	KEW07740	Kewen, Charles Causon.
29 May	055050	Carrey Willie
06 August	125550	Goodwin H. Terry Flt (DFM DFC)
October	216490	McCreith T, John
11 November	152500	Holliday, Robert (Maj) 1930hrs

2017

02 February	BRE42874	Breton, Helen (age 92)
05 March	252800	Osborn, Geoffrey
06 July	PEA40141	Pearson, Fred

2018

01 February	HR07372	Harvey, John (Orillia)
05 September	057080	Casson, Charles (Chuck) F/L
02 September	069370	Cook, Alex

Charlie Fox travelled with us in 2005 to Holland. He was a member of the Air Crew Association. As a Spitfire pilot in 412 Squadron in July 1944 in France he spotted a black staff car and attacked it. As it turned out, the car carried German General Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox, and Charley succeeded in wounding him. There is a book about Charley called *Day of the Flying Fox* written by Steve Pitt.





October Wing Meeting
with speaker
Terry Sleightholm
who spoke on
“Gettysburg: Why the
South Lost”





October Wing Meeting

