



*Royal Canadian Air Force Association
RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing Inc.
January – February 2023 Newsletter*

Vol 7 Edition 1



2022 – Happy New Year – 2023

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:

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and so much has changed in the world. Sadly, we have had five stalwart Wing members pass away and they will be missed. On a brighter note, the 'multi-demic' is starting to abate and we can continue to hold our meetings in person. We enjoyed the Christmas Social at the Barrie Legion with numerous guests. Jane Coxon, Lorraine Carney, Cooky Ellis did an outstanding job making it fun and memorable for all of us. Our January and February meetings will be done in a hybrid format, both in-person and online via Zoom. In closing, I also want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year. Per Ardua Ad Astra.

3. Last Flights:

Michael Francis O'Shea, CD passed away on Dec 9, 2022 after a brief illness. He was born in Toronto on August 23, 1947, the youngest of four children. Michael joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1967 and served as a pilot for 20 years in various roles, including flying the CF-101 Voodoo air interceptor aircraft. He married the love of his life, Joanne, in 1969 and was a loving father to Colleen (Bill), Kelly (Shawn) and Tim (Madeleine). After retiring in 1987 he embarked on a more than 40-year career as a management consultant, building his own business into a nationally recognized leader in the field. He joined 441 Wing in 2019 and took on many roles as a Director. The roles included being Deputy Treasurer, Legion



Liaison for RCL Br 147 Barrie, Ad Astral Committee Director, Liaison with Kiwanis of Barrie, Liaison with Hoops and Loops for the Wing apparel, assisted Art Cameron's group by setting up donation of \$25,970.22 to Ukraine Students, assists Wing Social Committee, acted as liaison for the Wing with the Barrie Events group. He was presented with the 441 Wing's "Member of the Year for 2022" award on 27 Nov by the Wing's Directors. Michael also filled many roles in his life, as a son, brother, uncle, friend, military pilot, and a successful business person. He would be the first to tell you, however, that his greatest accomplishment in life was his family. Michael was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early November. Michael was passionate about giving back and so in lieu of flowers the family requests donations to The Tyler Robinson Foundation <https://trf.org/donate/> or the Grandmother campaign through the Stephen Lewis Foundation <https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/ways-to-give/>

HCol (Emeritus), Dr. Bill Coyle, OStJ, OOnt, MSM, CD, PhD passed away peacefully on Dec 26, 2022 at the age of 92. Bill lived at the Kingsmere Retirement Residence in Alliston. Beloved husband of the late Joan (nee McKay) Coyle. Loved father of Debbie Paterson (Norm), Bill Coyle (Sharon), Julie Newton (Darren McCabe), Jamie Coyle (Linda), predeceased by son Rick Coyle and daughter-in-law Charleen Coyle. Loving bubba of 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. He was the Vice-President of Allied Signal, one of Canada's largest aerospace companies. On his way to become a "Captain of Industry" he excelled at all levels, starting as an engineer designing the famous AVRO Arrow. Appointed by the Minister of National Defence as the Honourary-Colonel for the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering (CFSATE) in 1997. Bill stepped down as the CFSATE HCol in October 2010 after being in that position for almost 14 years. Three years later, he was appointed as the HCol of 16 Wing, ending in 2018 when HCol Renee van Kessel took over the position.



He was a proud member of the RCAF Association since 1999. He remained active and was a member of the 441 Wing planning committee for the RCAF 100th Anniversary celebrations. As with any project that he takes on, he makes things happen in a big way. Visitation will be held at Drury Funeral Centre 519 Victoria St. E., Alliston on Thursday from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church 190 King St. S., Alliston on Friday December 30, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. Interment Assumption Catholic Cemetery. If so desired memorial donations to the Parkinson Society, Heart & Stroke Fdn. or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

4. New Wing Member Inducted – Colonel Darryl Taylor, Comd 16 Wing: Wing Chair Bill Sergeant inducted Col Darryl Taylor, Comd 16 Wing into 441 Wing at our Christmas Social on 02 December, 2022. He will be an excellent addition to our Wing.



5. Honours and Awards: On 27 November, our H&A Chair Andy Galton, supported by members of his committee and the Wing Directors, honoured Michael by presenting him with his “Member of the Year for 2022” award. The citation on his award read, “Michael O’Shea is one of those people who joins an organization and instinctively works to make it better. On joining 441 (Huronian) Wing he immediately volunteered to assist the Treasurer and to stand as a Director. He is knowledgeable, exacting and tireless in his efforts and quickly steps up to assist other directors and members in accomplishing their tasks. There is not an area of 441 Wing that he has not worked on, influenced or improved. 441 (Huronian) Wing has benefited enormously from having Michael as a Director and member.”



Within 441 (Hurononia) Wing, have numerous members who have actively supported the Wing to achieve its mission and goals in 2022. I would ask that you take time to nominate these deserving members for Wing, Provincial or National awards such as Member of the Year, Award of Merit or a Certificate of Appreciation. Please send your nominations to the Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee, Andy Galton, at < galtonandrew1@gmail.com >.

6. Wing Fund Raisers:

The winners of the draws for the “**\$100-a-Month Draw**” for 2022 were:

January – Michael O’Shea #242; July – Allister Macdonald, #135;
February – Mark Tobin #237; August – Nancy Cutsey, #204;
March – Michael O’Shea #265; September – Andrew Coxon, #154;
April – Peter Shaver #141; October – Robert Rice, #109;
May – Robert Rice #109; November - Lorraine Carney, #036; and
June–Sherry Tobin-Green, #232; December – Greg Merrill, #246.

Note: This was the last “**\$100-a-Month Draw**”. The Wing would like to thank Les Ball for organizing and running this draw for 2021 and 2022. The funds raised are being donated to support Air Cadet activities.

Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World Tickets: There have been 24 books of tickets handed out for the 2023 draw for our members to sell. Cost is \$10.00 each, or a book of 11 tickets for \$100.00. Note the Wing was given \$1,000 by the Kiwanis Club for selling the tickets last year. The 2023 draw will take place on Valentine’s Day, 14 February. The winner will have until the end of 2024 to take their trip. Contact Wally Capsticks at <dieselmyster@rogers.com> if you are interested in buying tickets or willing to help sell them. He would like the stubs and money returned to him as soon as possible, but no later than February 1, 2023 so he can pass them on Chuck McIlravey of the Barrie Kiwanis Club.

7. Wing Christmas Social:



The 441 Huronia Wing Christmas Social was held on Friday, 2 Dec 2022 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #147, Barrie. Jane Coxon, Lorraine Carney and Cooky Ellis did an outstanding job organizing it. There were 45 people in

attendance, including guests from 429 (Georgina) Wing, 102 (Silver Fox Barrie) RCAC Sqn and 714 (Wasaga Beach) RCAC Sqn, who enjoyed the turkey dinner that was made and served by the RCL #147 Ladies Auxiliary. After the opening



102 (Silver Fox Barrie) RCACS member with his hand made Christmas ornament that Jane Coxon had made.

ritual, Col Darryl Taylor was sworn in as a member of the Wing and the RCAF Association. Padre Doug then conducted the ‘Missing Aviator’ ceremony and said grace. Jane had sewn welcome gift bags, filled them with candy, and placed them at each place setting for the attendees to take home with them. After the meal, those present bid on the numerous silent auction items and completed the trivia sheets that Jane had organized for us. The prizes for the trivia winners were hand made Christmas ornaments that Jane had made. Towards the end of the evening, the 50/50 prize and door prizes were drawn for and then the silent auction winner’s names were read out, including the one for the flight in the Tiger Moth at Edenvale that was won by Raywin Raaflaub. Chairman Bill thanked Jane, Lorraine, Cooky for organizing the wonderful Social event & wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a healthy, happy New Year, and a safe trip home.

8. Upcoming Wing Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
10 Jan 23	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Meeting	1800 hrs
10 Jan 23	Wing Hybrid Meeting – Guest Speaker Phil Tweedie speaking about Cyprus	1900 hrs
14 Feb	Wing Directors’ Hybrid Meeting	1800 hrs
14 Feb	Wing Online Zoom Meeting – Guest Speaker TBC	1900 hrs
14 Mar	Wing Directors’ Meeting at the Legion	1800 hrs
14 Mar	Wing General Meeting at the Legion – Guest Speaker TBD	1900 hrs
TBD April	Annual Charter and Awards Dinner at the Legion	TBD
09 May	Wing Elections for the Board of Directors	1900 hrs

9. RCAF 100th Anniversary Committee - Update:

The 100th Anniversary of the RCAF is only a year away now. The Wing's planning committee will be coming together online to discuss ideas for events that our Wing can organize or assist with for the centennial. Some of the events or projects that we may get involved with are:

1. The RCAF 100th Anniversary Parkette at the former 441 (Huron) Wing building at 732 Hwy 90, Springwater, ON. Mr. Rudy Mak will donate the land for this project. Dr. Andrew Gregory is awaiting a letter of request from Springwater Township Council for a T-33 that can be placed at the site;
2. RCAF tulips gardens in Barrie and surrounding municipalities – OPI David Farnsworth;
3. a Freedom of the City parade in Barrie done in conjunction with 16 Wing Borden for the Battle of Britain parade in 2024. OPI Murray Conley;
4. production of a '100th Anniversary of the RCAF' pin which could be done in conjunction with the national staff – OPI Norm Marion;
5. conduct special tours of the BBMM Air Annex that highlight 100 years of the RCAF; and
6. write articles for local magazines that generate interest in the 100th Anniversary as well as the 'Birthplace of the RCAF' – Jean Maurice and Norm Marion were asked to develop a list of topics that we could write articles about; and
7. Military band concerts featuring the local Cadet bands and possibly a group of singers from the King Edward Choir.

10. TIME CAPSULE: "John Gillespie Magee": By Randolph Rice

Many of us experience a lifetime accumulating and achieving things and there are those who accomplish it all in a flicker of time. One such individual whose legacy is captured in a simple poem was John Gillespie Magee. During his short life, he captured in the words that he put paper, the sensation of flight as no one else had done before.

He viewed his mortality as a waning thing and conveyed his feelings in many of his 26 poems.

John Gillespie Magee was born on 9th June 1922 at Shanghai, China to an American father and an English mother, both of whom were missionaries. John's early education was in China, then at St. Clare in Walmar, Kent, England where he was soon demonstrating exceptional intelligence and an adventurous spirit. His teachers were conscious of a "soaring mind always aiming at the stars". He excelled at classes, learned to play the piano in just one term. It was during his last year at St. Clare that John started writing poetry. In 1935, when John was 13, his parents moved him to Rugby's famous public school. Life for boys at the school was, to say the least, tough and based on a hierarchical structure.

At Rugby, John was seen as something of a rebel, a free spirit who challenged the rules more so than his contemporaries. He is remembered as “audacious rule-breaker and pioneer”.

As war clouds loomed in Europe, John was well aware of the 600 plus former students from the Rugby school who had fallen in the Great War. John was particularly taken by the celebrated war poet Rupert Brook (1887-1915) whose work he greatly admired and who was one of the 600.

At this time, John dabbled in poetry and the headmaster Hugh Lyon said to him “you are going to write better poetry than I am writing”. John was described by his housemaster as “intelligent, volatile, emotional, untidy, thoughtless, keen”. He enjoyed life at Rugby to its fullest playing football, tennis and sailing his dinghy on the channel. By 1939, John at 17 turned to pacifism and doubts about conventional religion. His frame of mind was revealed in his poem “Brave New World”. It was with this poem that John won the coveted Rugby Poetry Prize for 1939. Typical of a 17-year-old, his moods fluctuated between exaltation and depression.



In the summer of 1939, John was persuaded to go to America and stay with his aunt. He enrolled at Avon school near Hartford, Connecticut, a prep school for Yale where his father had attended. While there he produced a volume containing 17 of his poems, never being made public.

By September 1940 John having been accepted by Yale but opted instead to enlist in the RCAF a means to get back home, initially he was rejected due to being underweight, however within a few weeks, he gained the weight and was accepted.

First stop was the manning depot in Toronto, then Trenton and finally to St. Catherine's at the Elementary Flying Training School (#9 EFTS), making his first solo after just six hours. During his flight training, and embodied with high

spirits, he experienced a number of close calls with death. End of March 1941 found him flying the "Yale" and "Harvard" aircraft at #2 SFTS RCAF Station Uplands. He wrote "I have found my place in the sun". His greatest fear, like many pilots, was that the glorious chance to become a fighter pilot might be snatched away from him. In June 1941 he received his wings after achieving second place in his class.

Noticeable to his friends and family, service life had matured him with a new found humility and an awareness of his own limitations. After being notified of his promotion to Pilot Officer while on leave, John was posted overseas to No. 53 OPT where his first flight in a Spitfire took place on 7th August 1941. He also fashioned a moustache and took to a pipe for a while. It was during this time that a fellow pilot suggested to John, that with him being a poet, he should put his feelings about flying to paper thus was born "High Flight", the most famous flying poem in the world. He also sent a copy to his parents and informed them it came to mind at 30,000 feet.

Soon after, John joined 412 Squadron RCAF at Digby, Lincolnshire, England. His squadron commander in an assessment stated, "shows patches of brilliance, tendency to over-confidence". During this time John flew his Spitfire in support of coastal patrols, attacking shipping, and intercepting bombers over the North Sea and Holland. There was a spirit of "Tally Ho" amongst the young pilots and John took to squadron life readily and easily despite the nerve wracking, never ending "scrambles".

On 8th November 1941 John and his mates were engaged in combat with ME 109s, this experience being his most serious action to date with losses to the squadron. He stated "The 109s came down in swarms out of the sun. I was terrified at first but, after a while, felt a bit better and had a squirt at one, but another was firing at me, so I didn't see whether I hit him or not". He also penned his final poem called PER ARDUA and dedicated it to the fallen of the Battle of Britain and sent it to his family.

John's flying continued to improve, and he was made a section leader taking part in operations over Europe.

On the 11th of December 1941, John was on a routine patrol over south Lincolnshire when suddenly, while flying through a bank of cloud, he collided with another aircraft on a training flight out of Cranwell. On exiting his aircraft, John's parachute became tangled and failed to open - both pilots were killed.

John Gillespie Magee Jr was just 19. He was buried with full military honours and his headstone bears the first and last lines of his poem "*HIGH FLIGHT*".

LEST WE FORGET

11. New Liaison Officer for 102 (Silver Fox Barrie) RCACS:

Kent Smerdon is the new Liaison Officer for 102 Sqn, replacing Sherry Tobin-Green in that position. Sherry has done an outstanding job as the Wing's Liaison Officer for many years. Kent attended his first Squadron Support Committee

(SSC) meeting in December and looking forward to becoming more involved with the Squadron in the future. He passed on that 102 Sqn will be having a fundraising bottle drive on 21 Jan 2023. Please support the Sqn and drop your bottles off at the Barrie Armories that day between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

12. Volunteers Needed:

As we are all aware, Michael O'Shea took on numerous roles and responsibilities within our Wing. With his untimely passing we will need volunteers to take on some of these duties, such as:

- Deputy Treasurer,
- Legion Liaison for RCL Br 147 Barrie,
- Ad Astral Committee Director,
- Liaison with Kiwanis of Barrie,
- Liaison with Hoops and Loops for the Wing apparel, and
- liaison for the Wing with the Barrie Events group.

If you would like to take on one or more of these responsibilities, please contact Wally Capsticks or Bill Sergeant and let them know.

13. RCAF 99th Anniversary Lapel Pins:

Following a well-established Borden tradition, commemorative pins are to be produced again in 2023 to mark the 99th anniversary of the birth of the Royal Canadian Air Force on April 1st, 1924. Although Norm did not receive any aircraft nominations for the pin, he selected five (5) from his notes: the Vickers Viking flying boat; the de Havilland DHC-1 Chipmunk trainer; the de Havilland DH 100 Vampire jet fighter; the Fairchild Cornell trainer; and the Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber. After a discussion amongst the membership at the November Members' Meeting, Jane Coxon moved that the Cornell be nominated, and it was seconded by Les Ball. The Fleet Cornell will be the aircraft on the 99th RCAF Anniversary pin.

14. 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/>

15. 441 Wing Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive for FY 2022-2023:

The Wing will have half the directors stand for election for two (2) years from June 2023 to June 2025, thereby fulfilling our requirement under ONFPCA (Ontario Not For Profit Corp Act). Nomination forms will be sent out via email to in March 2023. The Wing will need a volunteer to be its Returning Officer (RO). Nominations for the Directors will be accepted up to and including 30 April 2023. The elections will take place at our May Members' Meeting and the new Board will be installed at the June 2023 meeting.

POSITION	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chair	Bill Sergeant – 2023	Newsletter, H&A Committee Member
Deputy Chair	Wally Capsticks – 2024	Special Events, H&A Committee Member
Treasurer	Andrea Sloan – 2024	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O
Secretary	Andrew Galton – 2023	Honours and Awards Committee Chair
Director	Gerry Pepler – 2023	RCAFA Ad Astral Project Board Chair
Director	Art Cameron – 2023	RCAFA Ad Astral Project BoD Member
Director	Murray Conley – 2024	Director of Ceremonies
Director	Joep Dening – 2024	Wing Web Master
Director	Norm Marion – 2023	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director	Randy Rice – 2024	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

2022 – Happy New Year ! – 2023

IN SUPPORT OF 102 SQUADRON

Tell all your family, friends and neighbours to start saving their empty Beer and Wine bottles!

JAN 21st
SAVE
THE DATE



Mark your calendars for JAN 21st. Drop off your donations at the armouries between 10am-1pm.

