

# THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
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**Art Lee Honoured with Quilt of Valour**



London veteran and 427 Wing member Art Lee enlisted in the airforce November 1942 and held the rank of LAC lead aircraftman. He was honourably released May 1946. During his service Art was stationed not far from London in St. Thomas, as well as postings in Moncton N.B., Weyburn Sask, Lachine Quebec. Art served Canada overseas in England, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

On Saturday April 7th, surrounded by family and friends, including his wife Peggy with whom he celebrated 68 years of marriage on April 6th, Art was presented with a Quilt of Valour.

Quilts of Valour Canada was founded in 2006 in Edmonton Alberta to acknowledge the significant contributions made by injured Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans. Specially designed quilts for provide



comfort and show the gratitude of and support of Canadians to injured CAF members and veterans. Quilts of Valour are hand made by volunteers, using donated materials. Each quilt features the name, rank, years of service and branch of service the veteran served in.



# 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.

## 427 (LONDON) WING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (WEC) JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

President	Terry Rushton	519-472-0268	<a href="mailto:trushton71@bell.net">trushton71@bell.net</a>
Past President	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	<a href="mailto:hjohnston@rogers.com">hjohnston@rogers.com</a>
Secretary	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	<a href="mailto:chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca">chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer	Liyuan Shi	226-977-6128	<a href="mailto:UPCSLY@gmail.com">UPCSLY@gmail.com</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

*Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports and Sgt-at-Arms – call Wing for info*

Web-Site			
Membership	Cathy Newman	519-452-1886	<a href="mailto:cathy.newman@rogers.com">cathy.newman@rogers.com</a>
Public Relations			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Brent Elgie, Sam Newman Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-452-1886	<a href="mailto:sfn.afac@rogers.com">sfn.afac@rogers.com</a>
Fundraising			
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	<a href="mailto:arrow105@sympatico.ca">arrow105@sympatico.ca</a>
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Museum	Howard Johnston	519-657-2499	<a href="mailto:hjohnston@rogers.com">hjohnston@rogers.com</a>
Air Cadet Liaison			
Lottery	Mike Ryan	519-455-1668	
Nominations	Jack Clark, CD	519-686-1303	<a href="mailto:jackjoanc@gmail.com">jackjoanc@gmail.com</a>
War Graves, Poppy Fund, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith Pablo Calcaterra	519-857-6468 Beating the heat at the Airshow	<a href="mailto:691s@rogers.com">691s@rogers.com</a> <a href="mailto:pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com">pablo.calcaterra@outlook.com</a>
Tours	Armin Grunwald, COM, MSM	519-474-2194	<a href="mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com">wing427tours@rogers.com</a>

## CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430	
Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430	
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive	
London Link Editor	Cathy Wood		<a href="mailto:cathyrwood@gmail.com">cathyrwood@gmail.com</a>

**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 Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



## Message from the President

Hopefully spring will be with us by the time you read this. If not, we may be as desperate as the police department in Depew, N.Y., whom the Toronto Star reported became fed up and arrested Winter.

When spring arrives you may want another rain jacket or golf shirt. Some are on order and more are easily available at a reasonable price. Our Kitshop will soon have new T-shirts, mugs and hats; you can see Fred Pettit for details.

**Finances:** We have begun a major capital campaign. Despite our financial situation being better than it has been, we have had and are facing major challenges to our building. Let me thank all who have made donations, but there is much more to do. The roof between the two main buildings needs temporary repairs to buy us time to raise funds for major reconstruction. We also need to fund an engineering assessment to determine just what major structural repairs are needed, which of course we will then need to fund. Our building was built in 1940 and meant to last only a few years. The thermometer measuring our campaign shows some real progress, but we still have a long way to go. Tax deductions are available if requested for donations over \$20.00. Other ways to help drive our campaign include (1) printer cartridges – bring in your empty inkjet and toner cartridges, which the Wing can then return for a small payment; (2) Canadian Tire money – remember that? If you still have any and don't need it, bring it to the Wing; (3) Books – Like kids participating in a reading challenge, we have lots of enjoyable books available, but more are always welcome. Our prices can't be beat! (4) Yard Sale – Its spring, its yard sale time. We have begun something a bit different, a Perpetual Yard Sale. Watch closely and you will see items disappear, to be replaced by others; (5) Rentals – the Wing is available for many types of events, for a modest fee. Many groups use it, so if you know of an organization needing a venue for an activity, put them in touch with Flo or the Executive.



**Wing Activities in May:** On May 11th our Spooner Memorial will have 30 new commemorative stones dedicated. Quite a few guests will be attending. The Memorial honours LAC Kenneth Spooner, who lost his life but saved his fellow aircrew in a training accident over Lake Erie in 1940. For his bravery, Spooner was posthumously awarded the Military Cross. Then in Point Edward, from May 18-20, the Ontario Group, RCAFA will be holding its Annual General Meeting. Wing members are encouraged to attend and learn more about the wider RCAF Association. Next comes an event on May 27th when the Indo Canadian community will be holding a ceremony to honour the many soldiers from India who served in the Allied forces.

**Wing Activities in June:** Next June 15th, along with the Royal London Military Institute, Wing members can join Tour #32 to visit the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Rush Creek Winery, and conclude with dinner at the Wayside Inn in Talbotville, Cost is \$55, due by May 15th. For information call 519-474-2194, email [rimi@rogers.com](mailto:rimi@rogers.com) or [wing427tours@rogers.com](mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com).

**Wing Activities in July:** As usual, the Wing will participate in events held at Victoria Park. The help of a few members would be greatly appreciated. Call any executive member listed on page 3.

– *Terry Rushton - President*

## Notes from the Secretary

Let's start and end with one liners:

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

### ONGOING YARD SALE

Rather than a weekend yard sale, we will hold an ongoing sale. Please donate items that you and we know will sell. Items such as books in good shape, jewelry, sports goods, stationery, trinkets, puzzles, etc.

Generally, clothing, old electronics, old books with no covers, tapes, old format movies will not sell and have to be carted away.

Please donate and buy to help the Wing.

Events : Please see items elsewhere in this edition.

### YOUR FEEDBACK

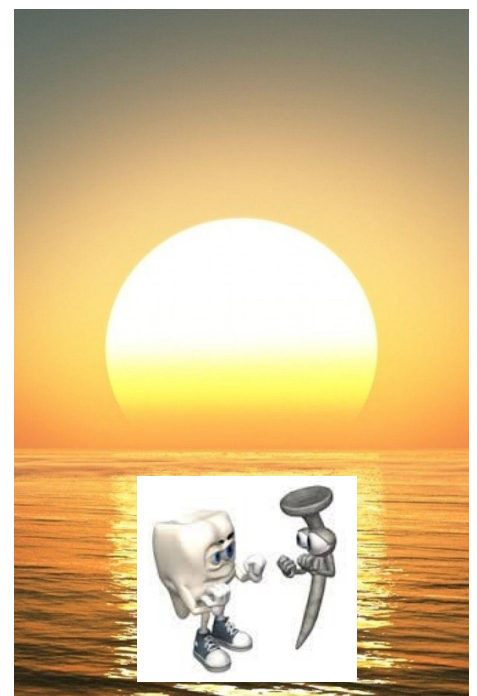
Feedback on anything at the Wing is welcome. Have your say.

Now to end with more one-liners:

Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year old was resisting a rest.

A bicycle can't stand alone, it's just two tired.

– *Chuck Hardy - Secretary*



## *Per Ardua*

If you could travel back in time, you might find the period from 1936 to 1939 very interesting, particularly if you happened to meet an Englishman named Nicholas Winton.

In 1936, Winton was 27 years old, lived in London, England and after working at various banks in England, Germany and France, finally settled into a career as a broker at the London Stock Exchange. He was quite athletic for his age, an excellent skier but better known at fencing, as he had been selected for the British fencing team. The team was preparing to compete at the 1938 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan, the first non-western city to win an Olympic bid. Unfortunately for Winton, the Sino-Japanese War broke out in July, 1937 and the Games were forfeited.

Meanwhile, political tensions were rising in Europe. The German government was demanding the return of the Sudetenland, a part of the northern, southern and western areas of Czechoslovakia, in which 3 million ethnic Germans were living. The area was repatriated to Czechoslovakia after the First World War, but now Germany wanted it back. On September 30, 1938, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, French Premier Edouard Daladier and the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain signed the Munich Pact, returning the Sudetenland to Germany in an attempt to avert another European war. It should be noted that the Munich Pact also gave Germany 66 percent of Czechoslovakia's coal, 70 percent of its iron and steel and 70 percent of its electrical power. The government of Czechoslovakia was not invited to take part in the negotiations. On his return to England, Chamberlain announced that they had achieved "peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time." He was rebuked by Winston Churchill who told him, "You were given the chance between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour and you will have war." But signing the Pact did give Britain time to prepare for war and to organize the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia in that country's capital city, Prague.

Just before Christmas, 1938, Nicholas Winton, whose parents had been German Jews, got a call from a friend who asked him to come to Prague and help with Jewish welfare work. It was no secret that the Nazis wanted to eradicate the Jewish race. Jews soon learned they no longer had any rights. On November 9, 1938, the persecution of German the Jews reached a new height with Kristallnacht ("the night of broken glass") when 7,500 Jewish businesses were destroyed, 267 synagogues were burned, 91 Jews were killed and more than 25,000 Jewish men were arrested. As the year ended, Time magazine named Adolf Hitler "Man of the Year," as the most influential person of 1938.

In Prague, Winton single-handedly established an organization to protect Jewish children, after the British government had approved the entry into Britain of refugees younger than 17, provided they had a place to stay. With this guarantee, Winton organized special "Winton trains" to carry the children through Germany to a port near Rotterdam, Holland, to embark by ferry to England. A total of 669 children were saved from the concentration camps at Auschwitz and placed in British homes and hostels. Tragically, the last group of 250 children, scheduled to leave Prague on September 1, 1939 was cancelled as that was the day the Second World War began. Of those 250, only two survived the war.



When war broke out, Winton joined the RAF as an aircraftman and was later promoted to sergeant and eventually to pilot officer on probation. His efforts for the children went unnoticed for fifty years; until his wife found a scrapbook he had, containing lists of the children, including their parents' names and the names of the families that took them in. Later, 80 of the children were located in Britain. In recognition of his work Winton was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), and a British Hero of the Holocaust, plus honours bestowed by the Czech government and memorials at the Prague and Liverpool railway stations. Nicholas Winton died in 2015 at the age of 106.

*-Reg Lowrie*



If you are receiving a pension as a result of your employment with the Federal government – military, RCMP or public service – the FSNA has something for you. Call 519-439-3762 or visit our website at [www.fsnalondon.com](http://www.fsnalondon.com) It's that easy.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RCAF ACTIVE AND FORMER AIRWOMEN - RCAF AIRWOMEN'S REUNION

The 14th RCAF Airwomens' Reunion is scheduled to take place at the Marriott Hotel  
100 Kent Street, Ottawa, June 7,8 and 9, 2019

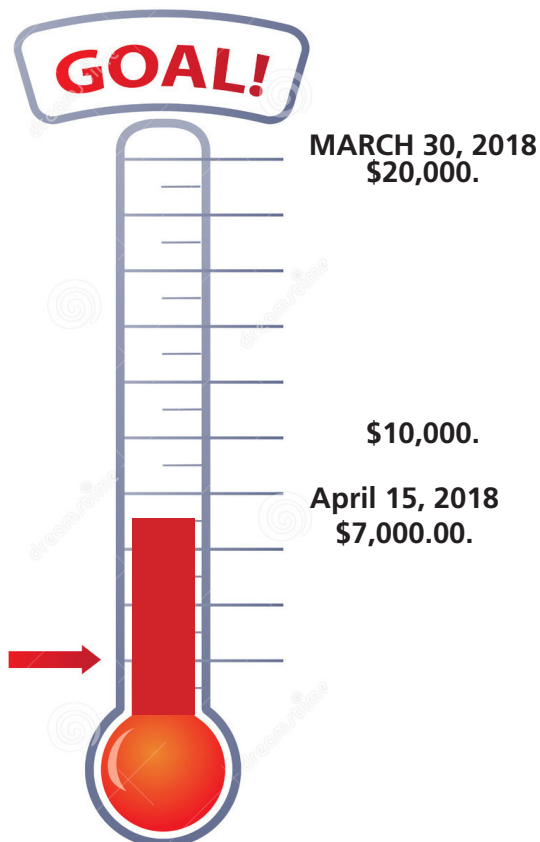
Further details on entertainment and excursions will be announced when available.

If you have ever been out to the Wing for lunch on the 4th Friday of most months of the year, you certainly would have noticed a long table set up in the ballroom, around which about twenty or so ladies are meeting to talk and laugh about the good old days and their good new days as well. These are all former members of the WDs - the RCAF's Womens Division that proudly served their county in peace and war. There are many similar groups of former serving airwomen across Canada. The London Airwomens group meets for lunch on the 4th Friday of the month at the 427 (London) Wing of the RCAF Association. The address is 2155 Crumlin Road, just north of the airport entrance, telephone 519-455-0430.

If you know of any serving or former airwomen, please tell them to email Marilyn Chalk at [almar1@sympatico.ca](mailto:almar1@sympatico.ca). In addition, for former members who have regular get-togethers, meetings and luncheons, the Executive would be pleased to post that information in their newsletter so that ladies in your community can find you. It also lets airwomen travelling in your area know where they can meet up with your group. Any emails received by the 20th of the month can go into the next newsletter.

There are ladies out there who do not have email addresses so we could send them the newsletter. However, if they were to go to the website at [atrcaf\\_airwomen@yahoo.com](mailto:atrcaf_airwomen@yahoo.com) they could read it online. The Airwomens group publishes its newsletter at: [www.rcafairwomen.ca](http://www.rcafairwomen.ca). If you know of someone who has access to a computer through their family or the local library, the newsletter can be read on line.

## CELEBRATING RCAFA 94th ANNIVERSARY and 427 (London) Wing's 2018 Fund Raising Drive



We have made significant renovations, and hope to do more, which is why we have embarked on a building fund campaign. We have raised over \$3,700 so far, but hope to raise \$20,000 to make much-needed improvements.

Donations may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.



Regional Services Officer Rene McKinnon welcomes Faben Wossenew to the Wing. Faben has volunteered to help the Executive as a volunteer secretary. She is a London native with an impressive background in management, communications and community involvement.

## Kit Shop:

We still have a few golf shirts with the RCAF Association crest and 427 Wing on them, as well as a very few winter jackets, wool with leather sleeves, and fall rain jackets (small only).

We can also order items from the Regalia catalogue at [airforce.ca](http://airforce.ca) and from Labusch Skywar. at [skywear.com](http://skywear.com). We still have a number of T-shirts, hats and mugs depicting different aircraft."



### ***Just because you are "old" doesn't necessarily make you "stupid"!!***

The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the Bar just outside the Legion. A ragged old Army ground pounder was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle. A curious young Fighter Pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing.

"Fishing," the old Sergeant simply said.

"Poor old fool," the Officer thought to himself, and he invited the old Army Soldier into the Bar

for a drink. As he felt he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whiskey, the haughty Fighter Pilot asked,

"And how many have you caught today?"

"You're number ten," the old Army Sergeant answered. "6 Air Force, 4 Navy ."

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Any of you know someone who would like to play euchre on Tuesday afternoons?

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**Full instructions and addresses may be found at:**

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# BIRTHDAY BRATS

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## MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Harry Beukeboom, Bob Brown, Harry Campbell, Walter Chmela, Joan Clark, Jack Clark, John Gill, Wayne Harris, Don Hatch, Robert Johnson, Hazil Malone, Tom Pillon, Mike Seabrook, Liyuan Shi, David Smith, Chuck Spurgeon, Bill Webb, and Faben Wossenew.

## JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wayne Chuter, Tammy Newman, Sam Newman, John Pietraszko, and Terry Rushton.

*“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)

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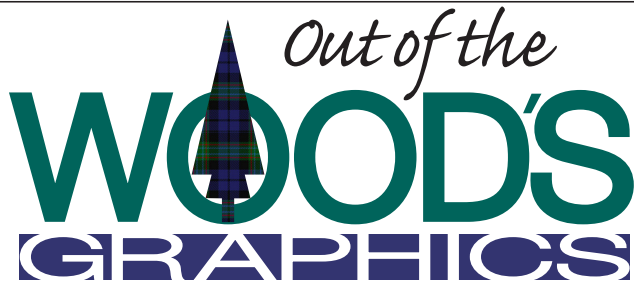
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## **Bruce Onis**

### **RCAF/Lifetime Aviation Enthusiast**

Bruce had an interest in flying from an early age. While in public school he built model airplanes from a kit. An elastic band powered the propeller. He also remembered watching De Havilland aircraft flying over his Toronto home.

Bruce was hired by A.V. Roe in Toronto in 1950 at age seventeen and worked as an experimental airframe assembler. He worked on the prototype of the Mk IV CF 100. During this period Bruce trained under Molly Beal his flight instructor and earned his pilot's license. Molly was known to race aircraft in her spare time.

Bruce joined the RCAF in Toronto Downsview Airport in 1952 hoping to be a pilot. This was not to be and Bruce continued his training to be an air frame technician. During his time in the RCAF (1952 – 55) Bruce worked on the hydraulic controls of the CF 100 with 445 squadron at Uplands Air Base just outside Ottawa. During this period of time he remembered a flight officer saying, "You don't get into a jet. You put it on." Another memory was of a squadron of F86 jets flown by British pilots taxiing and then precisely parking the planes wing tip to wing tip each jet having two ground crew in attendance.

Technical crew for upkeep on the CF-100's included radar techs, instrument techs, air frame techs and engine techs. Daily inspections checked the fluid levels and made sure the CF-100 was airworthy. Every 50 hours of flight time a minor inspection took place and every 100 hours of flying time a major inspection was carried out.

During the cold war era armed CF-100's patrolled the DEW Line looking for unidentified aircraft. The CF-100's were expected to be airborne within five minutes if there was a threat. Their main goal was to protect an attack on the capital city of Ottawa.

#### Postings from 1950-55

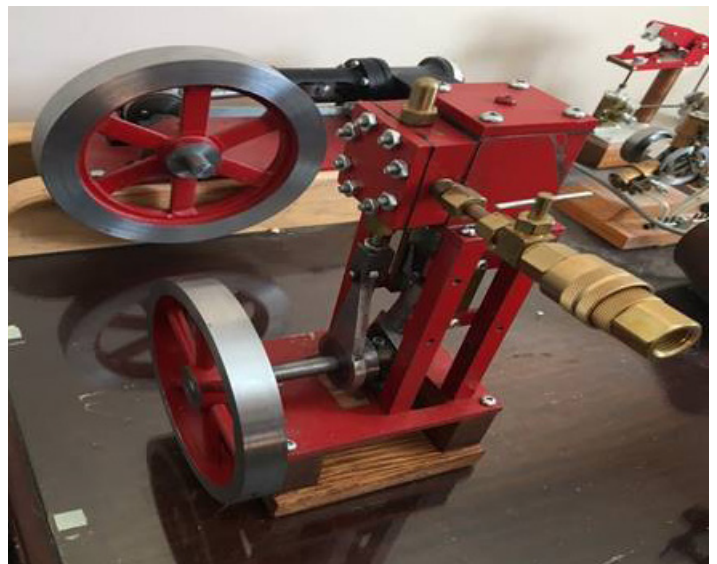
- . A.V. Roe Toronto - civilian posting
- . RCAF Toronto
- . Saint John's Quebec boot camp training
- . Technical Training School Camp Borden
- . North Bay 445 squadron
- . transferred to Uplands Ottawa cold war era
- . 433 Squadron Cold Lake Alberta  
(first squadron of Mk. IV CF-100's)

Bruce also spent some time at the Fingal Airport with Field Aviation working on Harvard aircraft.

Post 1955 Bruce applied to Canadair and was hired to continue his work as an airframe technician and worked at making modifications to the Argus air frame for Canadian coastal patrol. He built the first set of outer wings for the De Havilland Caribou. The development stage involved 1,500 hours of work. Following the development stage the actual production time was reduced to 265 hours.



In his retirement Bruce builds steam engines and repairs clocks as a hobby. He also has a collection of aircraft books in his study.



Steam engine model built by Bruce Onis



## Why should I have a hearing test?

by Catherine Moore, Co-owner/Audiologist  
London Audiology Consultants

Many people schedule an annual health check with their family doctor to check for possible problems and to monitor any on-going health issues. But what about your hearing? Most people do not think about having their hearing checked until they notice that they are having difficulty hearing friends, family or maybe their favourite TV show.

Even when someone notices that they are having difficulty hearing, they may still delay having a hearing test for several years. But ask yourself, "Why wait?" At London Audiology Consultants, we recommend that everyone at age 50 should have a baseline hearing assessment.

There are several reasons why you may want to have a hearing test. For example, hearing loss is commonly associated with other health issues. Hearing loss is twice as common in people with diabetes as compared to those without and is also associated with the risk factors for cardiovascular disease including smoking, high body mass index and a larger waist circumference. These associations underscore the importance of having your hearing tested.

Hearing loss becomes more common as we age. By age 65 approximately 40% of people will have some hearing loss. However, there are many causes of hearing loss and hearing loss can occur at any age.

Would you like to maintain your active lifestyle? Having a hearing test will tell you if your hearing is declining. Age related hearing loss can result in social isolation as many people will give up some of the activities that they love if they are struggling to hear. But why give up the things that you enjoy when you can do something to improve your hearing? It is also well documented that untreated hearing loss is associated with cognitive decline and this may occur due to the social isolation that many people with hearing loss experience.

Regardless of a person's age, the inability to hear can limit an individual's ability to communicate effectively. This can impact participation at school, at work or in social activities. If you think you are having hearing difficulty or you just want to have a baseline hearing test done, make an appointment to see an audiologist for a full hearing check. You will be glad you did!



**Join the Royal Canadian Air Force Association  
427 (London) Wing!**

For the camaraderie, the special events, the museum and to support our veterans and air cadets...all from our local community (members and non-members) are welcome.

[www.427wing.com](http://www.427wing.com) • (519) 455-0430



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday, May 18

is the last day to book your seat for the tour of the Ontario Police College, the Rush Creek Wines Tour and Tasting and a first-class buffet meal at the Wayside Dining Lounge in Talbotville. Go to page 12 for more information on this terrific tour!

### Shine Up Your Clubs!

No, we haven't got a firm date yet, that depends on the weather-person. But Golf will resume at the Wing in the very near future, watch for the announcement and the first spring Robin!



## Second World War V-E Day Ceremony Toronto City Hall May 8th

On behalf of the Toronto City Hall V-E Day Commemoration Committee, I would like to invite you to join us on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 as we commemorate the 73rd anniversary of V-E Day with a ceremony at Toronto City Hall. V-E Day marks the official end of the Second World War in Europe in 1945.

We would be honoured to have you join Veterans of the Second World War, elected officials, representatives from the Allied countries, students and Toronto residents as we pay tribute to the sacrifices and courage that ensured our freedom.

- 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Displays in Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West.
- 12:30 pm – Public ceremony in Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West.

Sincerely,  
Councillor James Pasternak  
Ward 10, York Centre.

Chair, Community Development and Recreation Committee



## Your Benefits Payment Calendar for 2018

In the chart below you will find dates for the Government of Canada's recurring monthly payments. If you have signed up for *direct deposit*, payments will be automatically deposited in your bank account on these dates.

### Canada Pension Plan   Old Age Security   Veterans Affairs   Canada Disability Pension

January 29	January 29	January 30
February 26	February 26	February 27
March 27	March 27	March 28
April 26	April 26	April 27
May 29	May 29	May 30
June 27	June 27	June 28
July 27	July 27	July 30
August 29	August 29	August 30
September 26	September 26	September 27
October 29	October 29	October 30
November 28	November 28	November 29
December 20	December 20	December 21

#### Note:

- (1) CPP includes the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) retirement and disability, children's and survivor benefits.
- (2) OAS includes Old Age Security Pension (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.
- (3) Information at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/calendar.html>



### **427 (London) Wing / RLMI Tour No. 32**

#### **Ontario Police College Tour, Aylmer**

and the

#### **Rush Creek Wines Tour and Tasting**

and the



### **Wayside Dining Lounge Buffet, Talbotville**

Featuring Yellow Lake Perch and Prime Rib of Beef

#### **Tour Date: Friday, 15 June 2018**

Closing Date and Final Payment of \$55.00 per person is 18 May 2018

To book a seat or for further information, contact  
LCol (ret'd) Armin Grunwald and Judy Grunwald, RLMI Tour Directors or Armin Grunwald,  
427 (London) Wing, Tour Committee Chairperson,  
Telephone: 519 474 2194, Email: [rlemi@rogers.com](mailto:rlemi@rogers.com) or [wing427tours@rogers.com](mailto:wing427tours@rogers.com)

Make cheques payable to *Royal London Military Institute* and mail to  
333 Hartson Road, London, Ontario N6H 5B7



COME AND BE SEEN IN "2018"

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

69TH ANNUAL ONTARIO GROUP CONVENTION

"The place to be seen in 2018"

18-19-20 MAY, 2018

Committee Chairs: John W. Stewart colstw@cogeco.ca 519-331-0723  
Shirley Kelly shirleykelly76@gmail.com 226-932-9673  
403 (Sarnia) Wing rcafa403wing@bellnet.ca 519-344-8050

REGISTRATION

Check One: Group Executive Accredited – Voting Fraternal – Non Voting

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Tele: \_\_\_\_\_ Wing: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANION INFO: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Holiday Inn: Friday 18 May, 2018 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm  
Saturday 19 May, 2018 from 7:00 – 9:00 am

Registration fee \$165.00 per member to accompany this form Early Bird deadline: 18 April, 2018  
Registration deadline: 11 May, 2018

Do you have any dietary restrictions. \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS & CHEQUES TO: 403 (SARNIA) WING  
c/o Marilyn Tanner  
163 Capel St.,  
SARNIA, ON N7T 6T3

Make cheques payable to 403 (Sarnia) Wing Receipts will be mailed to the above address

The AGM WIND DOWN PARTY will be held on Sunday, 20 May at the Holiday Inn

Our Theme is "Down East Kitchen Party" Check if attending ( )

ACCOMODATION INFORMATION: RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH  
HOLIDAY INN 1498 Venetian Blvd Point Edward, ON N7T 7W6  
Toll Free Direct: 1-888-212-2252  
Email: hi-sarnia@whg.com  
Direct Line: 1-519-336-4130

ROOM RATES: \$110.00 + 13% PER NIGHT please specify RCAFA CONVENTION  
For directions, go to: [www.holiday-inn.com/sarniaon](http://www.holiday-inn.com/sarniaon)

## MELVILLE HYMERS

Born on April 19, 1918 in Hymers Village near Thunder Bay, Ontario,

### CNTINUED FROM THE APRIL-MAY ISSUE



Now when I look back on it, living on the homestead was a great body builder, but I missed all that schooling. I think I could have gone away if I had stayed in school. I was interested in aircraft. As a youngster in Vancouver, I used to jump on my bike and go out to Sea Island Airport. The airport only had two aircraft and they were both private, but I would spend my

Saturdays out there watching them. Looking back, if I had stayed with that interest I would have been in the Air Force or aircraft business. The thing is I was introduced to the Army life by order in consul. In 1939 I was told to report for military training and there was no way of getting out of it. I learned how to use a gun and all that. There was a little lake there called Kalamalka, the lake of many colours. There were several different colours mixed on the water's surface. It was a very nice place.

Shortly after training I noticed the call for people to join the Air Force. Training was required to do aircraft work. So, I decided to go to Vancouver for six months of training and then off to St. Thomas for another six months. Eventually they sent me down to P.E.I. We had a lot of funny things happen.

One of the darnedest things: when I was about three years into my time in P.E.I., they picked me up (along with three others) to send up to Gander to work on the big bombers for three or four months. I changed the interior of the bombers so they could install radar material. This was going to help stop the submarines: they could pounce right on them, you see. Then the war started fading and we got ready to go home. One day, the Sergeant-In-Arms came to see me and he said, "Would you like to stay here and then get discharged?" I told him I had to check with my family, and when I did that I found that I wanted to be with them in Kamloops. That was the end of my military career. I don't know what would have happened if I had stayed there as a member of the RCAF. I don't know. You do things on the spur of the moment. And now when you look back I think, gee, what a change that would have been in my life.

After I de-enlisted I came home and married a St. Thomas girl. It was a family that was well thought of in the drug store business. There were two or three druggists in the family, and I didn't match. We had three children. One of my daughters died here at about the age of 39. She had

a strong condition and never got out of bed; she was always being handless and fed. This happened since birth because she had hydrocephalus. She came to this hospital and stayed here all her life.

My wife didn't last long either, she developed an illness the weakened her ability to breathe. She died in hospital six months later.

My youngest daughter lives in St. Thomas/London, and I have an older girl who is living in the States. She currently is in Pennsylvania and has five children. I don't see them often and the children have spawned another four or five offspring.

I worked in the sheet metal business for two or three companies. The job wasn't too bad once you knew how to do it. I was offered a pretty fair job, but turned it down but turned it down to work for a company here in London, still as a sheet metal worker. I took information for roofing and turned it over to the people who did the work. I can't tell you how old I was when I retired.

I had my music. I made violins. When I was on the homestead, I went to a dance and saw a man with a violin. I went to his folks, got to know what needed to be done and I started in. It was a lot of work, a lot of work. You'd have to go and buy a piece of lumber, it was pretty expensive stuff. I would use all kinds of tools. It was quite a job when you did it the old-fashioned way. After a while I found a way to cut down the work. I used a big chainsaw to cut the main parts of the wood into thin sheets. Then I'd steam it into shape instead of carving it. Every time you carve it you are wasting a heck of a lot of good wood. I would just take the thin sheet, put it in hot water and let it soak before pressing it into a frame. It saved an awful lot of expensive wood.

I didn't really sell them. The bottom fell out of the market. China was making instruments by the hundreds and shipping them by steam ship across Europe and America. We couldn't compete. Sometimes I gave them away.

It wasn't making them that I was most keen about, it was playing them. I had one in my cupboard here, but it is out being fixed. There were three of us who played at all the different homes around here when they opened them up. We would go in every couple of weeks and play for the people there. I can't play the violin worth a darn now, but when I get mine back maybe I can practice.

May 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 CUT OFF FOR SPOONER TICKETS	4 LUNCH WEC	5 LVRC
6	7	8 MAC	9 BCC	10 WT	11 SPOONER LUNCH	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 ONT GROUP SARNIA AGM LUNCH WIN L	19 ONT GROUP SARNIA AGM
20 ONT GROUP SARNIA AGM	21	22	23	24	25 LUNCH 427 AGM	26 BARRY SANDLER INDIA CORPS
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 LUNCH	2
3	4	5 RAA	6	7 LVRC	8 LUNCH WEC	9
10	11	12 MAC	13 BCC	14 WT	15 LUNCH RMLI TOUR ST. THOMAS AIR SHOW	16 GREAT LAKES AIR SHOW 614 AIR CADETS
17	18	19	20	21 RET COMM	22 LUNCH WDS	23 LARC FIELD DAY
24 LARC FIELD DAY	25	26	27	28	29 LAST LUNCH CLOSED JULY	30

- AGM** Annual General Meeting, 1pm
- BBQ** Bar-b-que lunch, last lunch until August
- BCC** British Car Club, meeting at 7:30pm
- COM** Retired Commissionaires, 9am - 12pm
- FO** Fanshawe Optimist's Club, meeting at 7:30pm
- GM** General Meeting at 1pm
- GS** Guest Speaker
- LFC** London Flying Club Reunion

- LVRC** London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 11:00am
- MAC** Model Aircraft Club meeting
- OAGM** Ontario Group Annual General Meeting
- RAA** Recreational Aircraft Association, meeting at 7:30pm
- WD** The Women's Division join us the 4th Friday of each month for lunch
- WDP** Wind Down Party for OAGM, at the Wing
- WEC** Wing Executive Council, 9:30am
- WT** Wood Turners, meeting at 7:30pm