



NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
2018

TAKE OFF

429 (Georgina) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Pefferlaw Lion's Hall
Pete's Lane
Pefferlaw, Ontario



Executive 2018 – 2019

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President's Message

Len's Rotor Wash.....



Hello All:

Ruth and I are just back from a week in New Orleans where we took some time out to bone up on some history with a visit to the US National WW11 Museum as well as the Chalmette Battlefield where the main Battle of New Orleans was fought. The WW11 Museum is very well presented and is definitely worth the visit. Both Ruth and I learned a lot during our visit. We took a paddle wheeler to the Chalmette Battlefield and consequently our time at the battlefield was very limited. Both sites would make a trip back to New Orleans a definite possibility to do more exploring.

Remembrance Day services will be taking place this weekend and I hope most of our members will get out to a service in their communities.. I will be at the service in Keswick with the Sutton Legion as they mark the first service at the new cenotaph. Ruth will be with our scout group at the service in Sutton.

The end of November will also mark the official retirement of one of my favourite aircraft. The venerable CH124A Sea King will fly its last flight on November 30th in Esquimalt, B.C. This year she has been in service for 55 years. Far longer than ever expected. It will be sad to see her go, but the new technology in her replacement will be beneficial to the crews and our country.

Ruth and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Wing Christmas Dinner at Red Crest on the 25th. It should be a fun evening. Don't forget to let Vern know that you will be attending.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Len



***** *WING NEWS* *****



Lest we forget

We must give a great **Thank you** again to Donna, Bernice, Eileen and all the helpers who put on a wonderful dinner for our October meeting. Thank you for a job well done.

The Christmas dinner flyer has been sent out as a reminder to everyone to respond as numbers for the dinner are crucial.

429 Wing will be participating in the Remembrance Day Services in Keswick with the Sutton Legion. Last month's bulletin had the information on this.

The monthly draw tickets are available for sale and the first draw will be at the January 2019 Robbie Burns Dinner. This is our only source of income in order to support the Air Cadets and Youth Groups in our Community.

There will not be a General Meeting for December. **January General Meeting will be Sunday, January 27** and will be our **Annual Robbie Burns Dinner**. More information will follow in January.

Lucky Draw Winner for October - Eileen Mennell





Taken on our flight in the C-17 this past summer.



Our Memories of Heroes

Around 8:00 a.m., four young men, all student navigators based at RCAF Station Crumlin (now London) Ontario, completed their pre-flight preparations, boosted themselves into an aircraft and prepared for their navigation training flight. The date was Friday, May 14, 1943. RCAF Crumlin was one of the training bases for the British Commonwealth Training Plan (BCATP) and pilots, navigators and other aircrew trades were urgently needed overseas.

The four students were Sgt. W.J.Brown, Leading Aircraftmen (LAC) J.A.Curtis, Spooner. The aircraft was an Avro Anson, likely built in Canada and commonly used as an aircrew trainer by other countries under the BCATP. Waiting for the students inside the Anson was their pilot, Sgt. Nelson, a native of Nova Scotia. It was customary to have two pilots on training missions but this was 1943, it was wartime and pilots were needed elsewhere.

Shortly after takeoff, Sgt. Brown collapsed over the controls and despite desperate efforts by the crew he could not be revived. None of the four students had ever flown a plane but within a few seconds LAC Spooner was the first to react and took the controls. Since nobody else seemed to be able to take charge, Spooner was able to level the aircraft long enough for him to order the other three students to bail out before the aircraft crashed into Lake Erie. Spooner and the pilot were killed.

Subsequently, the testimony of the survivors led to Spooner being awarded the George Cross, equal of rank to the Victoria Cross but awarded for “an act of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in actions not in the face of the enemy.

Since 2002, 427 Wing has celebrated Spooner’s heroic act with the erection of a monument and later the creation of a Memorial Garden. Wing members and interested others were invited to add engraved flat stones in memory of relatives and friends, as well as service personnel who had died in the cause of Peace. The engraved stones were placed in the ground to the east side of the Wing building and a ceremonial blessing would take place. This year, as in the past, our Wing Padre Frank Mantz, contacted those who contributed the stones, in order to provide at the ceremony some explanation of the person or event in whose honour the stone was being blessed.

This year some personal comments by contributors that followed the ceremony included these:

“I felt very welcomed and emotional at times during the service. Hearing the stories of various people, together with learning about Spooner himself, made me feel so special because I became a part of the service, even in small manner.”

“In memory of our parents who are gone and are so missed, we now have a tribute to them, we share the remembrances of those who gave so much to protect our future – to keep our freedom.”

“Thanks for remembering those who toiled on our behalf, but came from foreign soil, their contributions on our behalf also make memories everlasting for the families who took up citizenship.”

“The whole service all made for a memorable day.”

..... submitted by Sam Newman

427 London Wing



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This epitaph is the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Kohima, India, where 1420 Commonwealth soldiers fought a Japanese attack.

During the Last Post ceremonies at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium, these words are recited as well as “They do not grow old as we grow old.....”

“When you go home, tell them of us and say: For their tomorrow, we gave our today.”

On Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque.

It was covered with names and small flags mounted on either side.

The six year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, “Good Morning Alex,” “Good morning Pastor,” he replied, still focused on the plaque.”Pastor, what is this?”

The Pastor said, “Well son, it’s a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.”

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the plaque. Finally, little Alex’s voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, “Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?”



Sea King at Sunset



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is a national aerospace and community service organization to: commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have 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 programme.



659 Brock Air Cadet Squadron

*Meet every Thursday evening 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Pefferlaw Lion's Hall, Pefferlaw, Ont.*

Commanding Officer – Capt. Larry Umphrey