

THE LONDON LINK



427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
 2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | WWW.427WING.COM

427 (London) Wing Receives Federal Funding

427 Wing receives one-time grant of federal funds

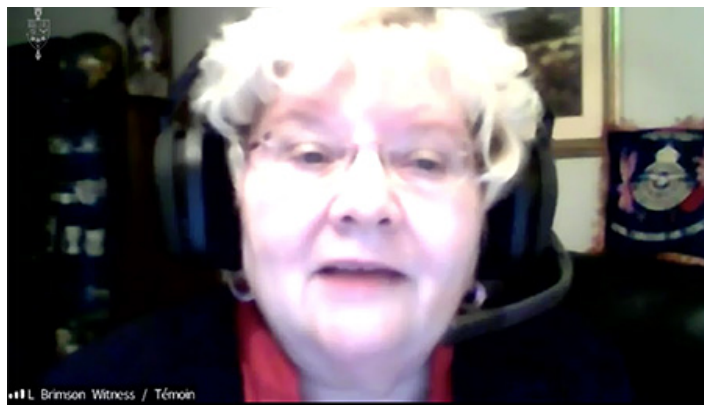
Directors of 427 (London) Wing are thrilled and grateful to announce receipt of a \$41,000 grant from the federal government’s Veterans Organization Emergency Support Fund (VOESF). The much-needed funds will be applied to operational costs.

The grant was announced November 10, 2020. Director Chuck Hardy was assisted by MP Lindsay Mathyssen and her assistant Nadine, in preparing the grant application for submission. Sincere appreciation for their guidance.

Director Linda Brimson was invited as a witness via Zoom call at a meeting of the Standing Committee for Veterans Affairs Nov. 25th. The topic was The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Financial Health of Veterans’ Organizations. Linda delivered a 5-minute presentation on the Wing’s story, historic building,

Spirit of Flight museum, Spooner Memorial Garden and Wing projects such as Air Cadet support, RCAF anniversary dinners and activities for veterans and the public. Linda shared the severe financial challenges to the Wing because of zero income from events and rentals, due to closure. Other witnesses from various veteran groups shared their concerns with eleven MPs and chairman of the meeting. The panel questioned witnesses to get a fuller understanding of the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

Linda reports it was interesting to see the House of Commons and a Standing Committee doing the work of listening to concerns of veteran organizations and seeing our wonderful democracy at work. We never forget that our veterans and present serving Canadian Force members, defended and support our precious freedoms in Canada.



Above: Linda Brimson and Lindsay Mathyssen: witnesses at the House of Commons funding hearing. Right, clipping from London Free Press article.

Federal funds get London aviation museum 'back on its feet' – for now

Heather Rivers
 Dec 28, 2020 • Last Updated 2 hours ago • 1 minute read



Rene McKinnon, former president and member of the 427 (London) Wing, located at London International Airport. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press)

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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director - Acting Chairperson	Gus Cameron	519-457-3575	anc@bell.net
Director	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Watts		
Treasurer	Chuck Hardy		chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports – call Wing for info

Web-Site	www.427wing.com		
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca
Housing	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Public Relations and Museum			
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhsmeltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Museum			
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Lottery			
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
War Graves, Poppy Fund,	David Smith/Terry Rushton		
Heritage/ History & Veterans'	David Smith		
Memorial			
Tours			

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 graphic artist	Cathy Wood	cathyrwood@gmail.com	

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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

We hope you had a good safe Christmas and you welcomed 2021 in good spirits.

As of this writing, the London-Middlesex region is in the red category mandated by the provincial government. The Wing will reopen when it is safe to do so and all safety protocols will be in place.

The Board was recently approached by several Wing members including the golfers offering suggestions for the betterment of the Wing. For all members and other readers on distribution of the Link, we have decided to highlight in this edition of the Link, the main topics presented and action taken, ongoing or planned:

- 1. Fundraising** – ongoing with main ways to donate via the Wing website that include CanadaHelps/RCAFA National Trust Fund, (tax receipts issued immediately at the end of the transaction by email.) Cheques written to the Wing; e-transfers (this is new); and a GoFundMe page for the Wing.
- 2. Use of Media Interviews** – radio, TV, magazine and newspaper articles; appearance by Board member Linda Brimson at the Veterans Affairs Standing Committee that was broadcast on the CPAC channel. New Wing Facebook page campaign is just underway.
- 3. New:** Regular meetings with Secrets of Radar Museum (SORM) and London Amateur Radio Club (LARC) – ways to support each other such as working together on events.
- 4. Utilities** – hydro costs will be reduced with next billing by about \$30.00 monthly.
- 5. Support** by members of parliament and municipal officials with several initiatives underway.
- 6. Corporate support** – Board to examine this.
- 7. Building** – engineering study – as past reports indicated, a major capital expense is necessary to preserve this historic building.
- 8. Expanded use of the Wing museum** in cooperation with SORM and other regional museums.
- 9. Membership** – a drive to recruit new members with the aim to be a social club representative of the diverse population of the London region.
- 10. A close working relationship** with airport area businesses and groups, Pillar Not-For-Profit Organization, the Argyle Business Improvement Association, the London Heritage Council and others.
- 11. The Board needs help to fill vacant Board positions** and volunteers to serve on committees, for planning, even while Wing events are on hold.

In replying to the concerned Wing members, it was pointed out frequent Board meetings have occurred since February 2020, (often weekly due to pressing issues). From a small group of faithful elected members and advisers, two Board members work full time, while serving as Board members. The Board alone cannot fully action every item without help and guidance from helping members and others with expertise in some of the areas noted above.


In closing, we thank Tammy Newman for regular contributions of articles for the Link. You will see her latest article in this edition.

The Board welcomes comments, ideas, action plans and commitment.

Enjoy this edition and please keep the Board engaged.

Best regards to all readers and stay well.

Board of Directors – 427 (London) Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association



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GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST
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The WWII Harvard Stamps

by Linda Brimson

There is wonderful history in Canada's stamps. Some WWII images are interesting to anyone who is a BCATP fan or aviation enthusiast. Discover the WWII stamps series online. Recently, 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association, produced the beautiful 1942 Harvard air mail six cent stamp, as a postcard, available to members and the public.

The final image that was engraved in 1942 for The Royal Mail Canada, was a compilation of three photos. It pays homage to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The stamp shows student pilots and instructor with a Harvard advanced trainer aircraft as the main feature.

The BCATP involved a month-long course in basic military life. This was followed by a posting to an Initial Training School to study mathematics, navigation, aerodynamics, and other subjects. Evaluation of the student performance determined the next phase, whether as pilots, navigators, wireless operators, etc. Elementary Flight School involved at least 50 hours of flight training in elementary trainers such as the Tiger Moth, Fleet Finch, or Fairchild Cornell.

Successful pilots would then be posted to a Service Training School for advanced flying and training on Harvards for potential fighter pilots; and twin-engine Avro Ansons, Cessna Cranes or Airspeed Oxfords for pilots selected for bomber, coastal and transport operations.

Aircrew in other positions would get advanced training for several months in their particular specialty of navigation, bomb aiming, wireless, air gunners, and later flight engineers. All these positions also involved cross-training in one or more of the other disciplines.

In the end, although Canada provided vital contributions in ships, planes, guns, artillery, armoured and other vehicles, communications, and vast amounts of other material, along with hundreds of thousands of personnel in uniform, the BCATP was considered an absolutely critical and hugely important contribution towards the final victory.

From the top black and white photo, we see a pilot entering the cockpit of a training Harvard, captured for the stamp image.

From the middle black and white photo, the formation of three airplanes was used for the stamp issue.

The bottom black and white photo was taken at Uplands, near Ottawa, one of Canada's largest RCAF advanced service training schools. The base boasted over one thousand landings and take-offs daily. The foreground bomber may be heading eastward for the long ferry flight to the British Isles. They often dropped in at Uplands on their eastward journey, and tower over the smaller Harvards.

(Compiled by Linda Brimson. Original article from Postal History Corner, June 1, 2011, Canadian Postal and Philatelic History. Written by Andrew J. Liptak, 1948-2014. Photos from War Issue Archives.)



A big thank you . . .

On behalf of Directors and all Members, sincere thanks to everyone who has rallied 'round the Wing and been most generous with donations.

Members and friends of the Wing have been absolutely wonderful to respond to appeals for support, when the Wing's financial situation became alarming due to Covid-19 closure and no event income.

The Wing has a gofundme page and a CanadaHelps page for on-line donations via credit card.

The CanadaHelps site offers an instant printable tax receipt. Donations can also be made by phoning the Wing at 519-455-0430. Building Manager Flo or a Director will return your call when you leave your name, phone number and message. Donations can be made by credit card or mailed in with cheque.

Looking ahead: The Wing is planning events for 2021, when we can safely host a modified event, or hopefully, welcome back members and the public to the Wing building and celebrate reconnecting.

Accomplishments: During the Covid-19 shutdown, Directors celebrated paying the outstanding roofing invoice. (No small feat when there were months with no income!). In December, the replacement fire panel was installed. An agreement has been struck to have the building monitored


for security. A new building sign has been donated by AV Aviation and will soon be installed. Utilities have been reviewed to achieve monthly cost savings. The grant application for a vertical lift has outcome still pending.

Directors accept the preservation of our WWII canteen building (our cherished Wing home) will take a long-range plan and a large-goal dedicated capital campaign. To that end, Directors are planning new partnerships and collaborations as we look toward an innovative, inclusive, expanding future for 427 Wing.



Proud to support the 427 Wing



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Reflections on 2020 and Hope for 2021

By Linda Brimson

During the battered year of 2020, I lost my usual sense of time. Days, weeks, months took on a fuzzy blur; as I recalled an event from seven days past, I would think, was that just one week ago? As I tried to recall an event from weeks earlier, it felt like months had passed, and an event from a couple months ago, seemed to be in the distant past. Perhaps other people have experienced their own “time-shift” problems, for various reasons.

If you were sadly dealing with serious health problems in your family, there was the unique stress of being aware that any one day, may be someone’s last. Our mind plays tricks with our memory. A single moment can be etched forever in our psyche, but we can fail to recall an entire month. There is a heavy burden when a family deals with a loved one’s sickness and journey toward death. A sudden, unexpected death deals a different, gut-wrenching blow of sudden grief.

Many of our members have been feeling the sadness of separation from a spouse who is unwell and lives in a residential facility. The angst of making those tough decisions takes a toll. No one could have imagined that Covid-19 restrictions would curtail in-person visits and add to the strain. Isolation and loneliness is common. It’s one of the reasons people are missing weekly Wing events.

I work night shifts in health care, so I often have to remind myself of the correct day and date. For example, I go to work at 11 pm Tuesday, Dec 15th and by the end of shift next morning, it is Wednesday, Dec 16th. I write both those dates several times through the shift. Today becomes tomorrow during my shift. The meaning of tomorrow is different at 11 pm than 4 am. No wonder I’m confused!

My private residential workplace experienced a 51-day Covid-19 outbreak in spring 2020. I can honestly report I remember few details of those days. We lost half our registered staff roll and over half our PSWs to leaves of absences and sickness, and restrictions to work in only one facility. We did not have enough staff to meet the needs of residents. Our remaining staff were incredible. Public health and ourselves did not know all we needed to know about Covid-19. Sadly, several residents and one staff member died.

It was amazing to watch generous health care workers from outside our organization, step up to come help us in our desperate time of need. Retired workers and young workers from other cities came to work full-time with us, knowing full-well the risks. One older PSW confided to me, she had to consider the risks carefully, then wrote her will, before leaving her home and coming to work with us for many months. The local health network secured several nurses for us who hit the ground running; they didn’t know our residents or our computerized medication systems but they just dug in and worked from day one with no additional training or orientation. We could not have survived with this infusion of fresh angel workers. Before their arrival, I remember feeling exhausted and wondering if we too, would have to ask Canadian Armed Forces for assistance.

Having said that, my private workplace is one of the best environments for residents and staff. I feel badly for LTC homes
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where residents and staff suffered and died, and this sad state continues. I continue to feel empathy for all hospital workers that have so much added strain – by sheer numbers, working with patients who are more critical with Covid-19 and all other diseases and accidents. Hospital workers have very real fears of passing disease to family members, or bringing disease into the hospital. Hospitals aren’t set up for the dying. There may be some normal palliative beds, but often current hospital space has been reallocated to meet critical patient needs and Covid-19 isolation requirements.

As others have noted, 2020 brought out the best and worst in people. Such bravery and dedication by health care workers, educators, parents and carers. We broadened the definition of essential service workers to include the unsung heroes at the grocery stores, the truckers, other delivery workers, transit workers, production workers for vital goods.

The news was definitely dominated by the USA election and Covid-19 pandemic. I probably watched more news coverage than ever before, until I realized a break from mostly bad news, is good for my mental health. I recorded and watched restful CBC shows; “Escape to the Country” is one I recommend for UK scenery. I found shows like “Kingdom” on Acorn TV, that again helped me armchair travel. I was taken to the Norfolk UK Broads and a quirky group of characters associated with a small-town legal practice. Total enjoyment.

Like you, I’ve missed my family visits. I haven’t seen my three brothers and their families since last Christmas. Up until recently, I saw my son’s family with a mask on and socially-distanced. I will abstain from further visits now as I feel it is a small inconvenience compared to doing everything I can to keep safe and follow public health rules.

Any of us might contract Covid-19 or other sickness. Regarding the virus, we’ll feel better if we honestly try to obey restrictions and protect our family, friends and community.

2020 has been a year of revelations. We saw how divided our local small communities, large cities, countries and the world can become. Hatred and prejudice still rage. We saw legitimate protests unfold peacefully, and other violent mob mentality protests, and some became crime sprees. The spread of misinformation has become a profitable industry for television networks and internet sites.

Going forward, I pray for the best in people to continue to be shared. We need discernment (the ability to judge well) and intelligent digestion of news from trusted sources.

As for me, I’ll be glad to turn the page to January 2021. Let’s put the lessons of 2020 to good use. We’ve got a new year to celebrate (albeit quietly) and much to be thankful for. If we think kindly about others, both friends and strangers, quit moaning about our own small problems, and offer simple acts of thoughtfulness and service, we will help our own well-being. Being productive at home in small ways each week, is a great use of the gift of time and great for our mental health. I continue to tell friends and family, if we’re healthy, we have already won the lottery!

New Year blessings to all. Take care, Linda Brimson

Military College Life – The PT Test

By Captain (ret) Tammy Newman

While the rest of the military had a yearly PT test, we, the ones at military college, had the “PT test on steroids” version. Our PT test was done twice yearly - once each semester. It was comprised of five different tasks. We had to do a shuttle run, sit-ups, pull-ups, a standing long jump and the mile and a half run. Naturally, the run was the final activity to be completed, after we were already exhausted from the first four tasks.

The shuttle run was done around two chairs that were placed twenty feet apart. We had to sprint from one end to the other, going around the chairs, five times in a row. The scoring was based on how long it took you to achieve the five sprints. Then, we had two minutes to complete as many sit-ups as we could. Next came the pull-ups. They were done by hanging from a bar and pulling yourself up until your chin was over the bar. Your legs had to be extended below you and you couldn't move them about at all. The standing long jump came next and it was done in a large sandbox. From a squatting position, without taking any steps, you had to leap forward. We always did our mile and a half run outside, regardless of the weather. It was four laps around Vanier Hall, our gym - pool - hockey rink building. It was hard and difficult and I felt every aching muscle in my body. We all started at the same time. Of course, there were always some who raced around it without difficulty. My friend, Eric, was one of those guys. What he and many others did after they were done, though, showed their true spirit. They found their friends who were struggling. Eric would run beside me for my last quarter mile or so, encouraging

me all the way. He took my hand and helped me drag my butt across the finish line.

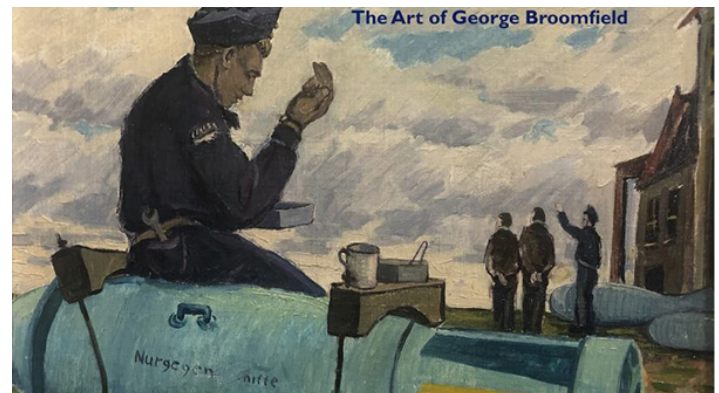
Every semester, I passed my PT test with lotsa room to spare. Those unlucky few that did not pass were not allowed to play intra-mural sports any more. During the time where the rest of us were having fun playing our favourite sports, they had to go to compulsory PT training. We used to call it spaz PT. There was a guy in my Squadron who never passed a single PT test. He was ultimately released from the military because of it. I was fortunate enough to have friends who cared enough to help me along the way and I was smart enough to help myself. Pull-ups were difficult and so I bought myself a pull-up bar. I installed it on the door leading into my room. I never walked in or out without doing some pull-ups. Eventually, I was able to do enough to get 100% in that portion of the test. During my final two years at CMR, I used to meet up with a friend at 5:30 every morning, from Monday to Friday. She and I had plotted several two mile courses around the city. We figured that if we trained for two miles, the mile and a half would be easier. We were right. We were rigorous in our training and it paid off for us. No matter what I had to do at CMR, it was always made easier when done with others. Teamwork was essential in every aspect of military college life.



National Air Force Museum of Canada exhibit,
"Pictures of War" until February 28, 2021.

Learn more at <http://airforcemuseum.ca/eng/>

http://airforcemuseum.ca/eng/?page_id=4150



At the age of 14, George Broomfield was chosen to attend the Ontario College of Art (1920-21). In the early stages of WWII, he applied to the Canadian War Artists program while also entering officer training with the RCAF. The War Artists program was slow to reply, so he proceeded to graduate as an officer, eventually becoming a Squadron Leader at 143 Wing, Tactical Air Force. His desire to paint and sketch in the field of operation prompted him to gain special permission from authorities to record scenes throughout the campaign. His war work includes subjects in Newfoundland, Great Britain, France, Holland and Germany.

Special for the 427 (London) Wing

By Sam Newman, 427 (London) Wing

As I sit here at my desk, in front of the computer, I'm trying my best to figure out how to recognize Bill Webster, in a manner fit for the Volunteer this gentleman has been, for so many years. It's been some time since we saw Bill out at the Wing, but I used to visit him and his son John on Ashbury Crescent, now and then, when I was filling the Wellness Chair at the Wing, and he was just about the most entertaining of hosts that one could find, having visited him as little as I did. Always congenial, always had a story to tell, pictures to show, and of course, more to explain in dealing with the more than 80,000 LITTLE CROSSES that he and his son John created over the years, for general distribution across Canada, across Europe, and wherever he has received special requests from.

But please allow me to start at the beginning, because it's important, although BILL has now passed on (14 Nov 2020), that all of you reading this article will at least be able to say, 'Oh Yeah, I knew Bill, and what he did', and be able to pass along his good deeds to anyone that will listen to you.

Bill was born in South Molton, Devon, England, in March of 1921. When war was declared, young Bill joined the RAF as an electrician, LAC1, Air Gunner, serving throughout England, then Wales. In 1940 his entire base, with Anson aircraft, was shipped to Goderich, Ontario to form Port Albert Air Navigation School. Bill served 3 years at this BCATP base. He met and married his dear Canadian wife, Helen, while stationed at Port Albert. Both Bill and Helen returned to England for the remainder of the war. After the conflict was over, he and Helen emigrated to Canada in 1948. 13 years later, in this city of London, Bill joined the Brotherhood of the Masons, worked to get all the degrees with the Union Lodge # 380. He became a serving Brother with the St. John Ambulance, later an Officer of the Order in 1970, and followed that up by serving as commander in 1977. His son John and daughter Anne supported Bill after his wife passed away in 2000.

In 1993, Bill and John were active members at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #410 at Port Stanley. Bill noticed when children placed their poppies on the cenotaph at end of Remembrance Day ceremony, the poppies often blew away. That observation inspired Bill's devotion to creating the LITTLE CROSSES, and loads of them. All the family assisted in creating the balsam crosses with poppy attached. Little did Bill know his devotion to the project would take these crosses all over the world. Bill and son John continued their labour of love, and true to Bill's word, there was never to be any cost associated with his generosity. Quite an astonishing accomplishment!

Bill and John took a memorable trip to WWI and WWII battlegrounds and cemeteries. They took their little crosses with them, and were soon flooded with requests for more. They visited Belgium, France and Holland.

Over the years, Bill showed me many pictures, particularly of our Canadian and European Allied countries of his Poppy

Crosses being planted at many of the Commonwealth Cemeteries throughout Europe and elsewhere, by the Youth of that country. Viewing the pictures became an education in itself, simple as that sounds, as the camera man captured that special moment the Young Ones paused to read the Gravestones; they studied the words, and reflected on the meaning; they bowed their heads, and must have at least, mouthed a prayer; in black and white, or in colour, their faces showed the emotion of THANKS and REMEMBRANCE, row upon row the same reaction occurred. All for the name on the tombstone, the Veteran that gave his ultimate sacrifice, his life! Schools of children showed that they cared! Those youngsters wanted their kinsmen to know, they would not forget the debt their forefathers owed to our countrymen.

Amongst the correspondence Bill showed me, was a lovely acknowledgement from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Veteran's Affairs, Mr. Robert Mercer, and his project manager for the Vimy Event in 2007, Ms. Claudette Theriault, thanking Bill for his significant contribution to the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the Dedication of the Restored Canadian National Vimy Memorial. Bill ensured that the contribution and sacrifices of Canada's Veterans, and that of their fallen Comrades were recognized during the 90th Anniversary, and that they would be remembered in the future, by all other Veterans, youth and all Canadians.

That day, as a representative of Parkwood Veteran's Hospital, Bill received a Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation Award held in Kitchener, which formally recognized the contributions of outstanding Canadians. For those who haven't seen the award, it consists of a bar worn below official decorations on a Veteran's blazer, a lapel pin for civilian wear, and a framed certificate.

WE WILL REMEMBER !

FYI, Research of this project indicated that while distribution of these Poppy Crosses started out to the Netherlands, crosses have been shipped and placed on graves here in Canada, the U.S.A. and the British Isles, but also to France, Belgium, Norway, Italy (especially Sicily), Malta, Hong Kong, Korea, Iceland, Australian, and New Zealand.



BILL WEBSTER

David Suzuki on Covid Vaccine

Submitted by Wing member Frank Birch; from the Suzuki Elders facebook page

Recently the Suzuki Elders received an email asking if we knew what Dr David Suzuki thought about the Covid 19 vaccine(s). The person asked "My husband and I are debating whether or not to have the corona virus vaccine administered to our family. We wondered "What would David Suzuki do?" Here, written in his usual fulsome manner, is David Suzuki's response. We then asked for permission to post this letter to the larger public through our Elder Facebook page and Dr Suzuki agreed.

December 10 2020

I have a couple of responses to your query about the COVID vaccine. Vaccination, like antibiotics, is one of the great innovations of medicine and the story of how it came to be is a wonderful one. You may know it, but basically smallpox has been a terrible disease that practically wiped-out Indigenous people who had not encountered it before. In the 1700s it had been reported that milkmaids contracted cowpox from milking cows. They would get lesions on their hands and arms but would recover but never contracted smallpox that was a deadly disease, killing between 20 - 60% of its victims while 1/3 of the survivors went blind and almost all had disfiguring scars from the pox. Edward Jenner deliberately infected a boy with cowpox and when he recovered, Jenner injected smallpox (something that would never be done today) and the boy was immune.

That began vaccination that has saved millions of lives and in 1980 smallpox was eradicated worldwide. It's now extinct. Now a big push is on to do the same with polio.

So, I am a big admirer of vaccination. It involves using the body's own mechanism of immunity by injecting an antigen, usually a coat protein of a virus or sometimes a heat killed virus itself. The body recognizes a foreign material and creates antibodies to eliminate it. So, we have inbuilt defenses that vaccination accelerates. There have been contaminants in the past resulting from the way antigens are processed chemically. After widespread use, the Salk vaccine was found to carry a live virus that was ultimately found to be harmless. And there have been trace amounts of chemicals like mercury. But the whole basis of the anti-vax movement was a report that has been proved to be bogus, yet it is repeated over and over.

The speed with which the new vaccines have been developed is astounding. After more than 40 years, there is still no vaccine for HIV. The reason it has taken so long to get approval for the new ones is that there is a very elaborate assessment process to ensure safety.

Now the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are radically different from the traditional antigen injection. It involves injecting the gene (mRNA) specifying the coat protein (spike) and the gene gets into our cells where they produce the spike antigen and that, it turns out, is a very powerful way of getting our immune system to respond. The efficacy of this method is amazingly high. There might be some consequences that we can't find until the treatment has gone on for years (esoteric issues like

what happens to the mRNA, can it get into the nucleus of a cell and integrate into its DNA). What excites me is that this new approach could allow us to create vaccines very rapidly for any new viruses that emerge in future.

I'm sorry I've gone on so long. Most of medicine is about relieving symptoms when we are sick and depending on the healing capacity of the body, but vaccination is really a medical intervention that works. Would I take the new vaccine of Pfizer or Moderna? In a flash. I'm in a high-risk category and while I know I'm in the last part of my life, I don't want to risk hurrying the end. Would I have any concerns about unexpected deleterious effect? Nothing is absolutely sure in medicine but I have no worries at all. Get it to me quick.

There is an aspect of anti-vaxers (I know you're not coming at it from conspiracy) that I have to rant about. A lot of folks are saying it's their right to decide whether or not to get a shot. It's all about freedom. The thing that bugs me is that freedom comes with responsibility otherwise it's just license to do anything. If people resist mandated vaccination as a constitutional right, what about the right of everyone else who is sharing the same air? I hope they have a complete airtight case around them so they only breathe their own air. And they should not be allowed to use public medical facilities if they do get sick because they've opted out of the system by abrogating their responsibilities.

Thank you for your query. Please know I am not a medical doctor.

David Suzuki

David Suzuki is a Canadian academic, science broadcaster and environmental activist. He lived for a time here in London Ontario and attended Central Secondary School. He is best known as the host of the television series The Nature of Things.

Veterans among first to receive covid-19 vaccines

Sunnybrook Veterans Care facility – the largest in Canada - began administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to residents in December.

Below Stanley Dinney, 98 years old, who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, receives his vaccine.



Membership Report



**REGINALD LOWNIE,
CD**
JULY 13, 1934 TO
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Reg is survived by his beloved wife Jacqueline and a number of relatives.

He joined the Wing in September 1998 and served in several executive positions during his 22 years as a member. Reg joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1957 and served as a radio officer in Quebec and then as a flight navigator in the transport squadron operating the C-130 Hercules at CFB Edmonton. Captain Lownie and his family moved to Greenwood Nova Scotia in 1972 where he continued as navigator and tactical coordinator in anti-submarine warfare.

Reg had a life long devotion to learning and furthering his education. He completed his BA and MA during his service in the RCAF and upon retirement taught at West Kings High School in Auburn Nova Scotia and later as a research officer with the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union in Halifax.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

BILL WEBSTER
MARCH 26, 1921 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2020

Bill passed away suddenly at the age of 99. He is survived by his son John. Bill joined 427 (London) Wing in September 2000.

He was an electrician in the RAF. He served on Ansons. Some of these aircraft were partly dissembled and shipped to Goderich. He was the last surviving UK aircrew member stationed at Port Albert Air Navigation School. While there, he met and then married his beloved wife, Helen.

Bill was active in the Legion and St. John Ambulance. He made balsam wood poppy crosses that went sent around the world.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM



If you move, change your phone number or e-mail address, please let the Wing know of the change(s) so that the records can be updated.

We welcome new member Daniel Barnes and Nick Corrie has rejoined the Wing.

Best regards everyone.

Chuck Hardy, Membership Chairperson

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Sign up to receive the London Link on-line at <http://eepurl.com/dLIqJo>

Cameron's Corner

On behalf of all Board Members

"Happy New Year"!!

Let's all hope 2021 is good to all our members and friends of the Wing.

Wishing everyone all the best to you and yours in health and happiness!

Cheers and good health to all!

Gus Cameron



2021 Calendar

January 2021							February 2021							March 2021										
No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
53						1	2	5								9								
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	8	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	12	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	9	28							13	28	29	30	31				
5	31																							
April 2021							May 2021							June 2021										
No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
13					1	2	3	17						1	22					1	2	3	4	5
14	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	18	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	23	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	24	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
17	25	26	27	28	29	30		21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	26	27	28	29	30				
								22	30	31														
July 2021							August 2021							September 2021										
No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
26					1	2	3	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	35				1	2	3	4	
27	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	32	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	36	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
28	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	33	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	37	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
29	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	34	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	38	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	35	29	30	31					39	26	27	28	29	30			
October 2021							November 2021							December 2021										
No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	No.	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
39						1	2	44						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
40	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	45	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	49	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
41	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	46	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	50	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
42	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	47	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	51	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
43	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	48	28	29	30					52	26	27	28	29	30	31		
44	31																							



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427 (London) Wing Member Benefits

By Captain (ret) Tammy Newman

I live in Ottawa yet I'm a member of the 427 (London) Wing. Why, you ask? My family is in London and so I visit regularly. Although I don't go to Friday lunches on a weekly basis due to geography, when I do go, I'm treated like I belong and not like I am a stranger. Everybody is so welcoming. I marvel at all the Airforce and flying memorabilia that is in the room. Everyone that I meet there have such interesting stories to tell. I know that when my Mom says we're leaving in five minutes, I always want to linger longer. There are formal dinners and dances to enjoy. Day trips are offered as well. If you are so inclined, there are various positions to fill on the Board. The best of all is that there is no pressure to serve. Meet new friends, enjoy the camaraderie of others and savor a delicious yet inexpensive meal on Fridays. I look forward to seeing you at our Wing.

Fly Covid-Style



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Benefits Payment Calendar 2021

Below are dates for recurring Government of Canada benefit payments administered by Canada Revenue Agency. If you signed for direct deposit, payments will be made to your bank account.

CPP: January 27, February 24, March 29, April 28, May 27, June 28, July 28, August 27, September 28, October 27, November 26, December 22. CPP payments include the CPP retirement pension, CPP disability, children's benefits and survivor's benefits.

OAS benefits are paid out on the same dates and include the OAS pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.

Veterans Disability Pensions will be paid

January 28, February 25, March 30, April 29, May 28, June 29, 2021
July 29, August 30, September 29, October 28, November 29, December 23.

GST credits are paid January 5, April 1, July 5, October 5.

BIRTHDAY BRATS



JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Brent Elgie, Torben Haarbye, Delores Lloyd,
Dave McCarter and Bob Swartman.

FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Ray Hutt, Murray MacKay, Bruce Tapp, Fay Timbers,
Tom Johnston, Frank Mantz, and Len Truant



*“The older the fiddler,
the sweeter the tune.”*

-English Proverb



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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January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic 427 Wings most events are cancelled until further notice. For more information on the Wing please call 519 455-0430 and leave a message and we will get back to you.

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**COMING SPRING 2021!
SILENT AUCTION
97th Anniversary
of the founding of the
Royal Canadian Air Force
Friday, April 02, 2021.**

Watch for details at
<http://www.427wing.com>,
your London Link newsletter and
the 427 Wing's Facebook page
for updates

**Please call 519-455-0430 or visit the
427 (London) Wing Facebook page for updates.**