



# *Royal Canadian Air Force Association*

## *RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing*

### *Newsletter – June 2020*

Vol 4 Edition 3



#### 1. RCAF Mission Statement:

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is a national aerospace and community service organization that commemorates the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's air forces since its inception; advocates for a proficient and well equipped air force; and, supports the Royal Canadian Air Cadet programme.

#### 2. Last Flight:

Our Wing sends out its heartfelt condolences to all of the families and friends of the Canadians involved in the three tragedies that occurred between 18 April and 17 May. Our Wing flew the RCAF Ensign at half mast at Ad Astral Place on Anne Street in Barrie in honour of the victims. This tribute was to the 22 people murdered in Nova Scotia on 18 & 19 April, the six Canadian Armed Forces personnel who died in HMCS Fredericton's helicopter crash off the coast of Greece on 29 April, and Captain Jenn Casey of Nova Scotia, a proud member of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds team. Casey, a public affairs officer for the Snowbirds, died on Sunday, 17 May, 2020. The six CAF members who died in the helicopter crash were:

Capt. Brenden Ian MacDonald from New Glasgow, N.S.;;  
Capt. Kevin Hagen from Nanaimo, B.C.;;  
Capt. Maxime Miron-Morin, from Trois-Rivieres, Que.;;  
Sub-Lt. Abigail Cowbrough of Nova Scotia.;;  
Sub-Lt. Matthew Pyke from Truro, N.S.;; and  
MCpl. Matthew Cousins from Guelph, Ont.

#### 3. 441 Wing Election Resultss:

The elections for our new Board of Directors (BoD)/ Executive would have normally taken place at the May General Meeting and those elected would then be installed at the June General Meeting. This year, the voting had to be done via e-mail. Once the general membership had elected the BoD members, Jane organized a second vote by the Directors to elect the Executive. Many thanks to Jane Coxon for being our Returning Officer for this year's elections. Congratulations to the members of the following BoD members for FY 2020-2021:

POSITION	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
Chairman	Bill Sergeant	Newsletter
Deputy Chair	Wally Capsticks	Special Events
Treasurer	Andrea Sloan	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O

Secretary	Andrew Galton	Honours and Awards Chair
Deputy Treas	Michael O'Shea	Fund Raising/Special Projects
Director	Gerry Pepler	RCAF Ad Astral Board Chair
Director	Art Cameron	RCAF Ad Astral BoD Member
Director	Murray Conley	Director of Ceremonies
Director	Joep Diening	Wing Web Master
Director	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director	Randy Rice	Veterans Groups Liaison
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	Wing Padre

4. COVID 19 and its Impact of Wing Activities:

The duration of the impact of the COVID 19 virus is anybody's guess at this time. Below is the current status of planned RCAF Assoc 441 Wing events.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Status</u>
09 June	441 Wing June Directors Virtual Zoom Meeting.	1900 hrs
09 June	441 Wing June General Meeting.	Cancelled
TBD	Presentation of NORAD Trophy to Milan Kroup at Edenvale	Delayed
08 Sept	Guest speaker - MPP Andrea Khanjin	Still on - TBC
14 Sept	Battle of Britain Flag Raising - Barrie City Hall	Still on - TBC
20 Sept	Battle of Britain Ceremony	Still on - TBC
TBD	Wing Awards for 2019 - Presentations	Delayed

5. Milestone Birthdays:



Two of our Wing members celebrated significant milestone birthdays in May. On Thursday, May 14, Pilot Officer (ret'd) **Tom Leonard** RCAF #R83607, turned 100 years young! He joined the RCAF as ground crew on 25 November 1940 and transferred to aircrew in 1942, training at No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School at RCAF Station Jarvis, ON, as a Navigator "B" (Bomb Aimer before moving on to Air Navigation School, which he completed at No. 10 Air Observer School in Chatham, NB. He also did some of his aircrew training in PEI prior to shipping overseas to the UK on 26 May 1943. After conversion training on Wellington Mk 13s at RAF Haverfordwest, Wales (# 3 Operational Training Unit), he

served with 8 Sqn in Aden (Yemen). His Sqn was responsible for covering the eastern portion of the Indian Ocean, and its sister squadron, 244 Sqn, was responsible for covering the western portion of the Indian Ocean. He was in the Gulf from November 1943 until January 1945. Tom demobilized from the RCAF in March 1945. Below are two video clips from Tom's birthday drive-by celebration on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The first is from the CTV News Barrie and the second is from his son Bruce. It shows Tom saluting the RCAF Ensign as it goes past him that evening. His time served in the RCAF very much defined the type of person that he is today.

CTV News. <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1959396>

Tom's salute: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xCK52zkzHoQhqqsg7>



Tom Leonard, front row, 3rd from left, #10 Air Observer School, Chatham, NB, 1943

On Sunday, May 31st, HCol (Emeritus) Rob Warman turned 90 years young! Rob is a retired RCMP Officer and Air Force Military Policeman, a former Alderman of the City of Barrie and Department Head at Georgian College. He is a member of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters' Honourable Guard, a long time member of the Veterans' Club of Barrie and its Executive, a member the City of Barrie's International Relations Committee and Chair of its Zweibrucken Germany Twinning Sub-Committee, a founding member and Chair of the Sir Robert Barrie Project, a member of St. George's Church Allandale, a founding member of the 16 Wing Fellowship, a member of RCAFA 441 (Huronian) Wing, and of the RCL #147 W.C. Little, MM Branch, among others.







Many members of 441 Wing participated in his 50+ cars birthday drive past on Toronto Street that afternoon. Gary Miner had placed 90 Canadian flags on his lawn, and HCol Rory MacKinnon played happy birthday and other favourites on his bagpipe for Rob. Those who participated in the drive-by were able to pass on their well wishes to Rob and Alice from their cars as they rolled passed.

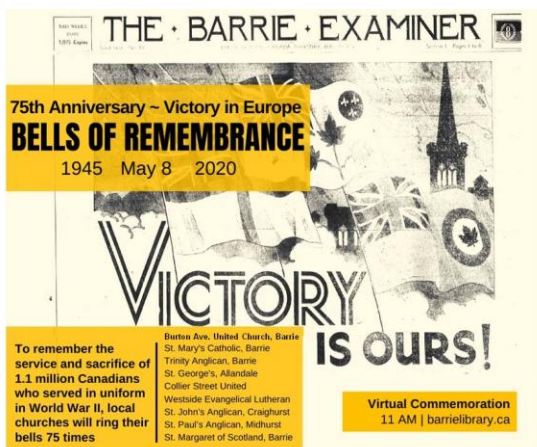
6. Wing Fund Raising Activities:

The Wing would like to thank Les Ball and Michael O'Shea for their efforts to raise funds for the Wing. The winners of the first five draws for the "\$100 Month Draw" for 2020 are:

- January – Donald Levedag;
- February – Allister 'Mac' MacDonald;
- March – Dave Wismer;
- April – Megan Kulkarni; and
- May – Travis Gaudet.

It is planned to sell tickets during 2021 for the "\$100 Month Draw" draw and the Kiwanis "Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World". Like the previous draw, funds from these draws will be used by 441 Wing so that it can carry out its mandate of supporting the two Royal Canadian Air Cadet Sqns that we sponsor in Barrie (102 Silver Fox Sqn) and Wasaga Beach (714 Sqn).

7. VE Day 75th Anniversary 'Bells of Remembrance'- 8 May 2020:



On Friday, 8 May, at 11:00 a.m., nine churches in the Barrie area tolled their bells 75 times in memory of our Second World War Veterans. The joyful peels were heard across Barrie that morning, as they did 75 years earlier, when the fighting in Europe officially ended. Many thanks to Rev Terry Bennett, Jim Laking and Bill & Monika Sergeant for taking part in this tribute. The other Barrie churches were St. Mary's Parish Barrie, St. George's Allandale, Collier St. United Church,

Westside Evangelical Lutheran Church, St John's Anglican Church Craighurst, St Paul's Anglican Church Midhurst, St. Margaret's of Scotland, Burton Ave. United Church.

8. Honours and Awards:

Our Wing would like to congratulate Greg Merrill, Norm Marion and Ken Stacey. In February, 2020, the Governor-General of Canada bestowed the prestigious 'Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers' on those three members.

Greg Merrill has worked with the Ontario Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League for more than 12 years, where through various positions at the local, regional and provincial level, he has helped run the tow aircraft and glider programs and managed acquisitions and maintenance. He has also been advocating for better resources and services for members of the Veteran's Club of Barrie.

Normand Marion has contributed to the military community of Coldwater since 2000 as a public relations manager, researcher, and fundraiser with various organizations, including the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater. His investigations into First and Second World War casualties have shed light on the town's military history and helped memorialize those who served.

Ken Stacey has actively contributed to numerous organizations throughout his life including the National Association of Federal Retirees, the Red Cross Meals on Wheels program, the Kiwanis Club of Barrie Golden-K, the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, Royal Canadian Legion and the Veterans' Club of Barrie. The organizations and the communities that they served have benefitted from his leadership and support.



9. RCAF 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pins:

As has been the tradition at 16 Wing and now within 441 Wing, Norm Marion has shepherded the design and approval of this year's commemorative pin to reality. This year, the Boeing CC-707 aircraft was selected. Many members of the Canadian Forces have stories about this work horse that provided air-to-air refueling for our Northern Flank commitments as well as 'Service Air' travel opportunities for CF members, and at times, their families. Due to pin production interruptions as result of COVID 19, the pins should now arrive around the end of June. Price for the pins should be \$5.00.

10. RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing Membership Renewal

441 Wing's membership year ends on 30 June, so once again it is a time for renewals! The renewal fee has not changed from last year, so it is still

Single Membership: \$70

Dual Membership: \$100

Please send your cheque made out to RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing to our Membership Chair, Andrea Sloan at her home address:

77 Violet Street

Barrie, ON, L4N 9N3

The Wing does not have a capability to receive e-transfer or credit card payments. For those who have already paid or who have a long-term membership she will confirm with you by separate e-mail and will mail a receipt. The due date is 30 June, but there is some flexibility if a later payment date is needed. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if any special arrangement needs to be made. Those on the National mailing list will have received their membership e-mail. If you want to take advantage of one of the multi-year membership offers, please let me know and I will work out the cost with the Wing portion of the fee.

11. Wing Finance and Membership Verification Committee:

Our Wing would like to thank Cooky Ellis for leading this committee during its annual reviews and verification of the Wing's finances and membership ledgers. Lorraine Carney will be joining Peter Levedag and Greg Merrill on the committee to verify the FY 2019-2020 books and information.

12. Everett Horner - Tech Solutions and more:

Everett is back in Barrie from the Univ of Alberta. He would like to provide community support during this period of COVID-19 restrictions and has followed up his initial offer that he made to Wing members when he was with us last year. His computer support practice has been improved with a web presence (<https://everetthorner.ca/>). He is looking to help as many people as he can, so please feel free to contact him or circulate his information/website to anyone you think he might be able to assist. His e-mail is: [everetthmail@gmail.com](mailto:everetthmail@gmail.com)

13. Largest All-Electric Aircraft to Make Maiden Flight - Jack Guy, CNN

Published 28th May 2020

As concerns over the environmental cost of flying continue to mount, green propulsion systems can offer an ethical alternative. Electric motor technology is due to reach a new milestone Thursday with the first flight planned of the world's largest all-electric aircraft. The nine-passenger eCaravan plane is the result of a collaboration between engine company magniX and aerospace firm AeroTEC, according to a press release from magniX.

The aircraft, an adapted Cessna Caravan 208B, will make its first flight on May 28 at an airstrip in Washington State at 8 a.m. local time (11 a.m. ET). The original Cessna Caravan is one of the most widely used middle-mile planes in the world, with more than 2,600 aircraft working in 100 countries, the press release states. The all-electric version will use a 750-horsepower (560kW) magni500 propulsion system.

"As the world's largest all-electric aircraft, this first flight is a significant milestone in disrupting the transportation industry and accelerating the electric aviation revolution," reads the press release.

It goes on, "magniX's ultimate goal is to better connect communities by bringing to market an advanced all-electric propulsion system that offers lower cost of operations and zero emissions."



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