



Royal Canadian Air Force Association
RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing
Newsletter – 3rd Quarter 2018

Vol 2 Edition 3



1. Our Wing was saddened by the passing of two people who have been associated with it for many years. George Mitchell passed away peacefully at Hospice Simcoe, Barrie on Thursday, July 5, 2018 in his 95th year. Norm Marion has written an article about George that appears later in the Newsletter. As well, Jacqueline Wallace, the wife of fellow 441 (Huron) Wing member Steve Wallace, passed away in Victoria, BC, on 29 July, 2018 after a three-week battle with the complications that arose after she had had emergency heart surgery. Our condolences go out to both families.

2. The Wing is welcoming four new members to its ranks. Three of the members are new to the RCAF Association and they are Bill Martell, Allister (Mac) MacDonald, Colonel Pascal Godbout – Comd 16 Wing, and WCWO Lisa Harvey. They are to be sworn in by Past President Bob Coxon at our 11 September meeting.

3. Key Dates for the 441 (Huron) Wing Calendar:

July – August – Summer Break

3 Sept – Scattering the ashes of George Mitchell at the RCAF Cairn in Borden

8 Sept – RCAF Central Region Meeting hosted by 447 Wing Mount Hope

10 Sept – Battle of Britain Flag Raising – Barrie

11 Sep – Wing Meeting at the Legion

16 Sept – Battle of Britain Parade in Barrie

09 Oct – Wing Meeting at the Legion

12 – 14 Oct – RCAF Assoc National Convention in Calgary, AB

11 Nov – Remembrance Day Ceremonies

13 Nov – Wing Meeting at the Legion

TBD – 441 (Huron) Wing Christmas Social

17-19 May – 70th Annual Ontario Group Convention in Kingston

4. Honours and Awards:

Three members of our Wing are proud recipients of the RCAF Association Ontario Group Awards of Merit.

The first recipient is Mrs. Jane Coxon of Stayner, receiving her award for her long-standing support and contributions to 441 Wing's activities. Of note is her 11 years of dedication as the Barrie Scout Liaison Officer to the 3 Barrie Scout troops supported by 441 Wing; 8th Barrie, 1st Holly and 1st Mapleview. Jane also diligently performed the duty of Wing Secretary from 2012 to 2017, a job that she still carries out.

Mr. Bill Blakey received his award in recognition of his years of service and positions held within 441 Wing, but particularly as the Wing President during a period of drastic change. In 2008, due to declining membership the Wing's building, easily identifiable on Hwy 90 by its signature red T-33 Thunderbird aircraft on a pedestal had to be sold.

Bill was pivotal in the planning, organizing and preparation of the sale. He remained an active member on the Wing Board of Directors until 2016.



Past President Bill Blakey receiving the RCAF Assoc Ontario Group 2018 Award of Merit from VP Tom Carney, Chair of the 441 Wing H&A Committee



Secretary Jane Coxon receiving the RCAF Assoc Ontario Group 2018 Award of Merit from VP Tom Carney, Chair of the 441 Wing H&A Committee, 12 June 2018

The third Award of Merit was presented to the Board of Directors of Ad Astral Place, a not-for-profit housing complex on the corner of Anne St. and Edgehill Dr. in Barrie with the RCAF ensign and Canadian flag flying proudly in front of it. For the past 31 years Wing members have proudly volunteered on Ad Astral's Board of Directors overseeing its planning, construction and efficient running right through to today. Comprising the current board is Board Chairperson Gerry Pepllar, assisted by Directors Art Cameron, Jim Purchase, Ray Raaflaub, Mark Tobin, Sherry Tobin-Green and Stan Bieniawski. Initiated in 1987 by members of 441 Wing as a retirement residence for military personnel, the complex is now part of Simcoe County's affordable housing inventory and is managed by Progressive Management and Consulting. Both Simcoe County and Progressive Management have praised the positive and caring contribution made by 441 members through their role in the decision making process whereby the "business side" is balanced by their responsible compassion.

Bill Sergeant, 441 Wing's President, congratulated the recipients on this significant achievement. "Only four Awards of Merit are given each year among all the Wings in Ontario. For 441 Wing's members to be presented with three of the awards recognizes the hard work and positive impact these people have on their community. Well Done!"

5. Honours and Awards Committee:

If you would like to be part of it to ensure that deserving members are given the recognition they deserve, then let Committee Chair Tom Carney know. He, Mark Tobin, Andy Galton and Bill Sergeant wrote up a number of submissions for

consideration at the Group and National levels. More nominations from our members are encouraged.



6. Restoration of Lancaster FM104:

It was one of more than 400 Lancasters built in Malton (now Mississauga) during the Second World War. It never served in the conflict and was on display in Toronto for more than 30 years, mounted on a plinth in Coronation Park. Lancaster-FM-104 bomber FM104 is seen here in service in 1961.

Toronto International Aerospace Photo

Murray Conley and a dedicated team from the Edenvale Aviation Heritage Foundation (EAHF) have been actively lobbying the Toronto City Council in order to obtain the partially restored 'deaccessioned' Lancaster, FM104, from the city of Toronto. Murray and Dave Snedden, a senior AME with the Province of Ontario, had briefed the Commander 16 Wing and his staff on 4 July, 2018 to solicit potential assistance for the restoring the aircraft at Edenvale by the Airmen and Airwomen awaiting training at 16 Wing. Unfortunately, Toronto city council voted to transfer the Toronto-built Lancaster to the British Columbia Aviation Museum (BCAM), rejecting multiple proposals that would have kept the iconic aircraft close to home. The decision came July 24, 2018 and was recently confirmed at a subsequent meeting. FM104 airframe and parts are currently being packaged up and crated in preparation for shipping.

7. Battle of Britain Parade 2018 - Barrie:

Murray Conley is heading up the Wing Committee for the Battle of Britain Parade 2018 at Barrie's Cenotaph, Memorial Square, to honour the sacrifices made by those in military service, past and present. He is doing this in conjunction with 16 Wing, Borden. We would like to have as large a turn out from 441 Wing as possible, so please let Andy Galton know if you can be there. Andy, Murray and Janet Forrester will be sending out invitations for those wishing to be seated for the ceremony. As well, the Battle of Britain flag raising will take place at the City Hall Flag poles at 1100 hrs on Monday, 10 September, 2018. Come out and join us if you can.

8. Recruiting New Members:

We are still looking for new members. We have increased our membership to 64 members and counting. Normand Marion has put an advertisement in the Coldwater Legion newsletter. We also have our website and FaceBook page. It was suggested that we design a business card that can be handed out at events telling prospective members about the Wing and its benefits. Norm Marion will make up a draft card.

9. Service Records of First World War Veterans:

Five years ago, the Library and Archives Canada committed to digitizing all of the Canadian Expeditionary Force service files. It took them 18 months to prepare all 622,290 files for digitization alone! They are pleased to announce that the project is now 100% complete, and you can access all of the files online for free. With the end of the project, over 30 million images have been digitized, which resulted in over 540 terabytes of data. They would like to thank all of their colleagues who made the completion of this project possible and will affect generations to come. Here is the link to their webpage.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx>

10. Public Relations Activities:

Norman Marion continues to do a great job with our 'RCAF 441 Wing' FaceBook (FB) page. He is posting articles that he writes about various activities at our Wing. If you do not have a FB account, you can use the following link to access and view the FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/441Wing/> If you wish to submit articles or announcements for the Newsletter, please send them to Norman Marion or Bill Sergeant.

11. Speakers for our Meetings:

September – Kristen Babrociak, CHARTWELL Barrington Retirement Residence
October – Murray Conley
November – Brian Garvey – How I Became a Positive Person
Christmas Social – TBD
January – TBD
February – Capt Tobin Green talking about her deployment to Mali.

If you, or someone you know, would like to talk about a subject that would be of interest to our members, please speak with one of our Directors.

12. Remembering Flight Lieutenant George Mitchell:

By Norm Marion, RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing

On July 5, 2018, the Royal Canadian Air Force lost one of its long-time supporters in the Borden-Barrie community. Flight Lieutenant (Ret'd) George Mitchell, a former member of RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing, passed away peacefully in his 95th year.

Originally from Great Britain, George Mitchell was a pilot during the Second World War. He joined the RAF in 1942 and came to 32 Service Flying Training School in Moose Jaw, Sask., to train as a pilot under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. After earning his pilot wings, he returned overseas to train on bombers and eventually served on 9 Squadron RAF. He was injured on his very first operational sortie when a Lancaster bomber exploded upon take-off, right in front of his own aircraft. He later served with 428 Squadron RCAF, the "Ghost Squadron", as a bomber instructor. After the war, he came to Canada (he had married his wife Virginia, whom he had met during his BCATP stay in Canada, in 1945) and found employment as an engineer with Avro Canada, where he continued to work until the cancellation of the Avro Arrow project in 1959. He entered the Ontario Secondary

School programme as a teacher and worked in that capacity until his retirement in 1989.

Throughout his career, George remained committed to Veterans organisations such as the RCAF Association and the Air Crew Association. He served as president of RCAF 441 (Huronian) Wing in the early 2000s, and was involved in many aspects of RCAF anniversary celebrations and other Air Force related commemorations in the Borden-Barrie area throughout the '90s and 2000s. He represented the Canadian chapter of the Battle of Britain Historical Society at the 2005 unveiling of the famous London monument commemorating the Battle of Britain, and was part of a group of Veterans that attended the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2012. George was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Legion of Merit by the French Government in 2015.

Locally, George's efforts were recognized by 16 Wing Borden with a Wing Commander's Commendation in 2004. "Mr. George Mitchell distinguished himself through his ardent support to the Air Force, the Air Annex to the Base Borden Military Museum and local Air Cadet Squadrons", reads the citation. "Tireless and most dedicated, Mr. Mitchell has fully committed himself to supporting the Wing in its goal of fostering close ties with the local community, most especially the Air Force Association of Canada. His leadership and countless volunteer hours freely given to the development and evolution of the Base Borden Military Museum Air Annex and local Air Cadet Squadrons are sterling examples to others." George was also made a member of the 16 Wing Fellowship in 2010, one of the "original 12" members. George's ashes will be scattered at the RCAF Cairn on Maple Leaf Drive at 16 Wing, CFB Borden at 1050 hrs. If you are available, you are invited to attend in full dress uniform with medals.

PHOTO CAPTION:



Then member of RCAF 441 (Huronian) Wing, George Mitchell, being presented with the 16 Wing Commander's Commendation in 2004.

13. Contact Information:

Mail: Box 324 Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

E-Mail: < admin@rcaf441wing.com >

Telephone: 705-481-1453 (messages only)

14. The 2018-2019 Wing Executive:

POSITION	NAME	PORTFOLIO(S)
President	Bill Sergeant	Newsletter
Deputy President	Tom Carney	Chair Honours & Awards
Past President	Bob Coxon	Initiation of New Members
Treasurer	Andrea Sloan	Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison Officer
Secretary	Jane Coxon	Special Events / Scout Group Liaison
Director	Art Cameron	
Director	Gerry Pepler	RCAF Ad Astral Chair Board
Director	Murray Conley	Director of Ceremonies
Director	Jim Purchase	Sick and Visiting
Director	Stan Bieniawski	
Director	Norm Marion	Public Relations / FaceBook
Director	Joep Dening	Wing Web Master
Director	Wally Capsticks	
Director	Andy Galton	Veterans Groups Liaison / H&A
Member	Sherry Tobin- Green	RCACS Liaison for 102 Silver Fox Sqn and 714 Wasaga Beach Sqn
Wing Padre	Rev Doug Crocker	



Past President Bill Blakey swearing in the new Wing Exec - Art Cameron, Wally Capstick, Murray Conley, Jane Coxon, Bill Sergeant, Andrea Sloan, and Tom Carney at the Barrie Legion on 12 June 2018



Royal Canadian Legion
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August 12, 2018

FUNDRAISING FOR COLDWATER "ARMISTICE 100" REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE

Good day,

As was announced last month, the Coldwater Legion has launched an initiative that will see the creation of a plaque engraved with the names of the 23 soldiers from the Coldwater area who were killed in action during the First World War. The plaque will be unveiled during this year's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Coldwater Cenotaph. Over the past few years, the Coldwater Legion has paid individual tributes to those 23 fallen soldiers by posting biographies and lowering the flags on the 100th anniversary of their passing. This plaque will offer a more lasting tribute, accessible year round at the Cenotaph.

The Coldwater Legion acknowledges, and is grateful for the generosity of local businesses who have supported – and hopefully will continue to support - our annual Poppy campaign over the years. The funds raised by the Legion through the national Poppy campaign are used to support very specific activities, mainly to assist Veterans and their families. They cannot be used for our plaque project. As a result, the Coldwater Legion is offering you the opportunity to help with the project through a onetime financial contribution of your choice. While any amount is welcome, contributions of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in a Remembrance Day flyer this year. In addition, contributions of \$100 or more will allow you the benefit of six months of daily acknowledgement/advertisement on our new digital information display in the main room at the Legion (ads cycling throughout business days).

If you wish to contribute to this project you may donate in cash or by cheque (payable to "RCL Branch 270 Coldwater"). You may mail your payment in the pre-addressed envelope provided or drop it off at our branch during business hours. If your business is local, you can also call us and someone from our branch can pick it up when you're ready.

Feel free to give us a call or email if you have any question. The contact for this project is our Public Relations Officer and Historian, Norm Marion, (705) 686-3941, email norm.marion@amtelecom.net.

Regards,

Betty-Jean Murray
President
Branch 270 Coldwater
Visit us on line at: www.coldwaterlegion.com
Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ColdwaterLegion

Coldwater Roll of Honour First World War 1914-1918

Beckett, Gordon, Sept 29, 1916, Courcelette, France
Leatherdale, Arnot, Oct 2, 1916, the Somme, France
Lang, William, Oct 9, 1916, Pozieres, France
Williamson, Hilton, Oct 9, 1916, the Somme, France
Brush, Frank, Nov 9, 1916, the Somme, France
Durnford, Andrew, April 9, 1917, Vimy Ridge, France
Maracle, George, April 12, 1917, Vimy Ridge, France
Woods, George, May 3, 1917, Bethune, France
Prince, Albert, May 9, 1917, Vimy, France
Wyley, Thomas, May 20, 1917, Bethune, France
Waller, James, May 29, 1917, France
McKerrall, Charles, July 23, 1917, Bethune, France
Orr, Charles, Aug 19, 1917, Arras, France
Langley, James, Aug 29, 1917, Arras, France
Beach, George, Nov 6, 1917, Passchendaele, Belgium
Dunkin, Alexander, Nov 6, 1917, Passchendaele, Belgium
McDonald, Ronald, Nov 9, 1917, Passchendaele, Belgium
Morrison, Leonard, Mar 30, 1918, Bois de Moreuil, France
Duddy, Herbert, July 29, 1918, Arras, France
Newlove, William, Aug 27, 1918, Cambrai, France
Middleton, William, Sept 29, 1918, Cambrai, France
Borrow, Joseph, Sept 30, 1918, Tilloy, France
Caswell, William, Sept 30, 1918, Cambrai, France

Lest We Forget