



WING DRIFT

1st Quarter 2020

Message from the Chairman

THE 447 WING RCAFA IS “TENTATIVELY” HOSTING THE NATIONAL RCAF ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 16-18, 2020

Dear Fellow Members,

This has been a tough message to write. 2020 has not been kind thus far. First, we were weathering through the future of our clubhouse. Now in the midst of the COVID-19 Global pandemic, we are weathering the future of our livelihood. The world around us has changed once again. Never in the lifetime of the 447 Wing have we experienced such a devastating situation.

The Wing came to realize an important priority; it was our responsibility to protect our members, our employees and our customers. With that in mind, as all non-essential establishments were faced, we had no choice but to temporarily close our doors. Two months ago, I would have never envisioned the Wing would be put in a position whereby we would have to stop serving food & drinks, cancel the Friday night bands, seniors Euchre, Open Mic nights and worst of all, issue layoff notices to our staff.

The 447 Wing will open its doors again. The question is, “WHEN?”

When that day comes,



WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PARTY.



We will bring out the **green** beer; have that St. Patty's Day Celebration we missed

AND

Combine it with the Good Friday Fish Fry.

Until such time as this crisis is averted, I urge everyone to take great care of yourself. Practice social distancing. Stay healthy, Stay safe.

Hope to see you all again real soon and do what we do best...HAVE FUN!!

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Cuffe
Chairman, 447 Wing RCAFA



Greenwood Military Aviation Museum: outstanding display of history and heritage

Report and photos by Gord McNulty

Aviation fans who visit Nova Scotia will appreciate a visit to the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum (www.gmam.ca/) at 14 Wing CFB Greenwood. The museum's Air Park features 10 aircraft displayed in a beautiful setting, somewhat like a sunken garden, which is fitting given the location in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. A slope enables photos from a higher vantage point as well as ground level.

The GMAM has grown significantly since it began in 1992 as an idea initiated by then Greenwood Base Commander Ken Allen. A small, dedicated group of retired and serving military personnel and local aviation enthusiasts formed a society and remain the backbone of the museum. The volunteers have a mission to provide free access, interpretation and display of the history and heritage of Base Greenwood.

Visitors first notice a Canadair CT-133 Silver Star mounted as a monument at the main gate of the base, then are drawn to a breathtaking lineup of 'heavy metal' maritime patrol aircraft: a Lancaster Mk 10, a rare Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune and a Lockheed CP-140A Arcturus.



Canadair Silver Star monument at Greenwood Military Aviation Museum, dedicated on 50th Reunion of 434 Bluenose Squadron in 1993



Lockheed P2V-7 in RCAF colours, loaned to the museum by the U.S. Navy, represents Neptunes that replaced Greenwood's Lancasters beginning 30 March 1955.

The Lancaster, Serial No. KB839 (painted as Serial No. JB226) flew 26 bombing sorties during World War II from the U.K. with the RCAF in the Pathfinder role. It sustained damage on two occasions but survived the war and is described as the only Lancaster in Canada today that sustained combat damage. It later flew with No. 409 "Goose" Squadron in Canada. The aircraft was equipped post-war with cameras for Arctic mapping and maritime reconnaissance duties. Last flown on 11 March, 1964, it was retired at Greenwood in 1964.



Avro Lancaster Mk 10 with Gutless Gert nickname, was flown by 405 (Pathfinder) Squadron during the Second World War.

The GMAM restoration crew returned the Lancaster to its wartime configuration by removing the 31-inch nose extension fitted after the war. Extensively refurbished, the bomber is now painted as "Gutless Gert," as flown by 405 Pathfinder Squadron during the war. Of 60 operational missions, "Gutless Gert" flew 17 missions with 405 Squadron until sadly, it was shot down on the night of 17/18 November on a raid against Ludwigshaven, a city on the Rhine in the industrial heartland of Germany. "Gutless Gert" is a poignant tribute to the crew flying the bomber on its last fateful mission --- four Canadian, two British and one American member.

Canadair CP-107 Argus 10717 entered service at Greenwood in 1958 and was struck off strength in 1980 as a permanent monument at the air park.



A Canadair CP-107 Argus, RCAF 10717, makes a strong impression at the Air Park. It was assigned to Greenwood in 1958 and struck off strength in 1980 to be a permanent monument. The mighty sub-hunter, relocated and disassembled in 2000 for display at the Air Park, was reassembled in 2001 and positioned in its prime spot.

The attractive Neptune is the only Neptune in Canada and is on loan to the GMAM from the U.S. Navy.

The CP-140A Arcturus was flown primarily at Greenwood for Arctic and coastal surface patrol missions and pilot training. Retired in 2014, it was added to the GMAM in 2016 with a Lockheed C-130E Hercules and a Canadair Challenger. Challengers and Hercules flew out of Greenwood.

A Dakota in striking RCAF post-war search and rescue colours as flown from Greenwood by 103 Rescue Unit until 1968 is, in my view, the most photogenic of all of these significant aircraft.

The park also features another rarity --- a Piasecki H-21/Vertol 44 is nearing completion in vintage RCAF search and rescue livery after extensive reassembly and refurbishment; a Boeing Vertol CH-113 Labrador, representing a versatile helicopter that was significant in SAR; and another Canadair Silver Star.



RCAF Dakota painted as an aircraft flown at Greenwood by 103 Rescue Unit until 1968.

A Commemorative Gardens, adjacent to the Air Park, further enriches the GMAM. Impressive cairns and monuments, honoring Greenwood squadrons and aviators who made the ultimate sacrifice, are highlighted by a life-size bronze statue of a Second World War airman. Inviting walkways are lined with more than 400 commemorative granite stones remembering individuals who have served or are serving at CFB Greenwood.

The Museum's indoor display area features six distinct eras in the history of Greenwood. Many exhibits are showcased, exemplified by cutaway engines, artifacts, paintings, photographs and mannequins in period costume. An Avro Anson Mk II, built at Amherst, NS, in 1941 is among the highlights of the indoor aircraft. A Bolingbroke/ Blenheim and a Beech Expeditor are under restoration. The Boly/Bleinheim achieved a major milestone this spring as it reached final assembly of multiple major aircraft structures after 10 years of effort. To date, more than 17,000 man-hours of work have been devoted to restoring one of the last Boly airframes in Canada. Boly 9997 will ultimately be painted in wartime colours representing a Blenheim flown by 404 Squadron out of Scotland with Coastal Command in the early years of the conflict.

A legacy of maritime patrol aircraft from the Lancaster to the Neptune and Arcturus on display at the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum



The Expeditor will be the 11th aircraft on display. It's expected to be restored in post-war RCAF colours. The GMAM has a vibrant Facebook page. There is ongoing discussion on the issue of looking into a sprung shelter type facility to protect the aircraft at the park from the elements. However, the cost would be substantial and the museum would be required to adhere to federal building code standards.

Dear Korean War Veterans, family and Friends,

On January 9th, 2020, we attended the annual “Korean War Veterans International Day” which is organized by the Korean War Veterans Association Sunshine State Chapter 159 (Don and HooJung are associate members) at the Moose Lodge in Largo, Florida.

American, Korean, Canadian, Australians and United Kingdom’s National Anthems were played after the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 colour party placed the flags. The deceased members of the KWVA Chapter 159 were read out by each colour party member. Gordon Bennett is a Vice President of the KWVA Sunshine Chapter and a Canadian Korean War Veteran who fought on Hill 355. He stated that “They shall not be forgotten”. The Korean War Veterans, family members and other guests attended this special event to commemorate the 16 United Nations that fought during the Korean War. The harmonica band played great songs. The Moose Lodge provided delicious pizza and HooJung baked the homemade almond and short bread cookies.



Over 1.7 Million US Armed Forces Served

Killed in Action -36,574

Wounded -103,284

MIA - 8,099

POW -7,140

June 25, 1950 the Korean War began

July 27, 1953 the Armistice was signed

“Legacy of the Korean War Veterans”



Dann Oliver, Post Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 reads out the names of the deceased the Korean War Veterans from the KWVA Chapter 159, Sunshine State.
Left to Right: Dann Oliver, Don Kennedy and Hart Watt (HMCS Haida Member)

Facility - Available for Rent

This includes three rooms, a bar, food service (catering) and lots of parking. This facility is adequate for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you may wish to hold at the Wing.

**For rental information and rates, contact
Bev Cuffe
289.280.0157**

447winghamilton@gmail.com

If you would like to contribute to the Wing Drift, please email ymcgillivray@gmail.com
All articles are welcome.



The Wing is always looking for Volunteers.

Do you have a child at home who needs to fulfill some community service hours, or have you been thinking you need to get out more?

Well we would love for you to offer some free time to us.

Please contact Sandra Wells or Bev Cuffe or email us at

447winghamilton@gmail.com

OUR CONTINUED THANKS

Donations

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to our members and non-members who continually donate their time, cash and prizes for our many draws, Special Events and Meat Draws.

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<https://www.facebook.com/The-447-Wing-140212226825200/>

Member Profile

As time goes by we all meet new people and lose some cherished ones.

I thought it would be nice for our members to read about other members and get to know each other a little better.

For our first member profile, I picked someone who is the reason that I became involved in the Wing. Him and his wife were most welcoming the first time my husband and I stepped through the doors and a huge part of why we became members. As my husband and I have been part of the military family in the past, we recognized the camaraderie that comes from shared experiences.

I hope you enjoy this new series to the Wing Drift and will be reaching out to more of you to do a profile in the next edition of the wing drift. I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Yvette Spencer
Wing Drift Editor

Bill Grahman

City of Hamilton presented
Bill Grahman with the
Behind the Scenes Award
at the 2014 Senior of the
Year gala.



I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force July 1958. Following Basic Training at St. Jean, Quebec, Camp Borden, Ontario and CFB, Clinton, Ontario I graduated as an Instrument Technician in charge of the instrument panels on various aircraft. I served during the time of the Cold War which was the tense relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union between the end of World War II and the fall of the Soviet Union.

September 1959, my first transfer after basic training was Canadian Joint Air Training Centre in Rivers, Manitoba. While stationed in Rivers I was fortunate to meet the love of my life, Marg who has put up with me now for 57 years. Our daughter Shelly was born in Rivers. While stationed at Rivers I was a member in the Trumpet Band and in 1960 massed bands from three Air Force bases in Manitoba travelled to Calgary to lead the parade at the Calgary Stampede, a real feather in our hats!

July 1967 I was transferred to Lahr, West Germany, working in the laboratory, testing components of the LN3 Compass from the 104 Starfighter Jets. I will never forget the roar of those powerful engines.

Marg and Shelly accompanied me to Germany. Our son Brad was born in Baden Baden, West Germany 3 months after our arrival. We spent three exceptional years in Germany and were fortunate enough to travel to so many countries. While in Germany I was involved in the Junior Ranks Club with a membership of 1700. I became Chairman of the Entertainment Committee. Within a very short time I became President of the Club which I thoroughly enjoyed. An experience I will never forget.

October 1970, my third transfer was Canadian Forces Base Shearwater, Nova Scotia. Due to the amalgamation of the forces I was assigned to H.M.C.S. Annapolis, Helicopter Detachment. I learned another aspect of the Military when we sailed through the Bermuda Triangle which stood up to its fame. We sailed through a storm that lasted three days with waves that measured 60 – 65 feet. Everyone on board was confined below deck for the duration of the storm and 97% of the crew were sick. I was very fortunate not to be in that percentage.

July 1976 I was transferred to Trenton, Ontario assigned to the Non-Destructive Testing Program, testing welds, castings and forgings through the use of radiography, ultrasound, magnetic particle and liquid penetrant to look inside components without destroying them. I achieved four Level II Department of Energy, Mines and Resources tickets which I utilized in my retirement working for Ontario Hydro and forming my own company.

I retired from the Air Force in 1981 and my family and I moved from Trenton, Ontario to Ancaster, Ontario in July 1982. I loved my military career and became involved with 735 Firebird Air Cadet Squadron and became Commanding Officer November 1987.

I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, 447 Wing in 1986 but did not become an active member until 2008 when I was in a position to attend all the meetings. The Wing was forced to vacate their building located on Airport land in March 2009 and thanks to President Judy Brown and Secretary Brenda Wilson we were able to secure the vacant Lee's Chinese Restaurant in Mount Hope. The building required extensive renovating, so we applied for a building permit which took some time, October 2009. I don't know what we would have done if our Wing Members had not been so dedicated with volunteering hours and hours and hours of their time to get their beloved Wing up and running again.

My greatest achievement as Wing President was the day in May 2010 when I stood with so many dignitaries and our World War II Veterans with their spit and polished shoes and their shiny medals on their chests while we cut the ribbon to once again open 447 Wing. I will never forget the immense pride all of us were feeling that day. My greatest regret is organizing the laying of a poppy in remembrance of our members who have passed. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

My thoughts on the situation the Wing is enduring right now is heart rendering. While the doors are still open please enter with a smile and hope in your heart. As the saying goes "Per Ardua Ad Astra" and for you who are not familiar "Through Adversity to the Stars"

Respectfully

W.F.(Bill) Grahlman C.D.



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Black Knight Squadron HQ		(905) 679-6485
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*447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents**

Aiden Finn CD	(1983)
Gord Rowland	(1995—1998)
Judy Brown	(2000, 2008)
6 Presidents served during	(2003 & 2005)
Bill Grahlman CD	(2008-2017)
Jim Hooton CD	(2017-2019)
	
Bill Whiteside	(1962)
Russ Newton	(1963, 81,91)
Jim Robbins CD	(1964-65)
Carl Whaley CMCD	(1966)
Sterling McAllister CD	(1967)
Doug Thornewell	(1968)
Ken Lenz	(1969, 1975)
Bill Carey	(1970)
Innes Anderson	(1971)
Sid George	(1972)
Ken Read	(1973)
Bob Hayes	(1974)
Bill Thompson	(1976)
Rob Gillies	(1977)
Nels Smith CD	(1978, 1984)
Jack Lightfoot	(1979)
Scott Lumsden	(1980)
Syd Buckles	(1982)
Alex Barrett DFC	(1985)
Clare Hansen	(1986, 1994)
Harry Rasmussen	(1988-89)
Bob Hide	(1990)
Bill Ryckman	(1992-93)
Arthur Young	(2004,2006)
Harry VanZeben	(1997-99, 2001-02)
Frank A. Begley	(2007)



ABLE SEAMAN ELBURNE ALEXANDER BAIKIE

While speaking to Hoo Jung Kennedy at the Wing one day I mentioned to her that a friend of mine had been killed in Korea. Age 20 years

When I told her his name, she said that she had been looking for members of his family to present the AMBASSADOR OF PEACE MEDAL from the Republic of Korea Government. Unfortunately, after searching there were no more members of his family available.

Elburne's mother had been a good friend of my parents and to him I was just a younger pesky hindrance to his activities. We did however have a good friendship. Elburne was 5 years older than me, and with the difference in our ages and activities he was a good friend.

All of his family has now passed away and there is no one to present the medal to. It seemed a shame for his memory to be sort of erased and forgotten. The medal could not be hung at HMCS STAR. It would have been displayed in a room that is not accessible.

I had the medal mounted and presented it to 447 Wing to be hung and displayed at the Wing. An example and reminder of the many thousands like Elburne, so young, killed in action and not to be forgotten.

Rest in Peace my friend, We Will Not Forget You

Jim Hooton
Past President
447 Wing



In Memoriam

Members of 447 Wing and colleagues throughout the RCAFA were saddened recently when Canada lost three highly respected leaders who made significant contributions to the RCAF and the aviation community.

Fern Villeneuve died at age 92 on Christmas Day of injuries sustained in a single-vehicle accident south of Elora on Dec. 22. Fern had flown his Globe Swift to the Saugeen Municipal Airport and was returning to his home in Guelph when the mishap occurred.

Fern enjoyed an illustrious 32-year career as a fighter pilot in the RCAF. He was especially remembered as the first team leader of the Golden Hawks. W/C (Ret'd) Villeneuve regarded his appointment as leader in 1959 as the highlight of his life as a pilot. To name only a few of many accomplishments, in 1965 he became commanding officer of 434 Squadron, flying CF-104 Starfighters at Zweibrucken, Germany. In 1970 he commanded 414 Electronic Warfare Squadron in Ottawa. In 1972 he was appointed head of the Accident Investigation Branch of the Directorate of Flight Safety. Fern later contributed extensively to the Air Cadet program at CFB Trenton. In more than 10 years as a civilian instructor, he amassed more than 3,800 hours on the Bellanca Scout tow aircraft and



Fern Villeneuve enjoyed a visit to Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum August 1 2019

Russ Bannock, DSO, DFC, died at age 100 on January 4 after a brief stay in North York General Hospital. W/C (Ret'd) Bannock became a Canadian aviation legend, noted especially for his exceptional achievements in shooting down Nazi V-1 "buzzbombs" during the 1944 bombardment of London. Flying a Mosquito with his navigator F/O Robert Bruce, Russ destroyed 11 enemy aircraft and 19 V-1s, for which both the Lord Mayor of London and the British newspapers called him "the Saviour of London." Russ also flew equally nerve-wracking "intruder" missions, some of which involved circling German airfields at night to shoot down Nazi night fighters as they landed or took off. He had close calls, once having to return home on one engine after his Mosquito was heavily damaged. Post-war, he enjoyed a remarkable career at de Havilland Canada, where he made the first flight of the iconic Beaver bush plane in 1947 and eventually became company president. Russ was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1993.



Russ Bannock speaking at CWH Museum Mosquito Memories presentation June 14, 2013

Robert (Bob) Hewitt, 85, died peacefully on December 30 at his home in Woodstock, ON. Bob showed leadership and vision as co-founder and first president of both the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association, established at Woodstock in 1985, and the Jet Aircraft Museum, created in 2007 at London. He flew the Harvard and the Canadair CT-133 Silver Star in the RCAF. After retiring from the service, Bob was soon flying a Harvard that he acquired with his friend, the late Norm Beckham. They were joined by Len Fallowfield. “The Woodstock Boys” rapidly made an impression at air shows and fly-ins in Canada and the United States. The CHAA grew from there, relocating to larger facilities at its current home in Tillsonburg. Bob later envisaged a museum to acquire, display and fly vintage Canadian military jets at risk of being scrapped. Bob’s legacy lives on in many ways. His son, Dave, soloed on the family Harvard in 1990, became a member of the Canadian Harvard Aerobatic Team, and flew the “*Canadian Queen*” Beech Expeditor in the 2019 Canadian International Air Show at the CNE.



Bob Hewitt spoke at the grand opening of the Jet Aircraft Museum in London on Sept. 12, 2009.

Report and photos by
Gord McNulty

IN MEMORIAM



Edward (Ted) Turner - December 2019

Fern Villeneuve - December 2019

Robert (Bob) Hewitt - December 2019

Russ Bannock - January 2020

Lloyd Bentley - February 2020



MISSION STATEMENT

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada 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.