
THE **LONDON LINK**

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
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The Canadian Forces Snowbirds Air Demonstration Squadron (CF Snowbirds) flew over London to commemorate the victims of the June 6 attack in Hyde Park.

The Snowbirds had been spending the week in Windsor to attend airshows in the United States.



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		mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chuck Hardy		chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Terry Rushton	519-453-1185	trushon6@gmail.com

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
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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, Heritage/ History & Veterans' Memorial	David Smith/Terry Rushton David Smith		
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	cathywood@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 REPORT *By Chuck Hardy*

WELCOME everyone to the July/August 2021 edition of the London Link. All of us on the Board and Wing members who are Advisors to the Board, hope you enjoy reading the wide choice of articles in each edition. Articles are welcome from all readers and your first-rate Editor, Cathy Wood, will try her level best to include them. As the old saying goes "Variety is the Spice of Life". Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

For this report, let us have a look at the following projects on the go, completed or planned in our great building:

Inside the Building – flooring was replaced in a storage room on the west side and the old entrance door on that side will be replaced. Two other doors need replacing for security and for safety reasons. Many books, magazines, artifacts, and much more are being sorted by a team of members with the aim of determining what to keep, sell, donate to a charity, or dispose of. Some insulation is being placed in areas to reduce the heating bills in winter against the cold north winds.

On the outside, the lawns are mowed regularly. Signs are being replaced. At this writing, the walkways out front need the weeds removed, and some legacy stones require repairs as does the Spooner Memorial. The shed has been painted and better secured. The back entrance has been repaired and painted. On both sides, landscaping continues.

Prior to reopening, the Wing will be thoroughly cleaned. During the late August Airshow, the EMS crew will be using the ballroom for their operations and Flo will be providing some meals for the crew at cost. Supplies are being purchased in preparation for the resumption of the Friday lunches.

Canada Student Summer Jobs – A grant through our MP, Lindsay Mathysen was provided to pay the wages of student(s) selected. The staff work was done by Board member Linda Brimson.

A website designer will update the Wing Website and train a member volunteer who will manage it regularly. When the update is completed, please visit the website, and provide feedback to the board at info@427wing.ca.

Your feedback on other Board articles is most welcome. Please read the Membership Report and the Birthday Brats item.

Finally, we need members to serve on Committees. It is wonderful part time volunteer work, it gives you the feeling that your talents are not only appreciated, but you will find working with others somewhat uplifting. You stepped up to the plate in the past, and by George, you can do again for yourself and of course for the betterment of the Wing.

Your Board and the Advisors to the Board wish you well and feel free to phone the Wing at 519-455-0430. Take a drive out and look around.



RE-OPENING SOON!



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2021 marks 85th anniversary of WWII Spitfire

Compiled by Linda Brimson

The legendary “Spit” captured the heart of wartime Britons and continues to inspire aviation fans worldwide. Its specially designed elliptical wing silhouette and powerful Rolls-Royce Merlin engines were seen and heard overhead as squadrons departed from British airfields heading to occupied France or Europe, flying coastal duties, escorting heavy bombers or chasing Luftwaffe invaders.

In truth, during the Battle of Britain, from July to October 1940, the public did not realize the more plentiful and workhorse Hawker Hurricane aircraft shouldered a greater portion of the burden against the Nazi's Luftwaffe. The thoroughbred Spitfires had a higher survival rate and a higher victory-to-loss ratio than those flying Hurricanes because of the Spitfire's higher performance.

R. J. Mitchell was chief designer of a design team at Supermarine Aviation Works, which operated as a subsidiary of Vickers-Armstrong from 1928. Mitchell pushed the Spitfire's distinctive elliptical wing with cutting-edge sunken rivets (designed by Beverley Shenstone) to have the thinnest possible cross-section, helping give the aircraft a higher top speed than several contemporary fighters, including the Hawker Hurricane. Mitchell continued to refine the design until his death in 1937, whereupon his colleague Joseph Smith took over as chief designer, overseeing the Spitfire's development throughout its multiple variants.

Mr. Mitchell had earlier designed 24 aircraft, including flying boats, racing seaplanes, light aircraft, fighters and bombers. The Air Ministry issued specifications for a new fighter aircraft in 1931, fearful of Germany's aircraft superiority. Mitchell had surgery for rectal cancer in 1933. He continued to work and earned his pilot's licence in 1934. In early 1937, a recurrence of cancer forced him to give up work. He died later that year. Many at that time believed Mitchell continued to work feverishly while in considerable pain. Had he taken time for rest and treatment he may not have died at age 42.

Another interesting fact: In 1934 Air Ministry employee Fred Hill was tasked



with gun design for the Spitfire and Hurricanes. Fred wanted to place eight guns instead of the usual four but could not quite work out the mathematics. He turned to his 13 year-old granddaughter Hazel who was a talented mathematician. Six years later, in the Battle of Britain the eight's guns on aircraft thankfully proved to be just enough to ensure victory.

It took a team of designers, an army of aircraft builders, both working with raw material constraints and shortages, to bring aircraft to reality. Test pilots, gun experts, ground maintenance, transport pilots, BCATP instructors and recruits in Canada – so many women and men behind the air force pilots who flew the WWII aircraft to secure victory.

Terminal Circle Road re-named to Seabrook Way

As a tribute to London International Airport CEO, Michael Seabrook, and his dedication to LIA over the last 30+ years, Terminal Circle Road, to Seabrook Way! Mike will be retiring at the end of the year.



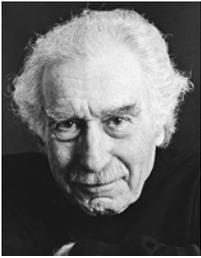
Welcome to 427 Wing – Canada Summer Job hiree

by Linda Brimson

Miao Yutong is pursuing her Master of Arts degree in history and has achieved a Bachelor of Arts: Honours in Art History (McGill University) and a Certificate in Archival Studies (University of Montreal). She has over three years internship experience in the heritage sector. Her varied work experiences from 2017 to present will prove helpful to contribute to Wing projects such as cataloguing, creating displays, capturing digital and video content.

We hope to have Miao start on Wing projects early July. We are grateful to the funding provided by the federal Canada Summer Jobs program and the support of MP Lindsay Mathyssen and her assistant, Nadine. Looking forward to getting to know Miao and working with her to preserve and promote 427 Wing history.





PAUL ROBERT SOLES Born in Toronto, August 11, 1930, died in Toronto May 26, 2021. He will be remembered as a charming, magnanimous, principled man, a creative and versatile performer and a proud Canadian. Committed to the highest standards throughout his 70

year career he remained the consummate professional wholly dedicated to his craft, but by nature he tended undeniably towards mirth. He delighted in cracking people up on air and off and was a terrific joke-teller, an impressive mimic, accent man, public speaker, story-reader, announcer, host, emcee, compare.

A champion debater and Army Cadet RSM at Vaughan Road Collegiate he dropped out of UWO after third year, following stints at CHLO and CKEY, to work full-time at CFPL radio, transitioning to TV at its inception in 1953. Commissioned as a Pilot Officer in the RCAF Auxilliary at Station Crumlin he spent 1956-57 running the radio station at 3 Wing, Zweibrücken, Germany. In 1962 he returned to Toronto, married and began a 16-year run on CBC's 'Take-30' and started a family. Other cherished turns during the CBC-TV years were the 1966 Goon Show-like summer replacement sketch comedy series Charlie Had One and This is The Law, 1971-1976. Best known today for portraying Hermey the Elf in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964) and Peter

Parker and his crime-fighting alter ego in the 1967 cartoon Spider-Man he worked extensively in every medium, his favourites being radio drama and live theatre. He performed on and off Broadway and headlined theatrical tours across Canada and the US. Among his many memorable dramatic performances three stand out: the lead in the Canadian premiere in 1987 of 'I'm Not Rappaport'; the first Jewish Canadian to play Shylock in the 2001 production of 'The Merchant of Venice' at the Stratford Festival and the Dora-nominated role in the 2005 two-hander 'Trying'. An aviation enthusiast and pilot he owned two RCAF primary trainers, first a Fleet 16-B Finch open cockpit biplane acquired to barnstorm across the continent as part of The Great Belvedere Air Dash of 1973 and later a DeHavilland DHC-1 Chipmunk. He was a performing member of the Great War Flying Museum (Brampton), an air show participant for 20 years and a perennial volunteer for the Canadian International Air Show. He did not go gentle retaining to the end his ability to uplift. When asked "how are you doing?" he replied "I make a living". In lieu of flowers please donate to an organization dedicated to theatre, comedy or jazz or to one that supports such artists.

Remembrances and condolences would be welcome online at legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail.

Proud to support the 427 Wing



LINDSAY MATHYSSEN  **NDP**

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – *Part 2*

We have maintained Centennial Corners and presented an episode each subsequent month, each featuring either a past president or a club member who has made important contributions to the club's activities. In this way we have commemorated our Centennial. Although the vignettes so created are necessarily incomplete, perhaps they convey the flavour of how things used to be as we look back.



Mitch Powell VE3OT operating CW at Field Day 2019 at the 427 Wing. The last "live" Field Day held.

Our first Centennial Corner featured Mitch Powell, VE3OT. He served as club president in 1977 and brought to it enormous experience as a radio operator having been employed in the arctic from 1954 -1956. He had the call VE8WN back then and worked with the DOT (as it then was) sending weather reports by Morse code (CW) from Resolute Bay. Mitch became a director of the Canadian division of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and served as Canadian representative on the ARRL executive committee from 1979-81. The CRRL then split off and became a separate entity and he was elected its president. Mitch was on the faculty of Fanshawe College here in London where he taught electronics, but he was perhaps better known within the amateur community for his annual evening course which trained a significant number of amateurs over the 20 or so years he offered the course. With about 20 students in each class, we estimate he trained over 400 hams, many of whom are active in the club today. The tradition within LARC of offering a course to potential new hams continues today and the club offers a team-taught basic course each fall with virtual presentation now the mode for a while. Mitch still teaches in our course.

Our second Centennial Corner in October 2020 featured David Lambert, VE3KGK. He served on the club executive in 1982-1983 as treasurer, and then as club president from 2012-2014. It was on his watch that the club found a home. A series of lucky coincidences led to the club being invited to set up a demonstration radio station at SORM, then located on the grounds of Parkwood Hospital. The occasion was the 2014 "Doors Open" annual event and LARC being there proved to be very popular with visitors to the museum. This led to the club being offered a permanent place to establish a club station in 2015 and we operated there as VE3LS, a call inherited from the London Seniors group whose station was within the hospital itself, but whose facilities had to be dismantled due to space requirements. We operated at the Parkwood facility for 3 years after which the property was going to be sold and the building torn down. Subsequently, the availability of space within the 427 Wing, a Canadian Airforce Association facility adjacent to YXU in London, was brought to our attention by Frank Birch, VE3FBZ and was another happy coincidence. This permitted the club to move in 2017-18 to the facility and, after substantial renovations by a few dedicated members, resulted in the splendid club station (pictured above) we enjoy today. It uses the callsign VE3LON. Those same members also extensively renovated an adjacent area in the building so that SORM could re-establish itself after leaving Parkwood.



Dave Lambert VE3KGK shown at the potluck Christmas Dinner 2013.

David was a member of the London Fire Department from 1986 to 2001 and, after some additional years serving with the fire department in Strathroy, finally retired in 2019.

He worked as an investigator for the LFD and is a dedicated promoter of fire safety. David is also recognized within LARC as an excellent long distance (DX) radio operator and is the “go to” guy within



Dave McCarter VE3EI operating with solar power at Field Day 2018

the club for advice on operating DX. He currently admits to having confirmed contacts with 332 of the 340 entities (countries) recognized by the ARRL which puts him in an elite group of amateur radio operators worldwide. Our Centennial Corner in November 2020 featured Dave McCarter VE3EI (also VE3GSO) who was president of LARC in 1979 and then again from 2016 - 2018. Dave is a respected senior ham who has had considerable impact on the club’s operations and who still serves LARC today as its treasurer. It was on his first watch as president that activity in the club focused on repeater establishment. One of the club’s repeaters, VA3LON, was put in operation at that time and is recognized as one of the more dependable VHF repeaters under the club’s umbrella. It supports general activities as well

as a weekly net which has helped enormously to maintain contact among club members during these extraordinary times. Dave’s second presidential term saw the move to the 427 Wing, the renovations, and the establishment of several activities at the club station which were, until recently, enjoyed by many LARC members. Until his retirement Dave was on the faculty of Fanshawe College as an instructor in electronics and he brought to the club substantial knowledge and enthusiasm for the discipline, particularly as it applies to amateur radio. He established a weekly kit-building and electronic experimentation evening which was attended by those interested in learning how to endure the agony of self immolation with hot solder, and then the ecstasy of completing a project which actually worked. He provides advice to club members on all those questions dealing with electronics in amateur radio and is a valuable resource person for the club.

To bring this condensed version of LARC’s history to a finale it is fitting to emphasize the benefits we enjoy being located at the Wing with SORM. The club station we have established is an excellent focus for our members to both use and to bring their own radio equipment in order to



QSL card for LARC club station VE3LON showing the Yagi, Hex-Beam, Vertical, and Dipole antennas.

enjoy the equipment and the antennas we have built outside. The figure shows our QSL card, used to confirm communications with other radio stations, and the four principal antennas at the Wing are pictured on it. Being able to build these antennas allows our club station to enjoy world-wide radio communications so that amateurs with more restricted antennas at home can use them. We also use them for radio contesting which is a most exciting aspect of amateur radio.



www.larc.ca

Cameron's Corner

Hurray! We have come this far and made it! The past 15 to 18 months have been almost TOO MUCH TO ENDURE!

Our 427 Wing was forced to close due to the newest threatening pandemic "Covid 19" It immediately changed our world and our daily lives! We lost friends, family, loved-ones, left us checking the daily losses locally, nationally and world-wide.

Today we have scientifically provided & approved vaccines that to date have been able to lower the death rate and provide hope for continued eradication of "Covid 19" throughout the world! It is a positive step to help us get back to some degree of normalcy!

Our 427 Wing members and families are in the most critical age bracket and we now can think about moving forward with the opportunity of opening our doors by September, if all goes well! We can create a new normal of getting back together.

A thank you goes out to all following the Health and Safety protocols and to all who renewed their memberships to provide the necessary monetary funding! A special thanks for all the donations to keep the Wing afloat till we can open and get back to our new normal! I personally wish to thank so many members who have worked tirelessly through this difficult time, So many have done so much!

THE NEW NORMAL!! Our World has Changed! We are the most senior group and we must – for all our members and family – we must have "Covid 19" Protection: two doses of approved vaccine and a mask to protect yourself and others!

The most exciting "REALITY" is being able to get together safely and Socialize once again, SAFELY!

WE have the experience and knowledge to keep ourselves and others around us HEALTHY, HAPPY and WELL! We have lost so many members and family, but we can look forward to a positive future!

Thank you for helping us making it safely through the pandemic. Better days and years ahead for a positive new future!

Angus N. (Gus) Cameron Acting Chair



MICHAEL SYDORKO

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at the age of 97. Loving husband of Jan and the late Marjorie (1995). Beloved father of the late Donna (2018) and father-in-law of Frank George. Stepfather of Steve, Mike and Scott Carrothers, and grandfather of Justin, Carly and Andrew Carrothers. Brother of Steve Sydorko (Elsa) of Winnipeg. Also survived by many nieces and nephews who will truly miss their Uncle Mickey. He was a proud veteran of World War 2. He had belonged to the London Flying Club, the London Gun Club, and the 427 (London) Wing. He enjoyed flying as a private pilot, golfing, and woodworking. The family would like to give special thanks for the care Mike received over the past 3 years at the Veterans Unit at Parkwood Institute. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army, the Men's Mission, and Veterans Care Services of Parkwood Institute. Online condolences may be left at www.forestlawnmemorial.ca.





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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Chuck Hardy Chairperson and Committee Member
Catherine Herdman

Catherine Herdman is helping with some of the membership duties. Welcome Catherine.

There is no increase in the dues for fiscal year 2021/2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). As of June 10th, 50 Wing members have renewed their membership. That is about 45% of the total membership.

We are considering two rewards: (1) a draw after June 30th for a cash prize and (2) a cash incentive for bringing in a new member.

Please see the Board Report elsewhere in this edition for information of what is happening at the Wing, even though we are closed until August when hopefully, the provincial government gives the green light to open our doors once again.

**VISIT <http://flylondon.ca/flag>
for a list and links to all the
great London International Airport
attractions:**

**427 Wing
Secrets of Radar Museum
London Amateur Radio Club
Play Away Indoor Park
Jet Aircraft Museum
Katana Kafe
Crumlin Creek Golf**



PASSING OF WILLIAM (PETE) SCHUSSER

Peacefully with his family at his side at Parkwood Hospital on May 11th in his 96th year. Beloved husband for 51 years of his wife Doreen.

Pete started his military life with the militia in 1941. He then enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Regular component in the infantry and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was released in 1946 and then re-enlisted in 1948 with RCEME as a motor vehicle mechanic. Pete served in Korea and on a peacekeeping tour in Egypt and with NATO in Germany. As a Chief Warrant Officer at Wolseley Barracks, he served with several current members of the Wing.

His 16 honours and awards include the Order of Military Merit, Knighthood with the National Order of the Legion of Honour for his service during the Liberation of France.

Pete was an active member of 427 (London) Wing, RCAF Association, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Association, Remember November 11 Association, and the London Oldtimers Sports Association. He played and refereed hockey games for many years.

He was a career consultant with the provincial government.

Pete joined the Wing in 2016 and attended many of the Friday lunches.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

GO FUND 427 WING

Go to <https://www.gofundme.com>
and search for 427 Wing to make an online donation.
As of June 25, \$4275 of \$25,000 goal met. Thank you!

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: 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
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



JULY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Pablo Calcaterra, Loree Johnston, Roland Joselyn, Jean McGinnes, Cathy Newman, Ed Rempel, Jack Schenck, Helen Simpson, Jan Sydorko, and Joe Wyatt.

AUGUST HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

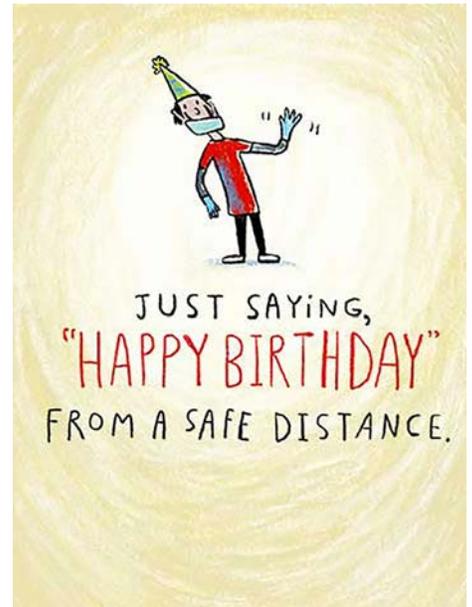
Gerard Anctil, John Brotzel, Larry Calver, Don Clarke, Gwen Clarke, Geoffrey Corfield, John DeWit, Bob Fenn, Chuck Hardy, Irene Mathysen, Rosetta McGlinchey and Greg Popelas.

*"The older the fiddler,
the sweeter the tune."*

-English Proverb

I was always taught to respect my elders and I've now reached the age when I don't have anybody to respect.

George Burns



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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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
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July 2021								August 2021								September 2021							
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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		
								AIR SHOW LONDON SKY-DRIVE AUGUST 27-29															

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	48				1	2	3	4
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																						

Doors Open London 2021 (Sept. 18-19)

is the city's largest collective celebration of history, heritage, and culture. In its 20th year, the theme for 2021 is "Celebrating 20 Years of Doors Open London."

Due to the unpredictability of Covid-19, preparations are for digital-only programming, such as virtual tours, interviews, videos of displays, etc. 427 Wing has applied to be a participant with video content on the Wing website and possibly Facebook.

Doors Open London is a great opportunity to reach new audiences. Participants will be included in London Heritage Council's city-wide marketing program and provincial Doors Open Ontario marketing, promoting each organization to tens of thousands of Londoners and across the province.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most 427 Wing 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.

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