

The London Link

March – April 2013

Volume 49, Issue 5



427 (LONDON) WING

Air Force Association of Canada

2155 Crumlin Side Road

London, ON, N5V 3Z9

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Click on website: www.427wing.com



427 (London) Wing Recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

(left to right) Charles Wright, Sam Newman, George Hexter

Presenter of the medals is Irene Mathyssen, (NDP) MP for London Fanshawe

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA (AFAC) MISSION STATEMENT – The AFAC 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 Executive Council (WEC) July 1st 2012 – June 30th 2013

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2 nd Vice President	Diana Cuthbert	519-455-1126	tdcuthbert@rogers.com
Secretary	Vacant		
Treasurer	Chuck Hardy, CD	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca

Committee Chairpersons

Sports, Sgt-at-Arms, Fundraising & Regalia – vacant – call Wing for info

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Housing	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	don.clarke@hotmail.com
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Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-2432	
Padre	Frank Mantz		
London Link Editor	Tammy Newman, CD		tammy.simon@sympatico.ca
CF Liaison Officer	Capt Ali Ullah		ali.ullah@forces.gc.ca

The Happy Gang – There is a need for a person to move kitchen pots on Thursdays (9:30 – 11:00) and Fridays (10:30 – 12:30.) Also, help is needed in the kitchen for Friday lunches from 10:30 to 1:00. This will include making coffee, setting up self-serve tables, serving lunches and clean up. No cooking or dishwashing required. For info or to volunteer, please look at the Happy Gang sign-up sheet at the entrance to the kitchen. Donated items such as coffee, tea, dessert, meat, fruit, vegetable, bread and cheese are always welcome to help make lunches a success.

250 Feet² 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.

- Rental rates start at \$200.00; see Rentals at www.427wing.com
- Catering **IS** an option... Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



Message from the President, by Rene McKinnon

Every couple of months there is an excitement around the Wing and it has to do with the forthcoming issue of our London Link. This publication just keeps getting better. There is a familiar saying "You are in good hands with... (but, in our case, it's) Tammy. I believe that I speak for every member and friend of the Wing who has the opportunity to read the London Link. Some other excitement was caused by a major storm that forced us to cancel Friday's lunch on the 8th of February. It did, however, leave us with a spectacular winter wonderland the next day and we had a very successful Chilli Cook-Off – We even had newspaper coverage from a local newspaper!!

Another on-going event is the 1st Fundraising Event, (we hope to make it an annual one,) that will conclude on 5th April 2013. At the moment we have reached the \$900 mark and are moving up. Your support is greatly appreciated. With the removal of the one cent coin from circulation, we now have a bucket at the Wing where you may contribute. It is said that every penny counts... We have a dedicated team of members and supporters. Imagination is the most marvellous, inconceivably powerful force the world has ever known. Keep those thinking caps on; you are all doing a great job!

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Per Ardua, by 1st VP Reg Lownie, CD

During the Levee at the Wing on January 1st, I was pleased when a guest asked me whose portraits were displayed on the north and south walls of the lounge. Hanging on the north wall are two portraits: William Barker (to the left) and Raymond Collishaw (to the right,) separated by the large photograph of a Spitfire aircraft. On the south wall, as you face the fireplace, the portraits are of William Bishop (to the left) and Alan McLeod (to the right,) both winners of the Victoria Cross. All four were in combat during the WWI, but only Collishaw served in WWII, retiring with the rank of Air Vice Marshal. All four are Canadian aviation military heroes and all served in England with either the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) or the Royal Air Force (RAF) or both. Here, very briefly, are their stories:

- **William George Barker** was born on November 3rd 1894 in Dauphin, MB. At age of twenty-one, he was in France with the Canadian Mounted Rifles, but later joined the RFC as an observer and began his pilot training in 1917. A natural pilot who soloed after only 55 minutes of dual instruction,

he won renown as one of the war's top balloon busters, as well as developing combat tactics that were used by both sides in WWII. On October 27th 1918, he was attacked by a large formation of enemy aircraft and, despite a wound in the right thigh and a shattered elbow, he succeeded in downing four aircraft, to bring his total to fifty enemy machines destroyed. Although his post-war years were filled with constant pain and debilitation, he continued his career in the RAF and later the RCAF before retiring near Simcoe, ON in 1924. In 1930, he became the president of Fairchild Aviation in Montreal. In March of that year he flew the company's newest two-seater at a demo in Ottawa. While in a steep climb, the aircraft flipped over and crashed, killing him instantly.

- **Raymond Collishaw** was one of Canada's most exciting and least known aerial aces. He was born in Nanaimo, BC on November 22nd 1893 and died in West Vancouver at the age of eighty-three. He left school at age fifteen and, when WWI began, he enlisted in the Royal Naval Aviation Service (RNANS) in England. Fighting over France was continuous, with three and four flights a day, each one guaranteeing a battle. By war's end, he claimed he had downed eighty-one aircraft and eight balloons but was officially credited with sixty-one kills, second only to "Billy" Bishop. After the war, he was commissioned in the RAF, posted to Russia in 1910 and flew in combat during the Russian Revolution. He later commanded a squadron flying against rebel forces in Iraq (then Mesopotamia,) became Senior RAF Officer aboard HMS Courageous, and posted to command posts in Egypt and Scotland. He retired from the RAF in 1943 as an Air Vice-Marshal and settled near Barkerville, BC.
- **William Avery "Billy" Bishop** was born in Owen Sound, ON, February 8th 1894. In 1911, he left Royal Military College in Kingston to join a cavalry detachment assigned to the Canadian Mounted Rifles at Wolseley Barracks in London, ON. He transferred to the RFC in England and graduated as a pilot after four hours of flying training. In some sectors during WWI, the average life span of a pilot was eleven days. Bishop learned quickly and developed the art of deflection shooting. On June 2nd 1917, he shot down two enemy aircraft and attacked several more on the ground. He later destroyed another aircraft and damaged a fourth, despite damage to his own aircraft from ground fire. For this single-handed action he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first Canadian flyer to receive this honour. When WWII began he was appointed Air Marshal in charge of recruitment. He was a tireless campaigner for recruiting and he died in his sleep at age sixty-two.
- **Alan Arnet McLeod** was born in Stonewall, MB in 1899 and enrolled in the RFC at age eighteen. He soloed after three hours of flying experience and graduated with less than fifty flying hours. Posted to France, he was assigned to fly the FK 8, a sturdy but slow two-seater bomber with forward and aft-facing machine guns, which he decided to use as a fighter whenever he got the chance. Flying three missions a day, he and his observer would cruise behind German lines looking for the chance to shoot at enemy aircraft. During a bombing mission on March 17th 1918, they shot down one enemy aircraft before being attacked by seven others. A second enemy aircraft was destroyed but McLeod's aircraft was hit. McLeod was wounded three times, his observer suffered six wounds and the aircraft caught on fire. Facing almost certain death from the enemy and the burning aircraft, McLeod climbed from the cockpit onto the lower left wing, reached into the control column and yawned the aircraft to fan the flames to the right side. As he side-slipped the aircraft, his observer shot another attacking aircraft out of control. McLeod managed to crash in no-mans land and dragged his observer to a shell hole before the aircraft exploded. They were rescued by Allied troops and returned to England to recuperate. McLeod was awarded the Victoria Cross three weeks before his 19th birthday. He contracted the Spanish flu and died five days before the Armistice.

Last Post: It is with our deepest sympathy and condolences that we take this opportunity to inform you of the passing of:
December 25, 2012

Jean Storie



Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



If anyone has some RCAF tartan material they are not using, please consider donating it to the Wing. The tartan will be used to make articles like bags and clothing for teddy bears etc. These items will then be sold and all proceeds will go to the Wing. Contact Hilda Smeltzer for more information.



Tokens from the Treasurer, by Chuck Hardy, CD

The monthly financial picture is just like an escalator; it goes up or down depending on revenue and expenses each month. For instance, the Wing had a profit in September, October and November 2012 that totalled \$3,571.27. We had a loss in July, August and December that totalled \$6,077.51. Expenses exceeded revenue by \$2,506.24 for the first six months of the fiscal year.

The numbers attending Friday lunches has an impact on the bottom line as do rentals and other events. When the figures are confirmed for January 2013, we expect to see a modest profit of about \$200.00. Our new Entertainment Committee Chairperson, Lynda Holmes, along with 2nd VP, Diana Cuthbert, have plans well underway to bring in the crowds starting with a Chilli Cook-Off on the 9th of February. Membership renewals and fundraising campaigns are expected to brighten up the picture. Lynda and Diana can always use help as there is a lot of behind the scenes work in planning events.

Thanks to everyone who have continued to donate books in the ongoing sale. When donating, we ask you not to bring out magazines and old hard covers without a paper cover. They do not sell. We welcome CDs, jigsaw puzzles and computer games as well. I hope to see you at the Wing soon.

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<p>Together, we can make a difference!</p>		

My Two Cents' Worth, by Tammy Newman, CD

Have you heard of "Earth Hour?" It is a worldwide event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and held towards the end of March annually, encouraging households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness about the need to take action on climate change. There's more to it than switching off lights for one hour once a year – it's all about giving people a voice and working together to create a better future for our planet, where people can live in harmony with nature. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of our natural environment. Earth Hour 2013 will be held across the world on Saturday, March 23rd from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time.

Why get involved? Put simply, because our future depends on it! Together, we send a powerful message for action to save the planet. Last year, over 4000 cities participated, including landmarks such as Big Ben, the Empire State Building, the Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower, the Parthenon, the Brandenburg Gate and the Forbidden City. Please, try to do your part and power down during the hour long Earth Hour on the 23rd of March.



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Annual Reviews, by Sam Newman, London Regional Director, ACLC/OPC

These dates are the tentatively scheduled dates for the upcoming Air Cadet Annual Reviews. 427 (London) Wing Members and guests are invited to attend any and all inspections. More information will be delivered as the time gets closer. At this early date, one can presume there may be some changes with this schedule along the way. Updates will be published accordingly.

- Saturday, 11th May – **614 Forest City Squadron** – at Diamond A/C Industries Inc – Reviewing Officer (RO) is RAdm Andrew Smith – Time: 1300
- Saturday, 25th May – **3 Striker Squadron, Strathroy** – at Gemini Centre in Strathroy – RO is Laurie Hayman, Chief of Police in Strathroy – Time: 1300
- Saturday, 1st June – **27 City of London Squadron** – at Carling Heights Optimist Club – RO and Time are to be announced (TBA)
- Saturday, 1st June – **741 Elgin Squadron, St Thomas** – at St Thomas Arena – RO is LCol Lawrence Hatfield – Time: 1300
- Thursday, 6th June – **599 Marc Garneau Squadron** – at Gabriel Dumont H.S. – Time: 1900
- Saturday, 8th June – **201 Dorchester Squadron** – at Dorchester Arena/CC – RO and Time: TBA
- Saturday, 15th June – **862 Lambeth Squadron** – at Diamond A/C Industries Inc – RO is LCol MacMillan – Time: TBA

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Euchre Club News, by Chuck Hardy, CD

Hello everyone. I'm hoping this update on Wednesday euchre will not only inform players who have not been able to get out lately, but will also possibly attract some new players. Sam leads with the most loners as of January 30th. Skill seems to play a bigger part than luck, right Sam? Now euchres

are another story that we will not talk or brag about in this column. When it comes to “cardology,” Don Clarke knows how to spin those cards around as he has the high score to date of 779.

Our numbers are down lately because of illness and it is hoped that all will be able to join us soon. Remember, if you miss a week, you still receive forty points. Often, some of us just make the minimum forty-one points for attending when the eight games are tallied up, taking into account the addition of two points for each loner and then taking away one point for each euchre. Some weeks it is necessary to have a “dummy table,” such as when eleven players attend. That table enjoys lots of laughter as one can take more chances and, of course, the “dummy” can renege as his cards are played as they were dealt. Whether or not you are Wing members, if you have not tried the game and would like to, come out Wednesday around 1:15 – you will be among friends.



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Quiz: No \$\$ for prizes... winners will get the satisfaction of knowing they understand the Wing well.

- How many Air Cadet Squadrons does 427 (London) Wing support? **Answers on page #10**
 - Three
 - Five
 - Seven
- Armin and Judy will be conducting a tour to Huron County Playhouse on June 12, 2013 to see:
 - Cats
 - The Sound of Music
 - The Wizard of Oz
- The land 427 (London) Wing sits on is owned by:
 - Community of Middlesex Centre
 - City of London
 - London Airport Authority
- 427 (London) Wing will celebrate the 89th Anniversary of the RCAF on:
 - Friday April 5, 2013
 - Monday April 1, 2013
 - The Wing will not celebrate this year, but wait until the 90th Anniversary next year
- The continuing weekly fund raiser sale at the Wing that started in June 2011 sells mostly:
 - Books
 - Model airplanes
 - T-shirts and hats
- The London Link is published every:
 - Three months
 - No set schedule
 - Two months
- What social activity occurs at 427 (London) Wing on Wednesday afternoons starting a 1:30 p.m?
 - Square Dancing
 - Bingo
 - Euchre


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Newfie Club Championship – Connie and Stosh are standing on the 18th tee at their Cornerbrook Newfie Country Club. They are the final twosome in the Newfie Country Club Championship and are tied for the lead. The 18th hole is a beautiful par four with a deep valley descending down to a dogleg right. Both Connie and Stosh hit long, straight tee shots which disappear down into the valley. A short time later, the fore caddie appears at the top of the hill and announces that both balls are within a foot of each other, but there's a problem. Both of the golf balls are Titleist #4s. Connie and Stosh look at each other and realizing they didn't know what kind of ball they were playing, or its number. They descend into the valley and, sure enough, their two Titleist golf balls are right next to each at the bottom of the valley in the middle of the fairway. Stosh looks at Connie and says, "We had better get a ruling from a tournament official to straighten this out. This is the Newfie Championship and we don't want to be disqualified for making a mistake and hitting the wrong ball. After all, we are tied for the lead." Soon after, a rules official appears and examines the two #4 Titleist golf balls. He then looks up at Connie and Stosh and says, "Which one of you is playing the orange ball?"



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Edward V. Rickenbacker – An Old Guy and a Bucket of Shrimp – It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun was orange and starting to dip into the blue ocean. Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favourite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself; no one, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts and his shrimp. Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.' In a few short minutes the bucket is empty, but Ed doesn't leave. He is lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs and then they, too, fly away and old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home. If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. To onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own world, feeding the gulls with a bucket full of shrimp. Most of them would probably write Old Ed off. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name is Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero back in World War I. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane and climbed into a life raft. Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were. They needed a miracle. That afternoon, they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie

leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft. Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull. Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off and he and his starving crew made a meal – a very slight meal – for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after twenty-four days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... and he never stopped saying 'Thanks.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude. This is a true story and will be revealed over the next few issues. I hope you enjoy learning about him.



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ANOTHER Diamond Jubilee Medal for a Wing Member – Sam Newman

Congratulations Mr Sam Newman, retired Captain of the Canadian Forces! The commemorative medal you have received marks the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada – an occasion marked only once before, by her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, in 1897. To note, Sam was also awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.



Sam Newman, a member of 427 (London) Wing AFAC, was presented the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal on Friday, the 11th of January 2013 by Irene Mathysen, (NDP) MP for London Fanshawe.

Sam served in the Regular Forces from 1959 to 1993. Since 1978, he has worked with the Air Force Association of Canada, the Group Executive, the National Executive and, of course, 427 (London) Wing. He has had a lengthy involvement with the Air Cadet League of Canada as well as many other Veterans' organizations. This official medal serves as a mark of thanks to all those who give so much in the name of society and public service and 427 (London) Wing members extend hearty congratulations.



Whatever happened to the CANEX? by 1st VP Reg Lownie, CD

For retired military members and their families who were familiar with the CANEX (Canadian Forces Exchange System) program when it was first introduced as part of the military base services, CANEX has changed. It is now part of a relatively new and much larger program called the Canadian Forces

(CF) Personnel and Family Support Services (CFPFSS).

CFPFSS is tasked with supporting the CF's operational effectiveness, contributing to morale, esprit de corps and unit cohesion. You can guess from that description that CANEX is no longer the pocket-sized grocery, hardware and general store we used to know, but has grown to encompass businesses like the following: ExpressMarts, Grocery Stores, Retail Stores, Food Services, Concessions, On-line Shopping, No-Interest Credit Plan, Customer Loyalty Programs, Home and Auto Insurance and a Home Heating Oil Program. Most of these services are available only on Regular Force, active-duty bases, wings and units throughout Canada, but note that on-line shopping is available if you have a computer.



Another program offered under CFPFSS is the CF Appreciation Program, created to offer a variety of discounts to CF Community in recognition of their sacrifices and dedication, particularly in the areas of family vacations, leisure travel, entertainment and accommodations. The CF Community is composed of members and families of the following: the Regular Force, the Reserve Force, former CF, DND, NPF and Foreign Military serving with the CF in Canada.

The CF Appreciation Program will be of interest to retired military personnel as it offers the opportunity to enjoy vacations at popular destinations around the world for the incredibly low price of \$349 USD per week, in accommodations at more than 4,000 resorts, apartments, condominiums and homes in more than 100 countries, on a "space available" basis. You can learn more about these programs and services by clicking on: <http://www.cfpsa.com/> and <http://www.cfappreciation.ca/>

<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynn Bates • Robert Cross • Justa Gilliland• George Johnston • Chris Redfearn • Edward Slivinski • Hilda Smeltzer• John Tevlin, CD • Dick Thomas, CD • Bill Webster • Bill Welsh •	<p>Birthday Brats</p>	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barry Daugharty • Don Gilks • Judy Grunwald • Catherine Herdman • Bill Hines, CD • Melville Hymers • Sonia Kaipainen • Brian McCarthy • Fred Ryder• Mike Sydorko
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♪♪♪ **The Sound of Music and Dinner at Hessenland Country Inn** ♪♪♪

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♪ **Date:** Wednesday, 12th June, 2013 ♪ **Cost** per Person: \$95.00

♪ **Payment Deadline:** Wednesday, 1st May – include choice of the entrée for dinner – beef or salmon

♪ **Cheques payable** to "RLMI" and mailed to 333 Hartson Road, London, N6H 5B7 before 1st May

Wing Quiz Answers from Page #7 ... Answers 1 – c; 2 – b; 3 – c; 4 – a; 5 – a; 6 – c; 7 – c

March 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Lunch FM	2
3 LVRC	4	5 RAA	6	7 WT	8 Lunch WEC	9
10	11	12 MAC	13 BCC	14	15 Lunch FM	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Lunch GM	23 Earth Hour -see pg #5 WRSM Pub Night
24/ 31 Easter	25	26 FO	27	28	29 Closed	30

April 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 RAA	3	4 WT	5 RCAF Lunch	6
7	8	9 MAC	10 BCC	11	12 Lunch WEC	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Lunch FM	20 CS
21	22	23 FO	24	25	26 Lunch GM/NM	27
28	29	30				

- **FM** – Friday movies after lunch
- **LVRC** – London Vintage Radio Club meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **RAA** – Recreational Aircraft Association meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **WT** – Wood Turners meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **MAC** – Model Aircraft Club meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **BCC** – British Car Club meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **WRSM** – Western Ontario Wings, Spring Meeting – March 23rd at 09:30 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. meeting. Meeting goes until 1:00 p.m. Lunch is no longer provided but Cosmos' Restaurant is across the street and there are others in the area. Wing Members are invited and welcome to attend. Please advise the President Rene if you will be attending by the March 15th.
- **Pub Night** – March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Held at 427 (London) Wing. Tickets are \$10.00. Music – Dancing – Trivia. Sponsored by 201 Dorchester SSC. For more info, email hoopertam@yahoo.com

- **FO** – Fanshawe Optimist’s Club meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesdays in April – 427 (London) Wing – Golf Starts** (date TBA.) Starting at 9:00 a.m. at Crumlin Creek Golf Course on Crumlin Side Road. If you are interested, come out and join us or leave a message at 427 Wing. Green fees – \$10.00 plus HST; Power Cart – \$10.00 plus HST; Pull Carts are available.
- **RCAF 89th Anniversary Celebration** – Roast beef is the main course of this April 5th luncheon. There will be a special 89th Anniversary cake with the RCAF logo on it, which will be cut at noon.
- **CS – Conn Smythe** – April 20th for an afternoon of dancing, games and food!! He was well received, with many positive comments during the Chilli Cook-Off and so we’ve invited him back.
- **NM – Nomination Meeting** April 26th – Please join us for nominating the executive for 2013/2014.

9 Holes For \$10



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Membership Update, by Cathy Newman

Welcome to our newer members. It's great to have you as part of our Wing and we hope you will enjoy your time spent here. Hopefully, winter has been treating you well and you have been able to dodge the terrible winter ailments. Soon, spring will show her lovely face to cheer us up! This time of year I start getting questions about Membership fees and when are they due to be paid. Memberships do not expire until the end of June and I will be sending out a statement to each member some time after mid April. Some of you have paid in advance for a year or more, in which case you will not receive an invoice. If you feel that you owe and don't receive a bill, you can always contact me to verify your details. I'm hoping for a 100% renewal of our members this year – don't disappoint me!

Empty Ink Cartridge Fundraiser for 1947 Aeronca Chief Aircraft Project – There's a box at the Wing to deposit all empty cartridges. For each one, the Project will receive a donation of up to \$2.50 to sponsor the Air Cadets. This money contributes toward fundraising for the Aeronca Chief rebuilding. For more information, contact LCol (ret'd) Armin or Judy Grunwald.

- In 2008, we began the rebuilding of vintage aircraft, which was donated to the Air Cadet Program; the Project will continue for a number of years;
- The Air Cadet League of Canada has approved the sponsorship of this project to enhance skills in Aviation Technology and Maintenance;
- This exciting opportunity, where cadets can earn a high school credit, has been organized to help train Air Cadets, which, undoubtedly, will benefit the Community.



Chilli Cook-off Results, by Diana Cuthbert, 2nd VP

Thanks to the many members who stepped forward to help and Lynda Holmes, our new Entertainment Chairperson, for putting out signs, serving the chilli, selling chances on the Valentine Kisses jar and, last but not least, cleaning up. We had wonderful music played by Conn Smythe. We have invited him back for April 20th for an afternoon of dancing, games and food.

After enduring winter's wrath, the 427 (London) Wing, AFAC, Chilli Cook-off Challenge took place on Saturday, 9th February. The Challenge was successful with ten different pots of chilli being entered, tasted and rated. All ten chillies went under the scrutiny of both the judges and discerning chilli connoisseurs. The individual winner was Reg Lownie (1st VP, 427 Wing) with his vegetarian chilli. The group winner was the Royal Canadian Naval Association, London Area Branch. All of the members and guests enjoyed the samplings and picked their favourite one to lunch on afterwards. Second and third places were tied between Flo Douglas and Diana Cuthbert, both from 427 Wing.



Food Services Member Flo Douglas, President Rene and Entertainment Chair Lynda Holmes
(photo: Judy Grunwald)

Heritage and History, by David Smith

From April to September this year, there will be thirteen engine run-ups done on the Lancaster bomber that is located at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada in Nanton, Alberta. Following is the date and time details. For more info: www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/event_merlinrunups.html
For Bomber Command newsletters: www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/newsletters/current.pdf

Date	Time	Special Event, if any
* Engine run-ups are subject to the aircraft being serviceable and other factors. *		
* Please confirm by visiting the website immediately prior to the date. *		
Saturday, April 20 th	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday, April 20 th	2:00 p.m.	
Saturday, May 11 th	11:00 a.m.	70 th Anniversary of the Dams Raid
Saturday, May 11 th	2:00 p.m.	70 th Anniversary of the Dams Raid
Saturday, June 1 st	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday, June 1 st	2:00 p.m.	
Saturday, July 6 th	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday, July 6 th	2:00 p.m.	
Monday, August 5 th	2:00 p.m.	Nanton Parade Day
Saturday, August 24 th	11:00 a.m.	Salute to the Royal Canadian Legion
Saturday, August 24 th	2:30 p.m.	Salute to the Royal Canadian Legion
Saturday, September 21 st	11:00 a.m.	Last Engine Run of the Year
Saturday, September 21 st	2:00 p.m.	Last Engine Run of the Year

Our Worth, by Sam Newman, CD

To members of the Wing and like minded aviation friends of the Wing – did you know that you can keep current on the Wing by attending meetings and Friday lunches, tuning into the 427 (London) Wing website at www.427wing.com or reading the London Link. It takes a number of people to do everything needed in order to run a Fraternity such as ours. We have fourteen members who sit on

our Wing Executive Committee, attempting to bring their thoughts, abilities and efforts to fruition... all to serve and to please **YOU**. More and more, this seems to be an exercise in futility if we can't somehow get you out to contribute more than you currently do, with your time and/or your money. Here's the math... the Air Force Association of Canada charges \$44 for membership into their organization. 427 (London) Wing charges you \$65, \$5 of which goes to support our Ontario Group Executive in order that they can carry out their mandate of support to our twenty-six Wings. This means that we, 427 Wing, retain the paltry sum of \$16 to run our club. YES, I said, \$16 of your \$65 is turned over to our Treasurer to keep and that is what we pay the bills with!

Simply put, we need cash to sustain ourselves. We have to pay the bills that arrive regularly each month. A few weeks ago, one of our stalwart supporters provided (free of charge) the where-with all for a Friday cabbage-roll luncheon. The Wing reaped the proceeds of which were directed into the cash register. That's dedication! My purpose is that I wish the members to look ahead. We need to focus on the next step and move forward. Henry Ford (you probably have heard this one) is quoted as saying "If you think you can, you can. If you think you cant you can't." As you know, both are true.

It saddens me to see the lack of support that we get for our Friday Luncheons, our Wednesday Cards or the few highlights like the one that we held just this weekend past, the Chilli Cook-Off Competition. Thanks to our neighbours over at the Jet Museum and their supporters, as well as outside Veteran's Clubs who entered the Chilli Cook-off and won it (Go Navy) and the rest of the visitors, we recouped some of the monies we should have been taking in during the regular Friday lunches. For those that did not get to the Cook-off, you missed our Regular Forces Liaison Officer, Capt. Ullah, who was down from North Bay to talk with anyone who wished to talk to him. The bar made a modest profit, and we had a fair crowd out, but alas, we didn't see YOU!

Fortunately, we have members, on a regular basis, who donate foodstuffs like dessert, tea and coffee, meat, fresh vegetables in season, door prizes and purchase tickets for functions whether they show up or not. There are some, whose donations are much larger, depending on their financial capabilities, who anonymously donate to our coffers, and to those we are greatly indebted. What I am trying to say, my good friends, is this: "Please try and be one of those donors if your attendance happens to be sporadic. If you can't contribute at the door, but you like coming to the Club with the greatest AMBIANCE in town whenever it's possible, then please consider dropping a cheque in the mail, addressed to the 427 (London) Wing and ensure that we keep this place alive."

I'll tell you, we would rather have your presence in person, but we know that's not always possible. We value ALL of our members and we ask you, with all sincerity, please try and support your club in a stronger manner than ever. We need your concrete ideas, but even more we need your presence at the Wing. Don't be afraid to attend or, if unable, to spend a few dollars. Show your Executive they ARE making a difference and you appreciate their efforts. All I can say is that we'd rather you be a part of the solution instead of being a part of the problem! Thanks folks! See you at the Wing!

Radio-Telephony

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?" The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The pilot replied, "What difference does it make?" The controller replied "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to "Happy Hour."