

STAR WEEKLY

TORONTO
DECEMBER 11, 1943

10
CENTS

WING MATE

Newsletter of 408-437 Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada



DECEMBER 2018

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA MISSION STATEMENT

The Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization whose aim is to commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's Air Force since its inception, advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force and, support the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

2018-2019 Executive

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	Cécile Thompson
	[110 Squadron]
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Fellowship Chair.....	Barbara Newman
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Sick and Visiting

Be sure to advise Barbara Newman, Fellowship Chair, if you are aware of a Wing member who is ill or in distressed circumstances.

Barbara can be reached at 416-223-7840.

Events Schedule 2018-19

December 10th..... Christmas/Hannukah Dinner
 December 17th..... Air Cadets Christmas Dinner
 Moss Park Armoury
 January..... Film Night
 February..... Film Night

December



Doreen Wilson

Happy Birthday!

President's Message

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron
Royal Canadian Air Cadets



By Jackie Johnston



A Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas to all our members on behalf of your Executive, our heartfelt best wishes to all during this special time and the coming year. For those who still believe, with a bit of luck Santa will fulfill all of your wishes, (Ok accept that one) provided of course that your name appears on the on the 'right' or should I say the correct side of His *Book*. Don't else does he right presents? I how it's done on white picket Hanukkah is celebrated why and the significance ofcourse presents on each of those days. I just finished shopping for those for my goddaughter. I know, but it's a story for another day. Santa is one of the greatest tools in our parenting arsenal. For two months there is sibling harmony, obedience at a level not seen until next November. Imagine this, toys are back in the toy box at the end of the day, laundry in the basket (more or less). Broccoli on your plate? Not an issue and so on. Any resistance can be stalled. All one has to do is cock an eyebrow and whisper '*Santa is taking names.*' So is there a Santa? You decide.



I was down at the R.C.M.I. in Toronto for the Santa Clause parade. It's a great place for this as there are two balconies fronting the parade as it passes by. There were about ten to fifteen kids I'd say between five to ten years old watching the parade. There were numerous floats of all kinds. But the one that seemed to create major excitement was the one from Maple Leaf Foods. Among other things it boasted two giant hot dogs and two strips of bacon of equal height (standing). As it passed there was a chorus of young and enthusiastic voices all yelling '*I want to eat you.*' Go figure. Our Christmas Dinner is held on 10 December at the Legion. Come and join your friends. Live music/Open bar/Great company.

An invitation is extended to all Wing members, their spouses and friends to attend the annual Toronto Falcon Squadron Christmas dinner. There is no charge for this event.

Date: Monday, December 17

Time: 6:30 for 7:00 pm

**Place: Moss Park Armoury
130 Queen Street East
at Jarvis**

Dress: Jacket and tie

Parking is available at the back of the building.



Your Wing Executive at work, November 2018

110 Black Hawk Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets



Cecile Thompson, Liaison Officer



As we are becoming a more cashless society, donations to the tag days were affected, amounting to \$16,000 (instead of \$20,000.) However, the same effort is required from our cadets and we are proud of them for their tenacity.

The Scarborough City Centre holds its Remembrance Day ceremony a week ahead and so 110 Squadron carried its new wreath up the 24 steps in the rotunda on November 4th this year.

A mess dinner is being planned for December 18th to which President Nick Czernkovich has been invited after he extended the same courtesy to the Wing's Christmas dinner on December 10th to two cadets accompanied by an officer. The Commanding Officer, Capt Kevin Vieneer will join us then and have the chance to share plans for 110 Squadron in 2019 with our new members.

Joyeux Noël,

Cecile

I was a tour guide
& a riveter on the
Lanc, John.



Big deal, Terry.
I worked on
the Arrow replica!

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Caledon.

The exhibits include a full-scale replica of the Avro Arrow that was built in 1998 by engineers who had worked on the real thing in the 1950s.

Aerodrome owner Milan Kroupa reached out to the museum's board members after he heard about the existence of the Arrow.

"I was quite interested in bringing it here, and that's how the discussion started," he said.

He also agreed to fund the cost of moving the museum's contents — more than 20 storage containers — up to Edenvale.

Kroupa has a 8,000-square-foot hangar available with high ceilings, and the museum could be open by early next summer.

There will be some artifacts on display outside, but the majority of the pieces — including the Arrow replica — will remain indoors. He will also be reconfiguring the area so it will be easily accessible to the public.

Downsview Air Museum Finds a New Home

The Edenvale Aerodrome will soon be home to Canada's aviation history.

The aerodrome on Hwy. 26 east of Stayner has been designated the host of the Canadian Air and Space Conservancy, which was forced to move from its former home at the Downsview Airport in 2011 — with its artifacts warehoused at a variety of sites over the last several years, most recently a storage facility in

John Wreglesworth and I volunteered at the Downsview museum a few years ago before the doors were chained up for "non-payment of rent". The city of Toronto and the federal and provincial governments were very short-sighted when they let an historic site like Downsview go. Designated as a C-class air museum, the Downsview site was constantly looking for funding and depended on donations to survive. Although a bit removed from Toronto and its visitors from abroad, we wish the new site all the best in its development.

A Rare Incident Over Germany

On December 20th, 1943, an American B-17F crew was on its first mission. The pilot, 2nd Lt. Charlie Brown, was flying *Ye Olde Pub* towards a ten-minute bombing run over Bremen. Its target was the Focke-Wulf 190 factory guarded by 250 flak guns and, of course, hundreds of fighters.

As the Flying Fortress was about to make its run, flak blew out the plexiglass nose and took out the no.2 engine and damaged the no. 4 engine. The bomber quickly became a straggler.



At this point a dozen fighters jumped *Ye Olde Pub* and inflicted more damage during a period of ten minutes. No.3 engine became damaged reducing total engine power to 40%. Also damaged: the hydraulics, oxygen supply and electrical systems. Lost were the port elevator, half of the rudder and the use of some of the guns which jammed due to improper oiling by the ground crew. Left were two dorsal turret guns and three nose guns. The tail gunner was dead from a direct hit from a cannon shell and most of the remaining crew were wounded.

The morphine syrettes were frozen and the radio was destroyed. The end seemed very close for *Ye Olde Pub* which was soon spotted from the ground. Luftwaffe pilot Franz Stigler took off to shoot it down.

As Stigler in his Messerschmidt Bf 109 approached the B-17. He could see the wounded through the damaged airframe and recalled what his commanding officer had once said: "If I ever see or hear of you shooting at a man in a parachute, I will shoot you myself." The wounded crew appeared to Stigler as helpless as men in parachutes. Twice he gestured to Brown to land at a German field or fly to neutral Sweden but none of the crew could understand Stigler.

The German then flew in formation off the B-17's port wing so that the bomber would not be targeted by anti-aircraft units. Stigler escorted *Ye Olde Pub* to the coast and open water.

Not understanding Stigler's intentions, Brown ordered the dorsal turret gunner to aim his guns at the German to warn him off. Stigler understood, saluted and turned away.

Brown flew his bomber across the North Sea and landed at an alternate RAF base. When he told the story at debriefing, he was told to keep it to himself lest allied crews develop any positive sentiment towards the enemy pilots.

Stigler said nothing to anyone after landing, knowing that he could face execution for act of kindness.

Charlie Brown stayed in the air force until retirement and Stigler emigrated to Canada in 1953 as a businessman. Brown decided to look up Franz Stigler in 1986 and found his contact information from a combat pilot association. They spoke on the telephone, later met in person and became good friends until they both died within months of each other in 2008.

Their story is in the book, *A Higher Call* by Adam Makos. □



Cool Paint Jobs



New Women's Shelter

Barbara Newman and John Wreglesworth, both members of the Wing's council, attended a special ceremony at the site recently. Our Wing has supported this cause since 2005 and, now after several years in an undersized house, a new facility is rising to replace the older building.



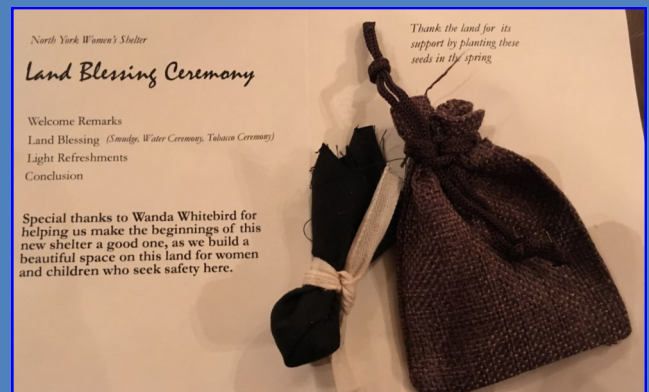
Barbara Newman and John Wreglesworth

"A special thank you is extended to Wanda Whitebird who helped us make the beginnings of this new shelter a good one, as we build a beautiful space on this land for women and children who seek safety here"

Barbara Newman received a card with a sachet of plant seeds to plant and tobacco in honour of the home and to bless the site.

The ceremonial drum used in the ceremony will be on permanent display at the new shelter.

Thank you, Barb and John, for representing our Wing.



Card with Seeds and Tobacco



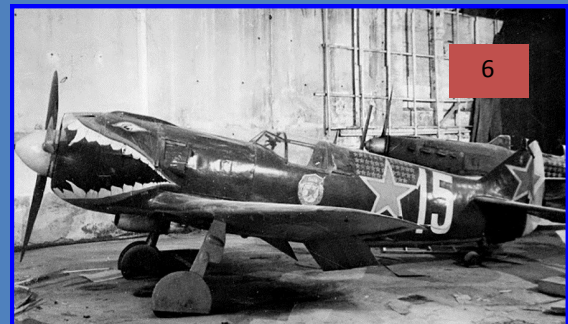
Barbara Whitebird and the ceremonial drum



First Nations guest Wanda Whitebird burns sweet grass at the ceremony



Russian Aircraft of World War II–Difficulty: ★★★★★☆



Ilyushin Il-2 Sturmovik (4)

MiG-3 (9)

Petlyakov Pe-2

Lavochkin La-5 (6)

Lavochkin L-7 (2)

Yak-9 (3)

Polikarpov I-16 (5)

MiG-1 (1)

Yak-3 (7)

