



# **Royal Canadian Air Force Association**

## **RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing**

### **Newsletter – 1st Quarter 2020**

Vol 4 Edition 1



#### 1. RCAF Mission Statement:

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is a national aerospace and community service organization that commemorates the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's air forces since its inception; advocates for a proficient and well equipped air force; and, supports the Royal Canadian Air Cadet programme.

#### 2. Last Flight:



#### **Dr. Jim McPhee**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1925 – Ophir, ON**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Barrie, ON**

Dr. Jim McPhee passed away peacefully, on his own terms, with his family at his side at RVH. He was a kind and gentle soul and was admired by all of our Wing members. Doc was a Second World War veteran who was proud to tell of his involvement during that war. His Celebration of Life took place on Friday, 22 Nov, 2019 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147, Barrie with more that 30 of our Wing members in attendance. Should members wish a copy of the .ppt presentation about Doc's life, please ask Bill Sergeant for a DVD of it. The RCAF Association Ontario Central Region Vice President Brenda Lynn Rice Wilson sent the following message to his family, "Stand down Dr. James McPhee. Your earthly battle is complete. Blue Skies Forever. You may be gone from our lives but you will Never be forgotten by all who loved you. Thank you for your service Sir. Per Ardua ad Astra."

Here is a YouTube link to Doc McPhee's 2-hours interview that was done last summer by a BC Historian (Eric Blunt) who has interviewed other WW2 Veterans.

<https://youtu.be/edt-Mfi7yFk>

#### **Lt. Col (Ret) Fern Villeneuve:**

Canadian aviation legend Lt. Col (Ret) Fern Villeneuve passed on 24 December, 2019 at the age of 92. Fern founded the RCAF Golden Hawks and had an amazing career as a fighter pilot in the RCAF. Always an avid pilot Fern continued flying his personal Globe Swift up to a few days prior to his death. He will be missed.



### 3. Wing Fund Raising Activities:

The Wing has started two new fund raising initiatives this past fall with the sale of tickets for two different draws. For the first draw, Les Ball has put a lot of effort into getting a license for the Wing for members to sell 300 “**\$ 100 Month Draw Tickets**” for 2020. Although initial sales have been good, there are **still 50 tickets yet to be sold**. The first of the 12-monthly draws will take place at our 14 January meeting at the Legion. The tickets are in books of 5, and the tickets cost \$10.00 each. As such, the Wing could benefit significantly by selling the remaining tickets before the initial draw. If you would like to sell some tickets, or just buy some for yourself or loved ones, please give Les a call at 705-737-1761 or e-mail him at [loles@rogers.com](mailto:loles@rogers.com). There are six people who still have money and ticket stubs that need to be turned in to Les before the draw. Please to be sure to turn them in before the January meeting.

For the second fund raiser, Michael O’Shea has liaised with the Kiwanis Club of Barrie to piggy-back on their “**Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World**” tickets. The prize is a \$5,000 travel voucher and \$2,500 to cover hotel, ground transport and a very decadent meal. The second place prize is \$500 and the third prize is \$250. Half of the money raised from the tickets sold by 441 Wing members will be donated back to the Wing by Kiwanis. It’s a great opportunity to have a great dream vacation and to help us raise needed funds for our charitable works. The winners will be drawn on January 1, 2020. We sold \$1,730 worth of tickets so we will get a cheque for **\$865.00** at the end of January thanks to Michael’s efforts and the efforts of those who have sold tickets for this draw. Well done.

### 4. Wing Golf Shirts:

Another initiative that Michael O’Shea has undertaken is to raise the profile of our Wing at the Provincial AGMs by procuring custom Wing Golf Shirts. They are an excellent shirt with high quality fabric and embroidering and are available in either blue or red. The cost is \$36.00 including tax. Payment can be cash, cheque made payable to Michael or an e-transfer to [moshea808@rogers.com](mailto:moshea808@rogers.com) . No need to pay before delivery. The initial order has already been submitted and received but if you wish to purchase one, you can put your name on a waiting list with Michael for the second order. For those who have ordered the shirts, but not received them yet, they can be picked up at the meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### 5. Three New Members of the Wing Initiated:



Three new Wing members were initiated at the November 18, 2019 General Meeting. Left to right: Wing President Bill Sergeant; Peter Shaver; Rory MacKinnon; Jason Dunfield; and Past-President Bob Coxon. Welcome aboard Peter, Rory and Jason Dunfield in Barrie, Ontario.

There are three other members who we are looking forward to being initiated as new members of our Wing at our January meeting. They are Maureen Kennedy, HCol Renee Van Kessel and Tom Carney Jr.

### 6. Christmas Social:

Wing members enjoyed another memorable Christmas Social at the CFB Borden’s World War One era Air Annex Museum on Sunday, 1 December, 2019. Jane Coxon, Cooky

Ellis, Lorraine Carney, Maj Andrea Sloan and MWO Jason Dunfield organized the wonderful event. Despite the snow and ice that were forecast in abundance that day, 43 members of the Wing plus guests from 429 (Georgina) Wing and 102 RCAC Sqn were in attendance. Right from the warm welcome that everyone received as they entered with the festive corsages and airplanes, we knew the event was going to be fantastic. We were very impressed by the way the tables were set up and decorated as well as the RCAF 'goodies' that were put out for members to take home with them. The food was delicious, the games were challenging and fun, and the prizes were appreciated by everyone who won them. Overall, everyone who attended the dinner had an amazing time. We had so much fun during the afternoon that it took our minds off of the weather outside, and time seemed to fly by.



The Air Annex proved to be the perfect place to hold our Wing's annual Christmas Social again this year. The set up of the tables and the decorations added to the festive spirit.



Many thanks to Jane, Cooky and Lorraine for organizing the games and draws. Some of the lucky winners were Michael O'Shea and Frances Levedag.

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

- 14 Jan – MPP Andrea Khanjin talking about why she chose to serve others.
- 11 Feb – Phil Holdsworth, Personal perspective on WW 2 as seen from Wales.
- 10 Mar – HCol Jennifer Armstrong-Lehman – Speaking about her role as the HCol of CFB Borden.
- 14 Apr – Art Cameron will speak about his days flying the CF-104 Starfighter.

- Apr - May - Charter and Awards Dinner. Speaker to be confirmed. (Possibly Capt Steve Method about his recent deployment)
- 03 May - Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of action in the Battle of the Atlantic. Service to be held at Navy League Boat house and followed by a parade to Memorial Square, Barrie.
- 08 May - Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Service to be held at Memorial Square, Barrie. <https://www.veday75.org>
- 15-17 May, 2020 - 71th Annual Ontario Group Convention in Cornwall
- 09 June - Joep Diening will speak about the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland.
- 13-14 June - Borden Armed Forces Day and Air Show <https://bordenairshow.ca/>

8. RCAF Anniversary Pins:

Norm Marion has about 50 of the 95th RCAF Anniversary Pins left, which can be purchased from Norm or from the 16 Wing canteens. The selection for next year's aircraft theme is the CC-137 (Boeing 707). Other contenders were the DH4, DH9, SE5, Bristol Blenheim, Northrop Delta, F-86 Sabre, CF-5 and the CH-146 Griffin. Norm will start the process to procure 300 of the 96th Anniversary of the RCAF pins for next year.

9. Honours and Awards:

441 Wing's Honours and Awards (H&A) Committee drafts write-ups for its members, associated personnel and the public for recognition of their actions towards achieving the goals of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association and the advancement of aviation in our community. The H&A Committee welcomes nominations from its members to recognize deserving persons and asks that they be forwarded to H&A Comm Chair Andy Galton.

Last year the 'Wing Member of the Year' award was presented to Murray Conley. The following persons received 'Awards of Merit'; Maj Andrea Sloan - Treasurer 441 Wing, Bob Coxon - Past President 441 Wing, Jim Purchase - Visitation Committee 441 Wing, and Barbara Twaddle - Ad Astral Project Secretary. A Wing Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to 102 Silver Fox RCAC Sqn Air Cadet WO2 Everett Horner. A nomination for Milan Kroupa was made last year to receive the Air Marshal W.A. Bishop, VC, Memorial Trophy and the Committee is still awaiting a response from National HQ.

Please take the time to nominate deserving persons from our Wing and the local area for these awards.

10. RCAF Expeditor with three-engined history: By Gord McNulty

A Beech Expeditor that made history flying as a test bed for the Pratt and Whitney Canada PT6 engine is prominently displayed at a leading aeronautical college at St. Hubert Airport near Montreal.

Twin Beech CF-ZWY-X, formerly RCAF HB109, remains an attention-getter in polished all-metal finish, parked outside the Ecole Nationale Aeronautique (ENA).

The aircraft, fitted with a PT6 in a long tapered nose cowling, completed 719 flights and logged 1,069 hours testing many PT6 models and propellers. It flew for nearly 20 years before being replaced by a Beech King Air. The trimotor was retired after its last flight in June 1980, returned to its original twin-engine configuration, and donated to the ENA for use as an in-ground instructional airframe.



Historians have noted P&WC borrowed the Expeditor from the RCAF in 1961 as a suitable test bed for their lightweight, low-cost and versatile new turboprop engine. The DC-3 was originally favoured as it had the range and service ceiling but fitting an engine into its nose would take extensive re-stressing. The modified Beech was found satisfactory and only 23 pounds of ballast was required to adjust the centre of gravity. Extensive test flying included aircraft handling and performance, specific fuel consumption, propeller handling, propeller drag, air starting, accessory loading and noise/vibration levels.

P&WC test pilot John MacNeil took HB109 as high as 26,000 feet on occasion, to the amazement of air traffic controllers and airline pilots. However, he also found it wasn't always a delight to fly. MacNeil reported the aircraft was "very unstable longitudinally, particularly at higher altitudes." It also had a rolling tendency about the longitudinal axis when all three engines were operated at high power.

For its part, the PT6 engine was impressive from the get-go. MacNeil reported that it started quickly, both in the air and on the ground, and made its thrust very obvious from the surface to 25,000 feet.

CF-ZWY-X undoubtedly was significant in testing one of the world's most successful engines. The PT6 changed the face of general aviation and made P&WC the world's best-known maker of small gas turbine engines. More than 50,000 of these engines serve around the globe in applications as diverse as commuter aircraft, crop dusters and bush planes.

The ENA, described as North America's largest aeronautical school, can accommodate nearly 1,300 students in regular education each year and several hundred technicians in continuing education. It boasts a collection of more than 30 aircraft and helicopters.

The PW&C trimotor wasn't the only three-engined Beech 18. From 1969 into the 1970s, the Continental Motor Co. of Muskegon, MI, flew Besler Corporation's Besler Lycoming C-45 conversion as a test bed with three Continental engines from the unsuccessful Tiara series. The Continental trimotor, N7927C, was donated to the Alabama Aviation College. It was scrapped in 2001.

11. **Contact Information:**

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Website: <https://www.rcaf441wing.com/>

12. **RCAF 441 (Huronion) Wing Board of Directors 2019-2020:**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO(S)</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Bill Sergeant</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	<b>Wally Capsticks</b>	<b>Special Events</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Bob Coxon</b>	<b>Initiation of New Members</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Andrea Sloan</b>	<b>Membership Chair / 16 Wing Liaison O</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Andrew Galton</b>	<b>Honours and Awards Chair</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Art Cameron</b>	<b>RCAF Ad Astral BoD Member</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Murray Conley</b>	<b>Director of Ceremonies</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Joep Diening</b>	<b>Wing Web Master</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Michael O'Shea</b>	<b>Deputy Treas/Special Projects</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Norm Marion</b>	<b>Public Relations / FaceBook</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Gerry Pepler</b>	<b>RCAF Ad Astral Board Chair</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Jane Coxon</b>	<b>Special Events / Scout Group Liaison</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Jim Purchase</b>	<b>Sick and Visiting</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Randy Rice</b>	<b>Veterans Groups Liaison</b>
<b>Member</b>	<b>Sherry Tobin-Green</b>	<b>RCACS Liaison for 102 Silver Fox Sqn and 714 Wasaga Beach Sqn</b>
<b>Wing Padre</b>	<b>Rev Doug Crocker</b>	<b>Wing Padre</b>