

WING TIPS



418 (Belleville) Wing

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR
FORCE ASSOCIATION

10 Dixie Place, Belleville, ON,

K8P 5A9

HAPPINESS

IS FOUND AT

418 WING

March 2021

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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.



“HAPPY”



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WING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the Belleville Shrine Club, 51 Highland Ave. Executive Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. General Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday except in July, August and December.

NOTE: Members will be notified by e-mail or telephone of the date and time of upcoming events.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

**Murray Hope
Padre Larry Hurley
WO2 Ethan Lane
Sgt Maggie Bateman
Capt Garret Watts
Pat Hope
Stephen D. Shirk
Evelyn Mitchell**





418 (BELLEVILLE) WING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, by the time that you receive this Spring will be here, hopefully COVID will still be GREEN as well as the weather. Of course, this brings along Membership renewal, nominations for Executive positions and for many their Coronavirus vaccination.

It seems like a long time since we all got together so I believe that April is being planned for another dining and meeting to renew our Wing ties - check for an advertisement in this bulletin.

As you may know, our home at the Shrine building is curtailed, so for the future our board will endeavour to find appropriate locations where we can get together for a meeting with adequate spacing.

It has been some time since we profiled any of our members. **Pat** and **Ev** have added members profiles in this issue, and we would like to continue this in the future. Please support us and provide us with others you would recommend. Let's make this effort to "get to know" our fellow members.

Many thanks to **Sandra Campbell** who has offered to act as a 418 Wing representative on the Belleville Poppy Committee.

Information from National has indicated no Ontario AGM this year. As well, Quinte Regional has been cancelled.

Oh, for the day when we can get back to our normal routines.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Murray Hope



PADRE'S CORNER

Rev. Larry Hurley

Tell and Show

The light turned yellow, and I did the right thing and stopped, even though I could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating driver behind me was furious and honked the horn, screamed in frustration as a chance to get through the intersection was missed.

While the driver was still in mid-rant, I noticed a police officer tapping on the driver's window.

The officer ordered the driver to pull over and get out of the car with hands up. He called for backup and had the now more to be searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

The driver's lawyer was called. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door to escort the driver back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

True Christianity is a 'show me' NOT 'tell me' faith.

P.S. don't think too hard about the details of this tale; it's honest truth as well as truthful.

And thinking of truth, thanks to **Murray Hope** for the basic content of the above exemplum.

Padre Larry Hurley

Licensed Wedding Officiant

613-968-3125

Cell/Text: 613-922-8338 www.yourweddingyourway.ca

vywlarry@gmail.com FACEBOOK **Larry Hurley**



1ST Vice President

Stephen D. Shirk

As a reminder, the elected Board of Directors will appoint a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Each Director will be responsible for any Committees that come under their position.

As such, we will be accepting the nominations of names for eight (8) Director positions for 418 (Belleville) Wing RCAFA for the year 2021-2022. All members of the Wing are asked to submit their nominations by letter, email, text messaging, by phone or personal contact to your Secretary **Pat Hope** (613-962-8222). Elections will be June Regular Meeting.

418 WING NEWS

608 Squadron Belleville**Lane/Bateman****WO2 Ethan Lane and Sgt Maggie Bateman**
Cadet Correspondents

With several months to develop the virtual cadet learning, 608 Cadets have had the chance to have more variety in their learning. The squadron staff along with the senior cadets have come up with a multitude of activities and methods to encourage cadets to continue attending mandatory training nights as well as our optional training nights, where we teach things like theory of flight, how to play an instrument, and even things like debating and public speaking. In more recent weeks, cadets have had the chance to attend some informative optional courses with keynote speakers like **Hayley Wickenheiser** and **Michael “Pinball” Clemons**, where they talked about how to achieve your dreams and aspirations. Our squadron has even gotten to the point where we could perform MRBs for promotions to the appointments of Warrant Officer First and Second Class.

Being a fairly well-developed squadron, we have had the chance to participate in activities beyond the usual, including having band cadets attend international sessions with military bands from Scotland and Australia. In mid-April all cadets will have the chance to attend the Cadet Activity Program, where they will participate in challenges and activities which they will receive a score of, Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Excellence. With 608 becoming more and more adept online, we have begun to try more virtually accessible activities for our monthly sports nights. One of our WO2s has started doing Pictionary, where cadets and officers compete to be the most perceptive in the squadron. One of our favorite activities is Spot It, where a member of the squadron will prepare pictures for cadets and have a list of items to find. The cadet who finds the most objects first gets a prize.

The Squadrons optional training nights have gone very well. We have six different clubs and classes cadets can go to, and we even have some competitions in some of them at the end of the year. One of our more successful teams is Ground School. Ground School offers more in depth learning and knowledge about aviation than usually taught in classes. We anticipated that the attendance would be low, but cadets surprised us. We average around 5 cadets a night, and they all come with cameras on and questions ready. We have almost covered all the subject matter in the whole class, so we will give younger cadets some experience teaching some of the lessons they are familiar with. Another club that has done very well, is the Effective Speaking and Debate Team. Without participating in the regional competition, cadets have been able to speak about more unusual topics, which in turn, has made them more passionate. As someone who did Effective Speaking around the same age as the new participants, I must say they are much more confident than I was at that age. In debate, Cadets learn how to properly participate in parliamentary debate in a variety of topics relating to current and important events. Cadets have also been able to work towards their music levels by participating in music theory classes and interactive games to improve our skills.

During regular training nights, cadets have had much more variety in recent weeks. Coming to the end of the training year, the mandatory classes are close to complete, allowing us to participate in more fun and interesting classes, having taught the level four class almost exclusively, I can tell you that there was a very clear shift when we added more aviation classes outside of the normal two leadership classes a night. The newer cadets, in level one and two, are some of the most vocal members of the squadron when asking questions. When we began giving prizes to instructors and cadets, of the three nominated a night, at least one was from level one and one was from level two. And some of our instructors have taken on even more responsibility in the squadron, to the point where the only officer led optional activity is Effective Speaking, led by **Captain Cynthia Russell**.

With how the year looks to be going, we will have to continue online, but we hold out hope that we will be able to see everyone in person. Considering all that the cadets and staff have had to go through during the past year, we think it is safe to say that 608 cadets have proven to be among some of the most patient, respectful, and impressive that the Cadet Program has to offer ... objectively speaking of course. Cadets continue to participate enthusiastically in all parts of the program and enjoy learning about all the different parts of the program.



WO2 Ethan Lane



Sgt Maggie Bateman



704 Squadron Trenton

Garret Watts

413 Article, Spring 2021

As the 2020-2021 training year continues, 704 Squadron continues to adapt with the many changes that have been required of us. We began with online, virtual training for the start of our year. The cadets have done a superb job of adapting to this new method of interacting and learning. Even the adult staff have been learning a great deal as the time has progressed.

For a little time between October and December we were fortunate to be able to meet in person in a modified training setup. We were not able to meet at our usual location at Marc Garneau School but 413 Wing was able to accommodate us in their facility. It was a different experience from what we have been used to, but we were happy to be able to meet in person. As has been the case for the last year, we continue to try and learn new things. It was also good to meet some of our new cadets. While we have not had a large influx of new cadets, we have had several new cadets join us. This is a great encouragement for us in our current situation. We also learned ways to adapt to hybrid training as some cadets were happy to be in person while others remained at home and online.

One bittersweet moment for us was the departure of our Squadron Warrant Officer, **WO1 Gabrielle Watts** in early February. After a long and dedicated career with cadets she was approaching the age of 19 where cadets are complete their career. As she leaves her cadet career, she is attending Tyndale University via online learning. We will miss her but are glad to have had her as a part of the 704 Squadron Family. As she moves on, she passes on the mantle of leadership to another distinguished cadet. With her retirement we also announced the promotion and appointment of **WO1 Tristan Gazaille**. **WO1 Gazaille** is another highly driven and dedicated cadet. He is already doing a wonderful job of leading the cadets and creating opportunities for our cadets.

As we continue into the spring months, we continue to adapt to new training methods. We have been successful in developing several club activities to provide additional opportunities for the cadets to interact and learn new things in addition to our core program. Additionally, one of our volunteers, **LCol Gazaille**, has put together an orienteering program that is meeting online with cadets of many different units participating. This has been a great additional program that has helped to bolster some interaction between units. Hopefully, this will lead to additional new opportunities for our cadets and others.

Sadly, 704 Squadron has bid farewell to one of our former Commanding Officers and a long-time supporter. After complications from a recent stroke, **Major C.L. "Tommy" Thomas** (retired) passed away in February. **Tommy** was Commanding Officer of 704 Squadron from September 1994-December of 1997. This was just a part of a long and dedicated service to cadets and the community at large. During his CIC career he was also known for his support of the Area Detachment and the summer training programs. Following his retirement from the CAF, **Tommy** was well known for his work with the Air Cadet League, the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, and the Royal Canadian Legion. A memorial service was held on Friday, 26 March 2021. It was in person for a small number of close family and friends and webcast online for more to follow. There were many wonderful tributes and memories shared by those delivering eulogies. With his passing many cadets and community members will feel the loss of his passing.



Photo: **WO2 Gabrielle Watts** carrying the wreath for **Maj. Tommy Thomas (ret'd)** November 2019.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS **Pat Hope**

We are encouraging all members to profile a member of the 418 Wing for the Wing Tips – Military or Civilian. Many members are valuable volunteers with interesting careers. Too often we do not know their contributions to the Community until someone passes. Please contact **Pat Hope** if you would like to profile someone or if a member wishes to share his/her by writing the article him/herself.

For this month's issue of Wing Tips, I am highlighting **Don Reid** a 32-year member of 418 Wing RCAFA. Thank you to Don for the history of your career.

DON REID'S MILITARY CAREER

I joined the RCAF on the 7th of Jan 1952 and 4 days later I started the officer's course at Crumlin (London ON). There were more than 130 on the course. After completing the course, they split us up to be either pilots or navigators. I went to RCAF Gimli for pilot training starting in Apr 52 on the Harvard aircraft.



After completing Gimli (Nov 52) I went to Portage for advanced training and Macdonald for gunnery training. Throughout all the training they encouraged us to be fighter pilots but at the end of the training they sent half of the Canadians to be flying instructors. Half of the total course were French, Italian or RAF. Wings were presented at the completion of training in Gimli.

I was now off to Trenton and the instructor course. (My hometown). Upon completion of the course, I was transferred to 4FTS Penhold, Alta which had just moved from Calgary. I was the 4th post WW2 pilot at Penhold. Instructing was a satisfying job and there was lots of flying, with as many as 5 students during the summer months. In the spring of 1955, I was selected to go on the instrument course at Centralia and upon completion I was selected for jet conversion at Portage.

In October 1955 I started the all-weather course on CF-100 aircraft in Cold Lake, Alta and on completion I was transferred to 432 Sqn in Bagotville, QC in Mar 56. I was later seconded for 3 months to AVRO to test fly aircraft coming off the production line. When I returned to Bagotville I was asked to do the maintenance air tests. On the first test I had a complete electrical failure and a double engine failure and was forced to eject (Dec 10, 1956). Both the navigator and I spent 2 days in the woods before being picked up by a Trenton aircraft. The high light of my Bagotville tour was I met and married Marion.

In Jan 58 I was sent to Cold Lake to be an instructor. I lucked in because Air Div. was short of jet qualified Flight Lieutenants so in June 60 I went to Chatham, NB for F-86 training and in Jan 61 I ended up in Grostonquin, France where I stayed until Charlie kicked us out of France.

In May 64 I was transferred to a recruiting job in Saskatoon, SK. **Paul Helyer** decided to unite the recruiting units so in the summer of 65 I was sent to Fort William to open a unit there. In the summer of 67 the career manager decided to send me back flying and he transferred me to 429 Sqn in Saint-Hubert, QC. After a quick refresher in Trenton on the Caribou the 4 of us went to De Haviland in Downsview, Toronto to learn a new aircraft (Buffalo). We each got 10 hours and then we returned to Saint-Hubert to start a new course. This was then in Mobile Command. During this time, I spent 10 weeks on a round-the-world trip with De Haviland on a sales trip. In the summer of 70 it was decided that the aircraft should be in Transport Command. I was moved to Trenton where I was to stay for the next 17 years until retirement.

In June 72 I was transferred to 436 Sqn to fly C130s. I was lucky in that I was able to spend the next ten years on the aircraft and accumulated over 8000 hours on it. During that time I was part of the crew that took 5 international trips including Africa, Middle East, South and Central America and China.

In June 82 I started my final tour in Base Ops from which I retired in July 88.

After the Military – Busy Civilian Life

Pat Hope

Don has quietly volunteered providing Services in the Wing and in the Community. Quoting **Roy Skillicorn**, “Need a table fixed, someone to help with lifting a heavy object, fix a microphone and many more. He picks up those who need transportation to a meeting or if someone needs to move something **Don** is there to help’. For years he transported chairs from Belleville to Deseronto for our Remembrance Service. When the Wing had Yard Sales, he was one of the principal helpers. He received an Award of Merit from RCAFA in 2005 for devoted and steadfast service and since has continued the same. Since then, he has earned the Award of Distinction as well as the **Ed Walker** Member of the Year.

In the Community he has driven seniors to medical appointments in and out of the city and was a primary support for a visually impaired man even supporting in household tasks and driving him to appointments. He has been supportive of the Alzheimer’s Society, and Meals on Wheels for a few. **Don** can be seen at St Matthew’s Church helping to organize their huge Yard Sales, helping in the kitchen where needed and many other tasks including maintenance issues. **Don** can be counted on to assist members in Retirement or Nursing homes in moving in or out their loved one’s belongings.

However, as much as he has helped in the Wing and in the Community, it pales in contrast to the outstanding work with the Ad Astra Stone Program at the National Air Force Museum in Trenton.

This program was implemented by 3 of 418 Wing members. Since its inception in April 1996 **Don** has supervised every aspect of the Ad Astra Program in the Air Park. He has directed the location of nearly 12000 stones in 150 Beds. He has transported them from Campbells Monument to the park without compensation for fuel or for wear and tear. Besides constructing the majority of the beds and row markers he has kept track of every stone and site as well as spending an extreme amount of time removing those unending weeds.

For the Ad Astra Dedication, he has helped setting up chairs, sound system etc. – starting early in the morning and last one leaving at night.

Don was the first recipient of the new Canadian Forces Museum Volunteer Award “to recognize the work of serving volunteers who devote time and effort to preserve, protect display and interpret a segment of Canadian Military History and Cultural Heritage”. In 2019 **Don** received the Wing Commander’s Commendation from **Col. M.W. Goulden** for his dedication to the National Air Force Museum and Ad Astra Stone Program.

Don reminds me of the “energizer bunny”. He just keeps going on and on and on. Pat Hope

MICKEY LAKE'S STORY OF THE WING**Evelyn Mitchell**

Marcella (Mickey) Lake is an amazing lady. Her eyesight is diminishing but her memory is brilliantly clear. I asked her whether we could put in a little paragraph about her Wing memories in Wing Tips. These are her words:

Everything was special at 418 Wing. My husband was President of the Wing for 2 years and I was president of the Ladies Auxiliary for many years.

*Our bake sales at the plaza were great - we had so many good cooks. We were handing out Wing Tips at one bake sale and that is how **Bob***

*and **Fran O'Neil** learned about our Wing and decided to join.*

*We had the greatest dances. At our regular Saturday night dances **Burrell and Eleanor Nurse** brought records and played till two in the morning. We had a live band at the special events like St Patrick's, Christmas, New Year's Eve. **Lyle Vance's** band often played for us.*

Our New Year's Parties were a very big deal. We would blow up a ton of balloons with bar tickets inside them and at midnight everyone would try to break the balloons. What a scramble!

*New Year's Day we had the levees - at first only the men went around but later ladies were included. Everyone would end up at the Wing for food and "moose milk" and then they would dance to the juke box. **Jill Skillicorn** always made seafood for New Year's: her clam chowder with nutmeg on top was incredible.*

And then there were the fabulous Coast to Coast National Conventions – Eight or more reps from our Wing went to them. We stayed at the Empress Hotel in Victoria and the Holiday Inn (near the Cenotaph) in Ottawa, and we were all properly "screeched in" at St Johns.

Initially we met over Latimer's Drug Store in Belleville, and then Tuesday nights in an H Hut at the Base. Then one member who was a real estate agent told the board about a schoolhouse for sale and we bought it and met there for years. One member who was a school janitor came and polished the floors each week for the dances. The men were all fine gentlemen and very hard workers. They did everything the Wing needed themselves – the plumbing, the electrical work. Everything was done by the members,

and they made the Wing what it was. We worked really hard, and we had lots of fun. We were such a good Wing.

Marcella (Mickey) Lake turns 101 as of 21 March 2021!!! She had a son who died at 52, and a daughter **Deborah Dixon** who has recently retired. The son has also given her 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren! She is very proud of her family, and grateful for them, and wishes she could go to see them.

For now, it is one day at a time for **Mickey**. She is heartsick at all the great members we have lost, and she will always remember them.

You are brilliant, **Mickey**.
Happy Birthday

MEMORIAM

Evelyn Mitchell



Carl Hagerman

Carl Hagerman was a loyal 418 Wing member for 33 years, and our Sports Chairman/Director ever since 1984.

Carl, you worked hard, and you were everyone's friend. We already miss the warmth of your voice, your teasing smile, and the twinkle in your eyes. Thank you for your service. We will remember you.

LETTER FROM KEVIN O'NEIL

Evelyn Mitchell

To the 418 Wing,

*On behalf of the **O'Neil** family, I would like to express our appreciation for your condolences in memory of Dad who passed away late last year. He was always proud of his membership in the RCAFA, beginning with the 306 Wing in Montreal, and when he and May moved to Belleville in the 70's, with the 418 Wing.*

*We were also touched by your Wing's kindness and thoughtfulness when **Murray Hope** and his wife presented Dad with a long service pin at Ste Anne's Hospital a few years ago. I know it meant a lot to him to be so honoured!*

Kind Regards,

Kevin O'Neil
"Per Ardua ad Astra"

Membership

Evelyn Mitchell

Hello my friends.

418 Wing Membership presently holds at 32. We have 29 regular members, one lifetime member and two honorary members.

Memberships for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are not due until 30 June 2021, but we will be starting to collect dues in April. The fees are the same as in the recent past: \$70.00 for a single member, and \$110 for dual memberships. We do still have an EARLY BIRD DRAW - for those who submit their membership fees by 30 May. LAST YEAR'S WINNER was **Marg Sutton!!**

If you are able to attend our April meeting, I can take your dues there. Otherwise, you are welcome to mail a cheque to myself at 16 Forin St. Belleville, ON K8N2H6, made payable to RCAFA - 418 Wing.

Activities and Events

Pat Hope














This past year has been challenging for your Entertainment Committee. Every decision needed to be made in accordance with COVID Protocols and Restrictions in mind. Our Board of Directors must adhere not only to Provincial Restrictions and Municipal Restrictions but also to Directives from the National Executive.

For example, in the Spring we received a Directive about meetings and events which necessitated the cancellation of not only meetings, involvement in Parades which included our Deseronto Remembrance Service. Many voiced their disappointment, but no one could have been more disappointed than myself after so many years of organizing this meaningful event!

Parade involvement such as Vimy was cancelled and many of you who usually attend Remembrance Day also were disappointed! The bottom line is we need to "abide by the rules!"

In late August we learned from National that we could hold meetings according to Municipal and Provincial protocols. Finally, a venue was another challenge! Many thanks to the Legion where we met in October. Sans Souci Restaurant was the venue for our Charter Night!

Excuse my rambling. With the present situation we are not planning too far ahead. Deseronto??? Who knows? **What I can tell you is**, your Executive will inform you **as soon as we know**. Communication by email and phone of upcoming events will be vital.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  <p>"MICKEY" LAKE & FAMILY (King) Lake President 1972-74</p> |  <p>STEPHEN D. SHIRK Vice Chairman Wing Tip Editor</p>  |  <p>MILDRED GRAHAM In memory of Bob Past Director</p> |
|  <p>DONNA TUTTELBERG In memory of Peter Past Treasurer 2006-2013</p> |  <p>Thank You Roy & Jill Skillicorn (Roy) Past 1st Vice President</p> |  <p>Sandra Campbell In memory of Glen Campbell</p> |
|  <p>Thank You Cy & Phyllis Yarnell (Cy) past Director</p> |  <p>Alicia (Kenny) Chambers In memory of All of our Fallen Friends</p> |  <p>In Memory of a Friend Sandy Tosh</p> |
|  <p>TODD MURPHY "Proud Honourary Member"</p> |  <p>R.W. "Rick" Verrall "In Memory of Fallen Loadmasters"</p>  | |



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Ewart Alan Mackintosh

The Charge Of The Light Brigade

Half a league, half a league,
 Half a league onward —
 'That is, unless some damned
 Airman has blundered,
 If the map isn't right
 We'll be a funny sight.'
 So as they tramped along
 Officers pondered,
 While, with equipment hung,
 Curses on every tongue,
 Forward with rifles slung,
 Slouched the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them,
Volleyed and thundered,
'And — what was twice as bad —
Our gunners never had
Strafed that machine-gun lad.

I always wondered
If our old barrage could
Be half as bloody good
As the Staff said it would.'

Was there a man dismayed?
Yes, they were damned afraid,
Loathing both shot and shell,
Into the mouth of Hell,
Sticking it pretty well,
Slouched the six hundred.

Through the barrage they passed,
Men falling thick and fast,
Till the machine-gun blast
Smote them to lying
Down in the grass a bit;
Over the roar of it.

Officers yelled, were hit,
Dropped and lay dying.
Then the retreat began,
Every unwounded man
Staggered or crawled or ran
Back to the trench again,
While on the broken plain
Dead and untroubling,
Wounded and wondering,
What help the night would bring,
Lay the six hundred.