



Wing Drift

December 2024

Message from the 447 Wing Chair

Well, here we are, soon to say goodbye to 2024 and welcome 2025 into our lives.

Where did a year go?

As I look back on 2024, it has been a rather momentous year, rewarding and still other times filled with a degree of disappointment.

2024 brought about some significant changes which even now are bringing a new dynamic to our business enterprise, one that is more professional, more disciplined and satisfying to our patrons.

The mom-and-pop atmosphere of the past has been replaced with a more business-friendly attitude where employees are valued employees, and they are much more aware of their role and responsibilities within the entrepreneurial endeavors of The Wing.

Training sessions have been planned and executed and still more will be prepared so that our employees will have tools at their fingertips to carry out their responsibilities in an efficient manner.

This is a protection for the employee and for the employer, 447 board of directors acting on behalf of the sponsoring organization 447 Wing Royal Canadian Airforce Association.

Our association with CFIB since September of this year has been a most positive experience with invaluable knowledge available to handle issues as they happen.

Our business operations belong to our Wing alone and are not subject to the whims of the National or Provincial Boards. However, our charter must remain intact to continue our operations.

Your board of directors over the past six months have worked diligently to change the atmosphere into a more professional operation.

This, in part, was commenced to remove criticism in some circles about perceived mis-management of a business that has been a staple for many years and survived COVID and other maladies which taxed those in charge to come up with new ideas, apply for new grants and in short pour heart and soul and time to keep the business and 447 a brick and mortar existence.

There are still challenges, but your board is working hard to handle these in an efficient fair manner

Most of our staff are buying into the changes being made but there are holdouts who are not enthusiastic about change, even change designed to make operations smoother.

Time will be the balancing factor.

We are moving slowly and methodically to make The Wing a better place to be.

Our board of directors recently acquired a new member, Mr. Tom Hooton who, along with his father, manages our meat draws.

Tom has also been appointed Sergeant at Arms for The Wing and commencing immediately he will be asking people attending our monthly meetings to sign in so that a record of attendance can be maintained in a ledger book.

On a sad note, Mr. Drew Hawkyard has resigned from the board for personal and family reasons, and he has been thanked for his five months of service. His efforts will be missed.

There is still a lot of work to be done.

A pressing matter of the future of The Royal Canadian Airforce Association exists.

As I sit here preparing notes for this edition of The WING DRIFT, I, like many of you, remain in the dark after the October 29th letter from the national chair.

In the intervening seven weeks, the national chair has resigned and has been replaced by the Vice Chair until elections can be held.

The two paid employees, named, are scheduled to leave at the end of January.

National has not seen fit to issue more documentation or information on the matter as yet.

Our Provincial Board is looking at the matter but nothing concrete has been developed.

While we appear to be under a gun, there are many members who want to see this organization move forward and hopefully in the not-too-distant future a plan can be established.

Time is an issue but not dire now.

I await clarification from those in a position to supply such.

Since our last Wing Drift much has happened that we can be proud of

To enumerate:

- 1) Catch the Ace has wound down with presentation of cheques having been made by Chair Dan Welsh, Vice Chair Jim Hooton and Immediate Past Chair Mike Cuffe. The exact amount \$23,000.00 will be very beneficial bonus to the organizations receiving their donations. Pictures and notes to follow in this report.
- 2) On October 29th we received a note from the National Chair concerning the future of Royal Canadian Air Force Association. The dread message was just that dread. No information and no suggestions. We have heard nothing since that time. As it stands, business as usual and hopefully a concrete plan can be formulated to save the organization.
- 3) Remembrance Day events in Binbrook, RCL 163 and Warplane Heritage took up a great deal of time with our Wing hosting two basic open houses for participants to enjoy and become aware of the Wing. Thanks especially to Bev Cuffe and Linda Daniels-Smith for facilitating these events. Linda has learned the POS system employed by the wing for sales on any given day. Well done. Linda is also heavily engaged in study of various courses on employment acts which will bode well for the betterment of our operations.
- 4) Our new association, with, three months old now, CFIB is paying dividends as their expertise is being used to better enhance how our managers tackle daily employment challenges and formulate business happenings for the benefit of all.
- 5) Many members of the Wing were invited and participated in Joo-Jung's 23 Korean Veterans' dinner held at Warplane Heritage on Friday November 10th, 2024.
- 6) Rentals from wakes, birthdays etc. continue to come in and help very much in making ends meet.
- 7) Repairs to the ceiling of the flag room have been completed. Painting will be completed soon.
- 8) We have acquired a second safe for the office to control tightly money happenings and store vital documents away from unwanted theft and tampering.
- 9) Confidentiality agreements and code of conduct agreements have all been signed by our staff members and Board members and are now in place.
- 10) Tyco alarm system now has individual access codes initiated so we know who is entering the building.

- 11) Key control has been enhanced and new keys issued which cannot be copied by anyone except the locksmith.
- 12) The office door is now tamper-proof and more secure as unwanted activity in the area was of concern and had to be addressed.
- 13) Tickets for the turkey and ham roll are now on sale.

Below, please see a series of pictures which elaborate on our Catch the Ace donations.

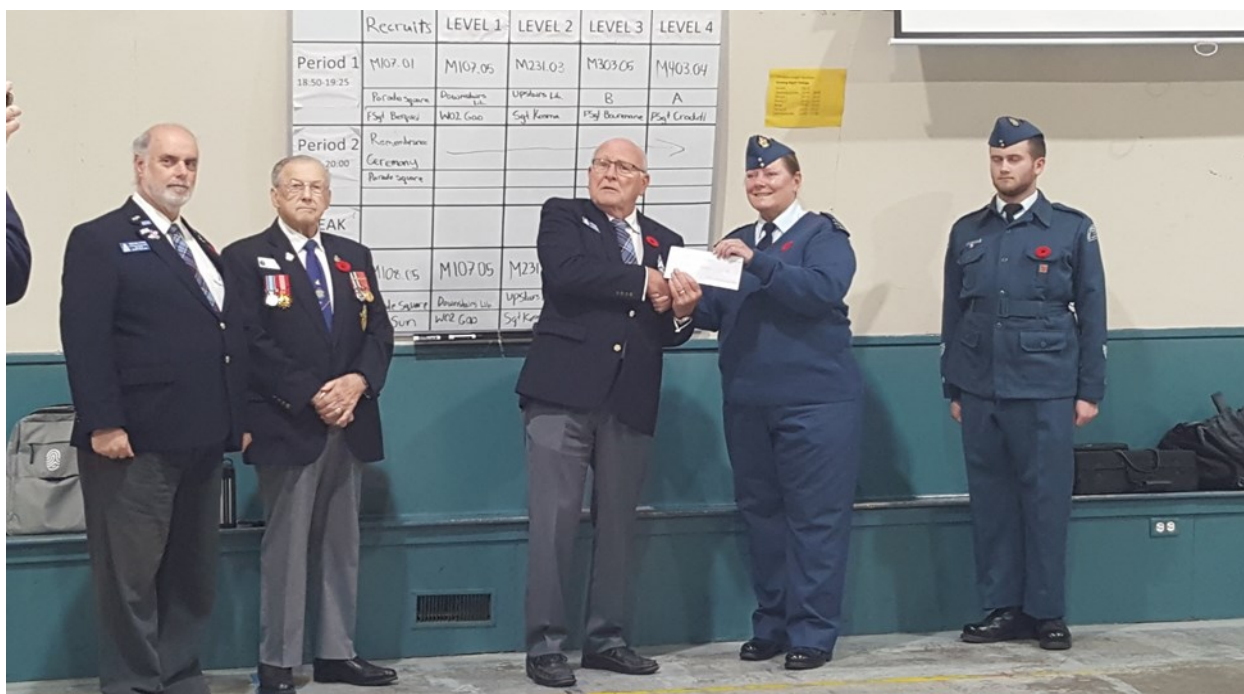
They were sizeable and of benefit to all the charities listed on the license which was applied for.

Before going too far on this, there are those who need recognition for their endeavors to make the program a success.

- 1) Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Bev Cuffe for their weekly attendance, videotaping, proper records keeping and running of draws over a thirty-three-week period of time. Thank you.
- 2) Mrs. Sandra Wells for her tireless work on selling tickets on a weekly and sometimes daily basis. She was exuberant and infectious in her efforts and many sales were a direct result of her efforts. Well done, Sandra.
- 3) Our bar staff had extra work as a result, and they are to be commended for their efforts to ensure sales happened in a timely manner.
- 4) Our patrons, also, are to be commended for supporting this endeavor. The payoff of numerous weekly cash prizes and the final winning payout of over twenty thousand dollars was because, on a weekly basis, participants parted with cash to buy the very finite number of tickets available for purchase.

Our donations were made over the course of a week or so and there is but one donation left which is being hampered by the postal strike.

All of our recipients were very happy and pleased, and the end result is good for the charities and good for our 447 Wing.



Presentation to 779 Squadron Commanding officer...\$5,000.00



Presentation to Homes for Heroes \$10,000.00 –veteran’s benefit from this money

Below is Homes for Heros Notes on their news platform on the received donation



Homes for Heroes shared the above photo and information on their web page.

Good publicity for 447 Wing



Presentation to Hamilton Christmas Parade Committee Members \$4,000.00



The Parade Banner on The Santa Claus Parade Day
Good publicity for our organization.



Presentation to Hamilton Food Bank
\$4,000.00



Hoo Jung and Don Kennedy presented a 100th anniversary banner to 447 Wing



447 Wing Chair receives a cheque for \$1,000.00 from Lynda Murdoch-Furchner President and Brenda Wilson Vice-President of RHLI Veteran’s Association during November 23rd, 2024, business meeting.

Lynda explained that the executive of the RHLI Veterans Association decided to donate to 447 Wing because the executive and members of 447 Wing have been very welcoming to Doug and myself and our regimental family.

We have started having our quarterly regimental committee meetings at the wing and everyone enjoys the facility and the food.

We have already sent Bev Cuffe a list of meeting dates for 2025 and two social events - a beer call in January and our regimental challenge shoot in March - we will also have our banquet at the wing.

We look forward to a continuing relationship between the RHLI Regimental Association and the 447 Wing.

Also, Brenda Wilson has been a very supportive Vice President to me and our RHLI organization.

Capt (ret'd) Lynda Murdoch-Furchner, CD, CIM, CPA, CGA

President, RHLI Veterans Association

Treasurer, Thirteenth Regiment Foundation

For our part, 447 Wing is pleased to support RHLI Veterans in our home for their meetings and events and we also look forward to continuing mutual assistance in the near and distant future.

Thank you for your very generous support and donation.

Dan Welsh Chair

447 Wing RCAFA

Repairs to the waterlogged Flag Room have been completed and fresh paint has been applied making the room look once again as it did before the great flood.

Special thank you to those who assisted in the painting to put the room back in order. Special drying time was given to the new drywall applications and mudding that took place to finish the job.

The room is used by the public quite often for birthday celebrations, celebrations for life, and various meeting uses which all help the bottom line in keeping 447 Wing in a brick-and-mortar location.

Our meat draw continues to have a significant impact on our financial books and help to make sure that too much month for the end of the money is not happening all that often.

We have received, thanks to our member of parliament, an official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III which will be framed and hung where the portrait of our late sovereign Elizabeth II was hung. Thanks to our MP for supplying this to our wing.

The main office door has been secured in such a manner that unwanted entry will be very difficult in the future.

This was mandated by missing items and paperwork being shuffled about.

Once again, your business venture is moving to a more secure atmosphere. Slow and steady change is happening to streamline operations.

Finally, December and early January are going to be busy times for 447 Wing with Aggie's basket draw being operated again this year, Breakfast with Santa, a Ham and Turkey Roll, a New Year's Eve dance and finally The New Year's Day levee.

With the coming of January, it is hoped that concrete direction and guidance will once again emanate from the National Royal Canadian Airforce Association chair.

As a very gentle reminder, your chair advises that no individual member of 447 Wing is given or will be given permission to enter into negotiations with an outside agency on any action that affects 447 Wing and our existing charter.

Such is premature and could cause problems if and when we have to do some work.

It is our hope to run another Catch the Ace in 2025, but more on that later.

November 25th, 2024

As an added thought, I have just been made aware of information which is helpful.

Even now, as I prepare this note, a concerted effort is being undertaken to prepare a sound business and financial plan for future success of the National Board which has granted the 447 Wing's charter to operate. It must also be remembered that our National Board is safely in place until the end of June 2025.

A new executive director may also be announced in the very near future.

December 1st 2024...Note from Mike Cuffe on matters for the future for 447 Wing membership

RECAP OF THE PAST FIVE WEEKS

On October 30th, an email was released titled "Status of the RCAF Association". Attached was a letter from the NEC Chairman, Mr. Charles Lovalo making a very "straight to the point" statement of the future state and demise of the RCAF Association. In addition, announcing the retirement of Mr. Dean Black and Ms. Wendy Song as of January 31st, 2025.

There was to be a Nation-wide ZOOM meeting for all Wing Chairs on Sunday November 24th, but was cancelled due lack of informative information to present. This meeting is tentatively being re-scheduled for some time during the Week of January 26th, 2025.

Shortly after issuing his letter, Mr. Lovalo resigned as Chair and has since resigned from the NEC. Mr. Terry Chester, Vice-Chair has assumed the Role as Chair of the NEC.

Mr. Brook Bangsboll, current Chair of 410 Ottawa Wing, has stepped up and announced his candidacy for the position of Executive Director. If no one else comes forward by December 2nd, Mr. Bangsboll will be installed and start the transition and handover.

Some of the discussions so far:

- A new budget & business plan is in the works – spearheaded by David Farnsworth (441 Huronia Wing / Ontario Grp Director / NEC Director)
- The BOD may be returning to the old format of years ago whereby an RCAF Association Director has an assigned Portfolio.
- Directors will be the subject matter experts of that portfolio, and all communication concerning their portfolio will go through them.

- Depending on the scope of the portfolio, assistance from the membership may be required, i.e. group level members who work or have experience in that field could be called upon to assist the Director.
- At the end of this fiscal year (June 2025), the plan is **not** to have an Ottawa office.
- The kit shop and items still in the office could be transferred to the old 441 Wing building (near CFB Borden); a member from 441 Wing has offered the building for our use.

There is lots of activity; items changing on a daily basis.

There are members from Groups, the RCAF Association BOD and individual members working and thinking of the most economical way to move forward, keeping in mind we were elected to a position, and we must do everything possible to give our membership what they need and want.

Having said this, each Director will need assistance in their portfolio from all Wings across Canada. So, if you have skillsets in Finance, Business, Accounting etc. or just want to be a helper in certain areas please give it some thought as the RCAFA is going to need your help to keep our Association alive for years to come.

Final Note - The Ontario Group AGM, hosted by 410 Ottawa, for May 23-25th, 2025 is going forward as planned.

Regards,

Michael Cuffe

Regional Director, Central & Eastern Regions

Ontario Group, RCAFA

TURKEY ROLL RETURNS

A blast from the past once again took place on December 6th, 2024, as The annual Ham and Turkey roll which had not been held since COVID once again returned. A decent crowd was on hand to buy propellers for the two extra draws.

Fifty vouchers were given to the lucky winners who had their ticket stub pulled from the drum.

A good time was had by all and several Wing members won multiple prizes.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa was once again held at The Wing to the delight of many small children who attended with their parents. Breakfast was served from 8:30 am to 10:00 am with Santa arriving around 9:00 am.

Volunteers prepared and served and cleaned up after the event. A good time was had by all, and the children's smiles made all the work well worthwhile.



Santa and Mrs. Claus attended The Wing on Saturday December 7th, 2024 and were a BIG hit with all the Children present.

Turkey with all the fixings...

On Saturday evening, December 7th, 2024, a pretty full house enjoyed a homemade turkey supper with all the trimmings at The Wing. Hosted by “The Ramblers” a band that is well appreciated by The Wing and many avid fans.

The food was prepared in house and Wing staff in the Kitchen did a marvelous job enhancing the overall enjoyment of those who came out for the meal. Cooks, Adam and James as well as others in the kitchen are commended for their effort to make the meal wonderful.

It also must be mentioned that Past Chairman Mike Cuffe and Kitchen Manager Bev Cuffe were instrumental in making the event enjoyable. Linda Daniels-Smith, Bar Manager, was also on hand to make sure that food was served and on hand for the patrons who enjoyed a buffet style presentation. The dessert was festive, cake and ice cream.

The 447 Wing board of directors take this opportunity to wish every member and their loved ones, a safe holiday season, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous healthy 2025.

Dan Welsh

Chair

447 Wing

Royal Canadian Airforce Association

December 2024

RCAF Snowbirds impressed at Sault Ste. Marie Bushplane Days

Report and photos by Gord McNulty

A first-time visit to the Bushplane Days events at Sault Ste. Marie in September proved to be a rewarding experience for my wife Angie and I.

The entire waterfront was packed with spectators who gathered under sunny skies to watch the Snowbirds fly a non-aerobatic display. Eight Tutors were flown, as one of the team's nine jets had a problem. The impressive performance drew rave reviews from everyone.

Bushplane Days is staged by the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre (CBHC). This year's program marked a special milestone, as the CBHC celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Provincial Air Service (OPAS) in 2024.

The story began on October 1, 1924, when construction started on a large OPAS waterfront hangar, complete with a slipway on the St. Mary's River. Innovative techniques in forest fire control, detection and prevention, bush flying, aerial forest survey and more were established by the OPAS. Sault Ste. Marie earned an international reputation in forest management.

The hangar facilities, expanded in 1947, were used by the OPAS until 1991 when operations were moved to the Sault Ste. Marie Airport. With the move, the CBHC found a natural home for its excellent collection of aircraft and artifacts. The colourful museum provides an enjoyable and informative visit.

I arrived in the Sault to attend an excursion to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Fire and Aviation Division operations at the airport. Attendees, especially from out-of-town, enjoyed this rare opportunity for a behind the scenes look at the MNR's aircraft.

The MNR fleet includes nine Bombardier Canadair CL-415 water bombers, along with Twin Otters, a Turbo Beaver and helicopters. An MNR staffer stated the agile 415s typically fly four-hour missions. They can drop 30 to 40 loads of water on a serious fire. "Our record was 102 loads in six hours."



A Turbo Beaver undergoes heavy maintenance at the MNR hangar in Sault Ste. Marie on Sept. 20 2024.

The next stop was a "meet and greet" luncheon visit with the Snowbirds at the airport after they completed a practice for their Bushplane Days demonstration. A lively conversation at the airport café was enjoyed by all.



One of nine CL-415s in the MNR fleet, shown at the MNR hangar in Sault Ste. Marie.



The Snowbirds approaching the Sault Ste Marie waterfront



The Snowbirds flew an eight-plane display at Sault Ste. Marie



The Snowbirds flew over the International Bridge as they approached the Sault Ste. Marie waterfront.



VIP Meet and Greet with Snowbirds

More details can be found on the CBHC Facebook page, well worth checking out.

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The 447 Wing is OPEN

Sunday & Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday & Wednesday	11:30am to 10:00pm
Thursday & Friday	11:30am to 11:00pm
Saturday	11:30am to 8:00pm
<u>Kitchen Hours</u>	
Tuesday & Wednesday	11:30 am to 8:00pm
Thursday & Friday	11:30am to 9:00pm
Saturday	11:30am to 7:00pm

3210 Homestead Drive, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0

Telephone: 289.280.0157 Email: 447winghamilton@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/The-447-Wing-140212226825200/>

Remembrance Day 2024



Member Rick Hyslop receives King Charles III Coronation Medal

To: ***LCol (Ret) Charles Hazleton, CD; Capt (Ret) Janet Erickson; Capt (Ret) Phyllis Rita Patry, MMM, CD; Capt (Ret) Steven Dieter, CD; Mr. Michael Brisson, CD; MWO (Ret) Normand Marion, MMM, CD; Mr. Stephen Bolton; Lt (Ret) Carl Benson; Cpl (Ret) Rick Hyslop, CD; and Ms. Julie-Ann Anderson***

I write this message of congratulations to you, EITHER as an awardee of the King Charles III Coronation Medal OR as someone acting on behalf of an awardee who may not have an e-mail address. The names mentioned above are those who have been awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

These ten (10) medals were conveyed to the RCAF Association by the National Coalition of Veterans' Associations on 31 October 2024, during the NCVA Annual General Meeting. Under normal circumstances the Chairperson of the RCAF Association, Mr. Charles "Chuck" Lovallo would much prefer to arrange a suitable presentation of your medal to you by a municipal, provincial or national office incumbent, an officer whose participation would add the right touch to such an auspicious occasion. However, since we are so very close to Remembrance Day, and as an awardee you may wish to wear your award on that occasion, I am with this e-mail offering you an opportunity to express your preference. Do you prefer that we courier you your medal promptly, on Monday 4 November, or do you prefer that we make arrangements to have the medal presented to you at a later date?

Finally, I know Mr. Lovallo would like to add the following message of congratulations:



With this important award I wish to acknowledge you have been deemed eligible by having made a significant contribution to Canada, or your province, territory, region or community, or made an outstanding achievement abroad, which brings credit to Canada. While the nomination(s) submitted on your behalf certainly reflect the contribution described above, in terms of the organization from which this award is coming you have also been deemed eligible owing to the long service and good conduct you have delivered to the association as a volunteer and member of the RCAF Association, and for having demonstrated high professionalism or for having performed a deed or activity that also brings great credit to Canada. You are congratulated for having distinguished yourselves from other members and individuals in your field.

Again, please reply to this e-mail with your preference, regarding how we should convey this medal to you. Wendy and Dean will be awaiting your further instruction and will take prompt action early next week in response to your wishes.

The UK Lancaster Project

Photos and story by Clive Moles

The build project of the Lancaster here which will be at the western end of our village here at Norton Disney has progressed significantly, the inner main structure is fully complete and now awaits the cladding of the outer Corten steel fabrication which will give the full appearance of a Lancaster on its Finals coming into RAF Swinderby which was next door to our village, the whole structure will now weigh approx. 94 tons and the special podium supports already in place await the Lancaster which will represent R5689 VN-N which was stationed at Swinderby in WW2 but sadly crashed killing and injury its crew.....

Attached are some very recently updated photos of an open day event displaying the completed inner structure, also the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew the Lanc over and took the black & white photo as well.

With fond best wishes,
Clive

Avro Lancaster I (R5689 VN-N) on a mission to Frisian Islands on 1942-09-19



The BBMF Lancaster crew that flew directly over "On Freedom's Wings" yesterday took this "recon" photo and kindly sent it to us. How amazing is that?



447(City of Hamilton) Board of Directors 2024— 2026

Chairperson	Dan Welsh	(905) 679-6175
1 st Vice Chairperson	Jim Hooton	(905) 383-3962
Secretary/Membership	Linda Daniels-Smith	(905) 966-2709
Treasurer	Bev Cuffe	(905) 517-6146
Directors	Thomas Hooton	(905) 807-9503
	Rob Wilson	(905) 745-2097

779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

Acting Chairman:	John Mayhew	
Vice Chairman:	(Position Vacant)	
Treasurer:	John Mayhew	(905) 388-4055
Secretary:	(Position Vacant)	
Coordinator Screening & Registration:		
Member: Risk Management:	Cheryl Jackson-Checkley	
Black Knight Squadron HQ:		(905) 679-6485
Alumni:	Chantelle Wark	(905) 975-0373
Commanding Officer:	Captain Marilyn Coleman	(905) 765-2414



447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents***

Aiden Finn CD	(1983)
Gord Rowland	(1995–1998)
Judy Brown	(2000, 2008)
6 Presidents served during	(2003 & 2005)
Bill Grahlman CD	(2008-2017)
Jim Hooton CD	(2017-2019)
Michael Cuffe	(2019-2024)
	
Bill Whiteside	(1962)
Russ Newton	(1963,81,91)
Jim Robbins CD	(1964-65)
Carl Whaley CMCD	(1966)
Sterling McAllister CD	(1967)
Doug Thornevell	(1968)
Ken Lenz	(1969, 1975)
Bill Carey	(1970)
Innes Anderson	(1971)
Sid George	(1972)
Ken Read	(1973)
Bob Hayes	(1974)
Bill Thompson	(1976)
Rob Gillies	(1977)
Nels Smith CD	(1978, 1984)
Jack Lightfoot	(1979)
Scott Lumsden	(1980)
Syd Buckles	(1982)
Alex Barrett DFC	(1985)
Clare Hansen	(1986, 1994)
Harry Rasmussen	(1988-89)
Bob Hide	(1990)
Bill Ryckman	(1992-93)
Arthur Young	(2004,2006)
Harry VanZeben	(1997-99,2001-02)
Frank A. Begley	(2007)

Merry
Christmas

AND



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

The Wing Drift is published quarterly. If you have any articles, suggestions, etc for future editions, they can be sent to the 447 Wing email address (447winghamilton@gmail.com).



MISSION STATEMENT

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization to: commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have 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 programme.