

447 Wing RCAFA



Wing Drift

December 2025

Message from the 447 Wing Chair

Greetings for a safe, happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous 2026.

As I sit at the computer I cannot help but wonder where another year has gone. All too fast and they seem to be getting faster.

The last couple of months have been busy. Battle of Britain War Graves at St. Paul's Anglican in September, a busy time in October with insurance issues which were resolved, negotiating with landlord on a new wheelchair ramp as required by insurance and then November came along.

November 2025 was a very busy time. November 9th was the Binbrook cenotaph memorial which has to be held inside due to a blizzard. A normal fifteen-minute drive took the better part of forty minutes. Chair and Vice-chair Jim Hooton represented 447 Wing and laid a wreath. They were joined by Rob and Brenda Wilson who laid a wreath on behalf of the Provincial Board.



Vice Chair Jim Hooton, November 9th, 2025

Ontario Chair Brenda Wilson and Rob Wilson, 447 Director November 9th, 2025

November 11th saw your chair represent 447 Wing at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 163 memorial celebration. Vice-Chair Jim Hooton and Board member Rob Wilson attended War Plane Heritage celebrations at the same time. After, 447 Wing opened for members of the public to attend for refreshments and conversation. The Wing was very well used that day.

Our November general meeting and meat draw saw a welcome visit to The Wing from **Marg and Bill Grahlman**. This was the first visit from Marg since April and since June for Bill. It was a pleasure to welcome them back and thanks to their children for planning and executing the return. Both Marg and Bill looked marvelous. They had fun at the meat draw as well.

December began with a bang. Selling Turkey Roll tickets planning Aggies basket and getting ready to decorate the various rooms with Christmas decorations.

Message from the 447 Wing Chair (Continued)

Our breakfast with Santa, December 6th, 2025 was a resounding success as you can see from the attached pictures.

Many thanks to the volunteers, cooks, servers, crafts coordinator and any other task needed to make the event run smoothly. Many complimentary comments were made concerning the event. Santa and Mrs. Clause were a hit and made many young girls and boys very happy coming in early from the North Pole.



Youth craft table-Breakfast with Santa



Santa and Mrs. Clause with young guest



Craft Table activity



Never too old to ask Santa for fun

Message from the 447 Wing Chair (Continued)



A family enjoying conversation and their breakfast with Santa



Aggle's Basket

Aggle's basket begins in December with donations being made by friends of The Wing for the draw to be held just before Christmas.

This is an annual fund making endeavour that has been a tradition for many years.

Thanks to all who donate to this worthwhile endeavour and the gifts won are very good.

A surprise visit from City of Hamilton health inspector found that our kitchen area was clean, functional and as a result passed the test for another period of time. Your board of directors has kept on top of modest repairs to doors, lighting and plumbing issues which enhance the kitchen's ability to pass muster.

The next major event was the annual Turkey roll, our second since COVID put a halt to events being held in person.

The event itself provided for fifty draws for gift cards on tickets sold in advance and then there were two "meat draw" events where propellers were sold. Six prizes were offered for each draw, a turkey, a ham and two gift cards. Sales were brisk, which helped to make the overall event a good event.

The overall participation despite advertising seems to be dwindling in numbers. Our membership is shrinking and aging and not as many books of tickets are being sold. This is problematic as a lot of work and costs are involved in getting this event up and running. Careful study needs to be looked at this.

The fifty-fifty draw was a good take home present for one luck winner who happens to be a member of The Win. Congratulations to all the winners for their participation and support of the event.

Message from the 447 Wing Chair (Continued)

A few pictures of the Turkey Roll event are below for your viewing.



Turkey Roll Participants

Terri Welsh, Jim Hooton and Gladys Hooton



Turkey Roll

Flag room filling up with hopeful participants

The rest of December will be busy with Aggie's basket draws, New Years Eve dance and then the New Year's Day levy. More on all these with the next Wing Drift edition.

I, along with your entire Board of Directors wish all of you a safe happy and healthy holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Welsh

Chair, 447 Wing

R.C.A.F.A.

December 2025

Michael Cuffe recognized for veterans advocacy

Story and photos by Gord McNulty

Our former 447 Wing Chairman, Michael Cuffe, received well-earned recognition at the “75th Anniversary of the Korean War Honouring the Brave Award Luncheon” in Mississauga on November 16.

Michael was presented with an Honouring the Brave Veterans Advocate Award during the ceremonies attended by more than 150 guests including veterans of WWII, the Korean War, Afghanistan, UN peacekeeping operations and more.

It was a fitting tribute for Michael. He is currently RCAF Association, Ontario Group, Vice Chairman and Regional Director as well as his ongoing dedicated participation in 447 Wing and many other activities.

Michael joined the RCAFA and 447 Wing in 2016, in memory of his late father (Ret'd Capt. RCAF Reserve) to carry on his passion for the RCAFA. Mike was elected to the Board of Directors in 2017, becoming Chairman in 2019 continuing through to 2024. Mike did what was required to best serve his Wing, the Association and veterans locally, committed to the ideals of the aims and objectives of the RCAF Association, especially during the COVID years. He was recently awarded the prestigious Award of Merit by the RCAFA, Ontario Group.

In addition, Michael has now taken on a new position as Pipe Major for the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 163 Pipes and Drums, serving veterans again within the efforts of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Mike and the bagpipes go hand in hand. He immediately began learning to play the bagpipes after joining the Royal Canadian Air Cadets at the age of 12 with 172 Squadron in Toronto. He has played with the Metropolitan Toronto Service Pipe Band, the Pipes and Drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada and, as Pipe Major, the Halton Regional Police Service Pipes and Drums.

Professionally, Mike has been involved in civil aviation for more than 40 years. He is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, specializing in the avionics field. He has worked with various airlines starting in Churchill, Manitoba, on to the Toronto Island (Billy Bishop) Airport and Pearson International Airport.

Our thanks to Korean War veterans advocates HooJung Jones Kennedy and Don Kennedy, 447 Wing members, for their leadership in organizing and hosting the luncheon and awards. Gord and Angie McNulty represented 447 Wing at this very rewarding and successful event.



Hamilton Garrison Parade

With the donation from the RHLI Regimental Association, I thought it would be good to show some photos that I took of the RHLI marching in the Hamilton Garrison Parade on Nov. 9 this year. The turnout was good despite wintry conditions.



RHLI in
Hamilton's
2025 Gar-
rison Pa-
rade



The Hamilton
Garrison Pa-
rade included
army cadets,
air and sea
cadets in ad-
dition to
HMCS Star,
the RHLI and
the Argyll



The RHLI
marches from
the John Weir
Foote Armoury
in the Hamilton
Garrison Pa-
rade Nov. 9,
2025

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

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

Kitchen Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday	11:30 am to 8:00pm
Thursday & Friday	11:30am to 9:00pm
Saturday	11:30am to 7:00pm



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).

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
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	Rob Wilson	(905) 745-2097
	Al Daniels	(905) 577-2605

779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

Acting Chairman:	John Mayhew	
Vice Chairman:	(Position Vacant)	
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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 Grahman 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)



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.