



# Wing Drift

June 2023

## *Message from the Chairman*

Hello Wing Members,

I hope everyone is well. It has been a slow start to Summer with the high-level smoke from all the forest fires across Canada. Hopefully they will all dissipate very soon.

The North Wall Riders kicked the Summer off with their annual ride from the 447 Wing this past month. Over a hundred riders rumbled their way out of our lot one Saturday morning on a **'Ride for Rocco'**.



The 779 Black Knight Squadron held their Annual Review Parade at CWH earlier this month. The Squadron was well turned out and put on a full show of Command & Silent Drill Teams, Band Display & the March Past with Advance in Review Order.

Congratulations to all Cadets, Officers & Staff on a job well done.

Maj. Skrzypczak will be stepping down as CO in September. The COC Parade is Sept. 19th.

Your RCAFA Membership renewals are due as soon as possible. Your contributions keep us going and your membership current. This years' lucky registration winner drawn on June 17<sup>th</sup> was Ms. Lynn Casselmen. Congratulations Lynn.

Service Pins recipients for the 2022/2023:

**45yrs** – Aidan Finn // **40yrs** – Jack Finan

**20yrs** – Gord McNulty // **5yrs** – Bev Cuffe, Donald Reid, John Travale

To be awarded at the September 30<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

## *Message from the Chairman (Cont'd)*

We must say “So Long, Farewell” to Harry & Diana Hodder as they are heading back to Newfoundland at the end of July. Harry & Diana have been members of the 447 Wing for several years and will continue to do so. Harry was the Membership Chair who has now past on the Baton over to Brenda Wilson. Harry & Diana are not leaving the 447...just Ontario.

Harry & Diana – “WE WISH YOU WELL”

The monthly Meat Draws will continue through July & August (July 29<sup>th</sup> & August 26<sup>th</sup>).  
Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Wing patio is open again this year. Come and enjoy a meal with a few ‘cold ones’ after a busy day at the Office or whatever your daily routine might be. Bottled beer, Draught, Tall Boys, other patio drinks with a full dining menu are available.

Our Bartenders & Kitchen Staff are ready to serve you.



Keep your eyes & ears open for all Wing announcements.  
Watch our Facebook page for upcoming events.

[The 447 Wing - Home | Facebook](#)

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Cuffe  
Chair, 447 Wing RCAFA

June 2023

To: 447 Wing Membership  
From: Michael Cuffe  
Date: 20June 2023

## **Notice of Proposal**

This Memo serves as my intent to provide a draft copy of the 447 Wing Constitution and By-Laws (Revised June 2023) to the General Membership of the 447 (City of Hamilton) Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association.

This draft copy has been scrutinized by the Board of Directors over the last three months and approved by the Board on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It is now time to bring to the Membership.

Over the course of the summer stand-down period, the General Membership will be asked to review and provide feedback on this document. Final approval of the document will be requested from the General Membership at the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, General Membership meeting.

Confirmation of acceptance and approval of the revised the Constitution and By-laws will be in accordance with ONCA 2010 c. 15 Paragraph 17 and Article 14.0.0 of the current Constitution & By-laws (Rev. 26 Nov2011).

Regards,

Michael Cuffe

Chair, 447 Wing

## **L Col William G. Barker Memorial Park Project will honour Canada's most decorated war hero**

Photos and report by Gord McNulty

Plans to pay tribute to LCol William G. Barker, VC, in a new park on the grounds of the former RCAF Station Rockcliffe made an excellent impression at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Group, Royal Canadian Air Force Association, at the Courtyard Marriott in Hamilton on May 20.

The project, featuring an eight-foot statue of the renowned First World War aviator, was described by LCol (Retd) Brook Bangsboll, 410 (Ottawa) Wing RCAFA Director, in a briefing. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held during the week of Sept. 11-15 2023, with a Grand Opening slated for June 2024 as part of the events recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCAF.

As LCol Bangsboll noted, this attractively designed park will provide long overdue recognition for Barker by the RCAF, in the right place and the right time. Barker was awarded the VC for exceptional bravery in an October 1918 combat engagement over France. He encountered 15 enemy aircraft, shooting down five. Severely wounded after the incredible air battle, he returned to Allied lines.

With 50 enemy aircraft to his credit, Barker helped to establish the fledgling Canadian Air Force in 1920 and the RCAF in 1924. In January 1930 he was named vice president of Fairchild Aircraft of Canada but he died while test flying a new Fairchild aircraft near Rockcliffe airfield in 1930.

Barker was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974, along with William A. 'Billy' Bishop, whose higher public profile made him a household name among many Canadians.

The statue of Barker will be unveiled at the Grand Opening, to be attended by high-ranking officers of the RCAF and RCAFA, First Nations representatives, and prominent politicians. An RCAF fly past is planned.

LCol Bangsboll noted funding to complete the project is in place. The Barker estate and family has donated \$100,000 and 410 Wing has donated \$10,000. Contributions for future maintenance can be made to the RCAFA National Headquarters in Ottawa, designated for the project.

Further details are outlined in the following excerpts from LCol Bangsboll's presentation.



# LCol William G. Barker, VC Memorial Park Project

LCol (Retired) Brook Bangsball, 410 Wing Director

Briefing to:

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ontario  
Group, Royal Canadian Air Force Association, 20 May 2023



- An Overview
- The Background Facts
  - Military career highlights of LCol William G. Barker, VC
- Some Historical Photos
- The LCol William Barker, VC Memorial Park Project
- The Plan (Part of the RCAF Centennial Celebration)



## Overview

- LCol William G. Barker, VC, the most decorated war hero in the history of Canada, the British Empire and Commonwealth Nations (as of 1918);
- First Acting Director of the CAF, 1924;
- Killed in aircraft flying accident at CAF Air Station Rockcliffe, 12 March, 1930;
- The namesake for 410 Wing (Ottawa) RCAFA;
- The City of Ottawa has approved the naming of a new park on the former grounds of RCAF Air Station Rockcliffe in LCol Barker's honour;
- Ground-breaking ceremony week of **11-15 September 2023**; and
- Grand-opening ceremony in **June 2024** (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCAF)



### LCol Barker's Military History

- Volunteered for the First Canadian Mounted Rifles in June 1914 (age 18)
- Joined the British Royal Flying Corps in 1916 as a gunner /observer
- Completed pilot training in 1917
- 1917, earned the Military Cross at the Battle of Cambria (age 21)
- 1918, earned the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), the Italian Silver Medal for Valor and the French Croix de Guerre
- On 27 October, 1918, over Foret de Moral, France, engaged 15 enemy aircraft, shooting-down five. Severely wounded, returned to allied lines and was awarded the Victoria Cross (age 22)
- Credited with 50 enemy kills.
- 1922, joined the newly established Canadian Air Force
- 1924, first Acting Director of the Canadian Air Force (age 30)





- **The LCol William G. Barker, VC Memorial Park Project**

- **Stakeholders:**

- Canada Land Company and the City of Ottawa
    - 410 Wing, RCAFA
    - First Nations and their Land Acknowledgement
    - RCAF Foundation
    - RCAF
    - The Barker Estate and Family





• **The Plan:**

- **Week of 11-15 September 2023: Ground-breaking Ceremony**
  - Photo opportunity for social media coverage and promotion of the grand-opening in 2024
- **June 2024: Grand-Opening Ceremony (as part of the RCAF's Centennial)**
  - RCAF Commander and Honour Guard
  - First Nations Land Acknowledgement
  - Speeches (Members of Parliament, Mayor of Ottawa, RCAF Reps, RCAF Commander)
  - Unveiling of the LCol Barker Statue
  - RCAF Flypast



• **Financing and Logistics**

- **The Statue:**
  - **Financing & Production:**
    - 410 Wing
    - The Barker Estate
    - RCAF Foundation
  - **Delivery and Storage:**
    - RCAF Foundation
    - CAF / DND
    - Air and Space Museum
  - **Installation:**
    - Canada Land Company
  - **Maintenance / Upkeep:**
    - City of Ottawa / Parks & Recreation
    - 410 Wing





- **Conclusion:**

- **Recognition, which is long overdue...**
- **At the right place...**
- **At the right time...**
- **For all the right reasons...**
- **Lest we forget...**

**The 447 Wing is OPEN**

<b>Sunday &amp; Monday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</b>	<b>11:30am to 10:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b>	<b>11:30am to 11:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:30am to 8:00pm</b>

**Kitchen Hours**

<b>Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</b>	<b>11:30 am to 8:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b>	<b>11:30am to 9:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:30am to 7:00pm</b>

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**3210 Homestead Drive, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0**

**Telephone: 289.280.0157      Email: 447winghamilton@gmail.com**

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

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](mailto:447winghamilton@gmail.com)).

## **447(City of Hamilton) Board of Directors 2022– 2024**

Chairperson	Michael Cuffe	(905) 574-4163
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson	David Upsdell	(905) 389-9083
Secretary	Linda Daniels-Smith	(905) 304-5008
Treasurer	Bev Cuffe	(905) 517-6146
Directors	Mike Curley	(905) 975-8229
	Brenda Wilson	(905) 745-1568
	Jim Hooton	(905) 383-3962
	Sandra Wells	(289) 244-3315

## **779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee**

Chairman:	Fred Hopkinson	(905) 719-4615
Vice Chairman:	(Position Vacant)	
Treasurer:	John Mayhew	(905) 388-4055
Secretary:	(Position Vacant)	
Coordinator Screening & Registration:	Brenda Wilson	(905) 692-5803
Member: Risk Management:	Cheryl Jackson-Checkley	
Black Knight Squadron HQ:		(905) 679-6485
Alumni:	Chantelle Wark	(905) 975-0373
Commanding Officer:	Major Piotr Skrzypczak	(905) 220-4588



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

<b>Aiden Finn CD</b>	<b>(1983)</b>
<b>Gord Rowland</b>	<b>(1995—1998)</b>
<b>Judy Brown</b>	<b>(2000, 2008)</b>
<b>6 Presidents served during</b>	<b>(2003 &amp; 2005)</b>
<b>Bill Grahlman CD</b>	<b>(2008-2017)</b>
<b>Jim Hooton CD</b>	<b>(2017-2019)</b>



<b>Bill Whiteside</b>	<b>(1962)</b>
<b>Russ Newton</b>	<b>(1963,81,91)</b>
<b>Jim Robbins CD</b>	<b>(1964-65)</b>
<b>Carl Whaley CMCD</b>	<b>(1966)</b>
<b>Sterling McAllister CD</b>	<b>(1967)</b>
<b>Doug Thornewell</b>	<b>(1968)</b>
<b>Ken Lenz</b>	<b>(1969, 1975)</b>
<b>Bill Carey</b>	<b>(1970)</b>
<b>Innes Anderson</b>	<b>(1971)</b>
<b>Sid George</b>	<b>(1972)</b>
<b>Ken Read</b>	<b>(1973)</b>
<b>Bob Hayes</b>	<b>(1974)</b>
<b>Bill Thompson</b>	<b>(1976)</b>
<b>Rob Gillies</b>	<b>(1977)</b>
<b>Nels Smith CD</b>	<b>(1978, 1984)</b>
<b>Jack Lightfoot</b>	<b>(1979)</b>
<b>Scott Lumsden</b>	<b>(1980)</b>
<b>Syd Buckles</b>	<b>(1982)</b>
<b>Alex Barrett DFC</b>	<b>(1985)</b>
<b>Clare Hansen</b>	<b>(1986, 1994)</b>
<b>Harry Rasmussen</b>	<b>(1988-89)</b>
<b>Bob Hide</b>	<b>(1990)</b>
<b>Bill Ryckman</b>	<b>(1992-93)</b>
<b>Arthur Young</b>	<b>(2004,2006)</b>
<b>Harry VanZeben</b>	<b>(1997-99,2001-02)</b>
<b>Frank A. Begley</b>	<b>(2007)</b>



### **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.