



Wing Drift

March 2023

Message from the Chairman

THE 447 WING IS HOST WING FOR THE ONTARIO GROUP RCAF ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE MAY 19-21, 2023

Hello Wing Members,

Welcome to March Madness, March Break, and Spring just around the corner (March 20th @1724hrs). Happy St. Paddy's Day to all the Irish and all those who want to be Irish. The Wing held an unrestricted St. Paddy's Day party to a full house, enjoying some new traditions such as the Guinness Float and a Bailey's Chocolate Sundae. Everyone was dancing up an Irish storm to the music of a new band, **Ant & The Cruz Tones**.

Just a reminder that the 447 Wing RCAF is hosting the Ontario Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the May Holiday weekend. Conference starting Friday night with an Opening ceremony followed by the Chair's reception. Saturday Meetings or Companion Tour followed by a Gala Dinner with special guests & Guest Speaker, followed by a Sunday morning Memorial service & Closing ceremony.

This is the 1st AGM in three years and a good opportunity for the 447 Membership to voice your concerns to the future of the RCAF. Register to attend the entire weekend event or any portion there of. Hotel rooms are available.

This is YOUR Annual General Meeting

Après the AGM is the 447's Wind Down Party, Sunday afternoon @ **The Wing**.
Our Theme -- "An East Coast Kitchen Party".

The 447 Wing continues to assist with the Taras Bulba Ukraine Support group by accepting donations for humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people. All donations are gathered, boxed up and put on a CargoJet flight destined for Ukraine. This is our 3rd Flight with the Taras Bulba support group. For this campaign, 447 Wing held a food drive for non-perishable, dry food items. A 4th flight being planned towards the end of April. Let us help those who are struggling.

Don't forget... Good Friday (April 7th) – Friday Fish & Chips Day. A full day of Fish & Chips, with an evening performance of The Dubai Band (7-10pm).

Message from the Chairman (Cont'd)

The Haldimand News did a follow up article on the 447. If you missed it, here it is.

LOCAL : NEWS

447 Wing RCAF Association remains in holding pattern with Mount Hope building

'There are only a few of us left with bricks and mortar'

[Set Haldimand / Glanbrook as My Local news](#)

Mon., March 13, 2023

While 447 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association in Mount Hope remains in a holding pattern as it faces a 10 per cent rent increase on its building, the music continues to reverberate outside, while inside a mature crowd fills the space with songs, dancing and laughter.

"We're one of the last few wings who have our own brick and mortar," said 447 Wing's chair, Michael Cuffe. "Many are stuck renting temporary space at community centres and church basements."

In late 2019, the previous owner made plans to demolish the building, but instead sold the site in 2021.

Cuffe said that when they negotiated the five-year contract in January 2022, they were able to secure rent for \$129.17 per square metre for the first year, but were unable to get a deal for subsequent years, and will see an annual 10 per cent rent increase.

Cuffe said that the group hadn't yet come up with creative ways to improve its financial situation, but since the pandemic, there has been an uptick in the wing's takeout food business. It's the organization's best revenue stream, with fish and chips as its bestseller.

The situation has not slowed the association's charity work: in less than a week, the group had dozens of boxes of non-perishables ready to go to Ukraine through Taras Bulba Ukraine Support 2022, a non-profit sending humanitarian aid to both civilians and the military.

"We have a member here and it's a cause close to her heart," said Cuffe. "So we do what we can."

The organization's membership is about 100, but the space is open to all, with members of the public coming for various events, including euchre, karaoke and regular musical performances.

Server Lise Richard said her affection for the 447 was all about the customers.

"It's the people who come here who make this place special," she said. "We are a community at heart."

Groups and couples clustered at their tables, waiting for a turn to sing.

"I've been coming here to sing for years," said 77-year-old Clark Harnden. "I love it because it caters to older people, but everyone is welcome here.

"I sure hope they stick around."

Cole Heastont started working at the 447 in Grade 8. Now finishing a social work diploma, he works as a cook for the association.

"It's the best place around here," he said, smiling. "It's the best place around here for senior citizens and war veterans.

"It's a strong community here."

Fly Safe; Stay Healthy.

Michael Cuffe
Chair, 447 Wing RCAFA

March 2023



3210 Homestead Drive Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0
 Telephone: 289.280.0157 E-mail: 447winghamilton@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-447-Wing-140212226825200/>

The Wing is open to the public, come join us!

Upcoming Events - 2023 Calendar

Date: 2023	Entertainment	Genre	Meetings	Event	Time
March 25 th			General Meeting		1 pm
March 25 th				Monthly Meat Draw	3 pm
March 30 th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
March 31st	Deservedly So	Variety		Friday Band Night	7 pm
April 6 th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
April 7 th	The Dubai Band	Classic Rock		Good Friday – Fish & Chip Day – Band Night	7 pm
April 12 th	Karaoke with Gord	Open Mic		Karaoke Night	7 pm
April 13 th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
April 15 th	Tuxedo Blues			Saturday Matinee	2 pm
April 20 th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
April 26 th	Karaoke with Gord	Open Mic		Karaoke Night	7 pm

April 20	Country Ramblers	Open Mic
April 26 th		

Upcoming Events—2023 Calendar (Cont/d)

Date: 2023	Entertainment	Genre	Meetings	Event	Time
April 27th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
April 29th			General Meeting		1 pm
April 29th				Monthly Meat Draw	3 pm
April 29th	Country Ramblers	Dance		Spring Fling Night	7 pm
May 4th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
May 5th	Knuckle Head			Friday Band Night	7 pm
May 10th	Karaoke with Gord	Open Mic		Karaoke Night	7 pm
May 11th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
May 18th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
May 24th	Karaoke with Gord	Open Mic		Karaoke Night	7 pm
May 25th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
May 26th	Celtic Effect Band	Celtic		Friday Band Night	7 pm
May 27th			General Meeting		1 pm
May 27th				Monthly Meat Draw	3 pm
June 1st	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
June 2nd	Kenny Musson	Variety		Friday Band Night	7 pm
June 8th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm
June 14th	Karaoke with Gord	Open Mic		Karaoke Night	7 pm
June 15th	Country Ramblers	Open Mic			7 pm

David Onley's service included aerospace advocacy

Photos and report by Gord McNulty

Best remembered as a champion for disabled persons during his exemplary public service, former Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley was also an inspiration to the Canadian aerospace community.

David, 72, died at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto on Jan. 14 after a brief illness. He received heartfelt tributes, highlighted by a profoundly moving state funeral on Jan. 30, for his many achievements. It's only fitting to recognize the efforts of the first person with a disability to hold the office of Lieutenant Governor in promoting Canada's aerospace industry.

Notably, David provided important leadership for completion of the full-size replica of the Avro Arrow built by volunteers of what was then the Toronto Aerospace Museum (TAM). He boldly proposed construction of the replica at a 30th anniversary dinner and reunion of ex-Avro Canada employees and other aviation enthusiasts in March 1988.

At the time, David was a broadcast journalist specializing in science for CityTV Toronto. He suggested the replica would provide a physical legacy for future generations to see and appreciate the technological capabilities of Canada's successful aerospace industry.

I attended the event and well recall how the audience watched intently as David, who had polio as a child, made his way to the podium with determination. He received thunderous applause and the idea soon gained momentum with formation of a committee led by David.

By the summer of 1988, the non-profit Canadian Aerospace Heritage Foundation was established with David as the first president. "Arrow fever," as such, generated a tremendous all-volunteer effort culminating in the rollout of the impressive replica at Downsview in October 2006.



The Arrow as it was originally unveiled in Downsview in 2006 by the Toronto Aerospace Museum.



I took a photo of David with the replica at Downsview shortly before its official unveiling. His warm, down to earth personality always left a positive impression with everyone.

David became TAM's patron when he was named Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor in 2007, where he served with distinction for seven years. He was a tireless champion for people with disabilities, computer literacy for First Nations children in Ontario, and more.

David was passionate about NASA's shuttle program and the Canadian Space Agency. In 1981, he wrote the best-selling novel *Shuttle: A Shattering Novel of Disaster in Space*.

The novel focused on a shattered spacecraft locked in a fatal orbit, with the crew running a desperate race against time as mission control mounted a last ditch rescue attempt. It was nominated by the Periodical Distributors of Canada as the book of the year.

In fact, the success of the novel opened doors for his media career, as David had found it difficult to find work when he graduated from the University of Toronto. His big break came when he was hired at CityTV by Moses Znaimer, who was already breaking stereotypes by putting visible minorities on air. The two men had a shared interest in space.

The Arrow replica, and the rest of the TAM collection, is now stored and protected at the Canadian Air and Space Conservancy at Edenvale airport about 90 miles north of Toronto.

David will be fondly remembered as an inspirational role model devoted to his family and public service. The funeral ceremony was, as prominent TVO journalist Steve Paikin put it, "a fitting send off for one of the truly great public servants this province has seen."



We extend our deepest sympathies and wishes for "blue skies" to David's wife, Ruth Ann, his three sons Jonathan, Robert and Michael, and their grandchildren on his passing.

Air Cadets pay tribute during public visitation for David Onley at Queen's Park on Jan. 29. 2023

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

1

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).

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

Chairperson	Michael Cuffe	(905) 574-4163
1 st Vice Chairperson	David Upsdell	(905) 389-9083
Secretary	Linda Daniels-Smith (Volunteer)	
Treasurer	Bev Cuffe	(905) 517-6146
Directors	Mike Curley	(905) 975-8229
	Harry Hodder	(905) 679-5300
	Brenda Wilson	(905) 745-1568

779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

Chairman:	Fred Hopkinson	(905) 719-4615
Vice Chairman:	Peter Armstrong	(647) 273-6635
Treasurer:	John Mayhew	(905) 388-4055
Secretary:	(Position Vacant)	
Coordinator Screening & Registration:	Brenda Wilson	(905) 692-5803
Member:	Cheryl Jackson-Checkley	
Black Knight Squadron HQ:		(905) 679-6485
Commanding Officer:	Major Piotr Skrzypczak	(905) 220-4588



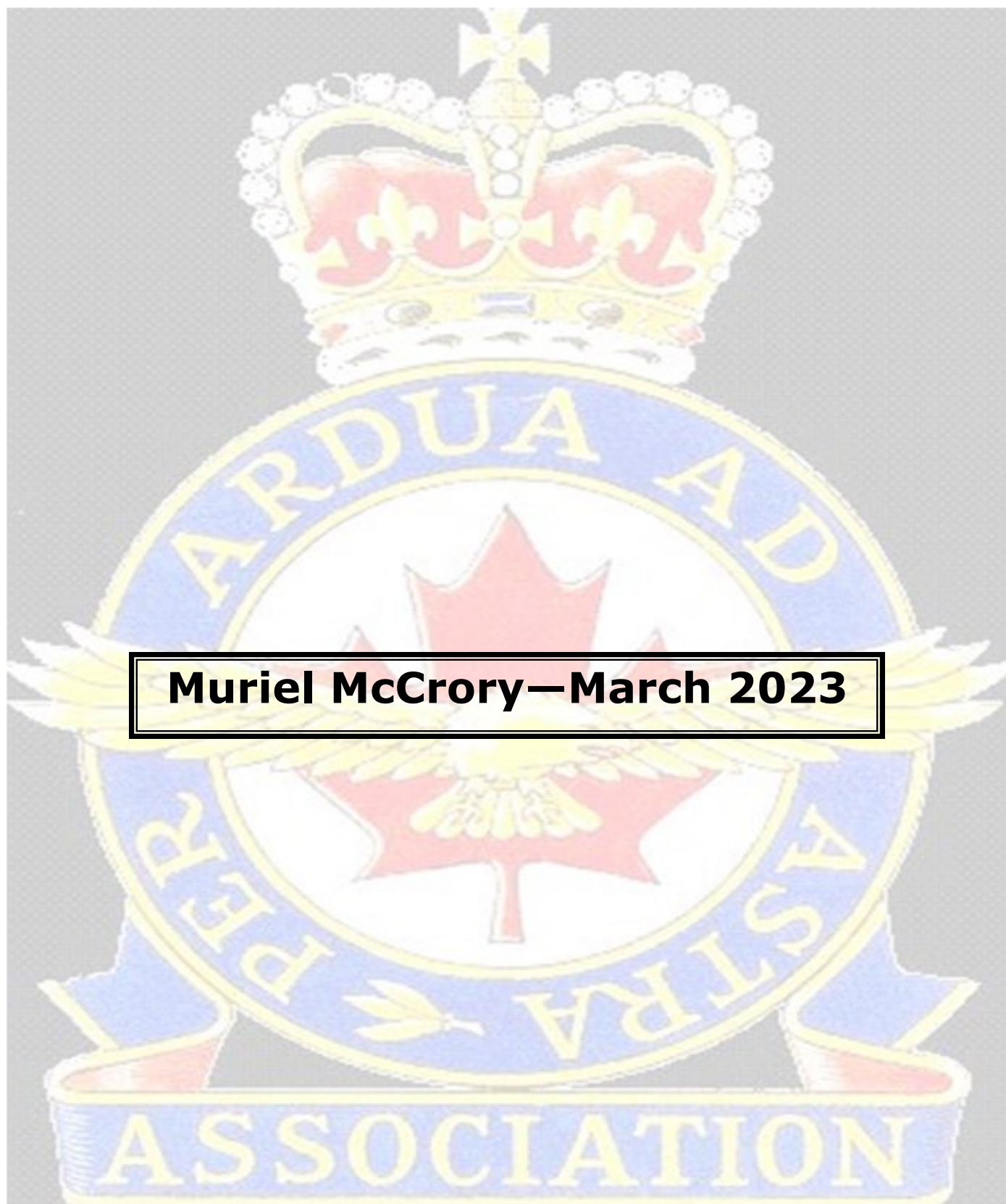
447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents***

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)

**Bill Whiteside****(1962)**

Russ Newton	(1963,81,91)
Jim Robbins CD	(1964-65)
Carl Whaley CMCD	(1966)
Sterling McAllister CD	(1967)
Doug Thornewell	(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)

IN MEMORIAM



Muriel McCrory—March 2023



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.