



Wing Drift

September 2022

Message from the Chairman

THE 447 WING IS HOST WING FOR THE NATIONAL RCAF ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 14-16, 2022

Hello Wing Members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. I think this summer was the hottest in quite some time. Last summer it seemed we were 'dodging' more rain; this year it seems we were seeking shade or a cool place just to get out of the heat & humidity. This fiscal year (2022-2023) is shaping up to be a better year than the previous two as we expect to get back to our regular routine prior to the COVID pandemic.

The National Biennial RCAF Association Conference is proceeding as planned for October 14-16, 2022, at the Courtyard by Marriott, Upper James St, Hamilton. Everyone should have received notification and an application form to attend **in-person** or **virtual**. As the conference is being held in our Region, it is encouraged that the 447 Wing Membership to attend.

The BCATP Graves Decoration, normally held in September at St. Paul's Anglican Church, will be held the morning of Sunday October 16th, 2022 @10am. The Decoration is included as part of the Conference agenda; all conference delegates will be attending. All 447 Wing Members encouraged to attend. A reception will be held back at the Wing afterwards. It is anticipated that the 779 'Black Knight' Squadron will be able to participate this year.

The Wing General meetings have resumed again on the last Saturday of the month. All meetings will commence at 1pm, followed by our monthly meat draw at 3pm. Please add these dates to your respective calendars.

The Board of Directors are looking to resurrect successful fundraisers such as Catch the Ace and the Ham & Turkey Draw (to name a few). We need volunteers the 'spearhead' fundraising campaigns. If interested, contact the Wing Office.

Our usual activities have returned, such as Tuesday afternoon Seniors' Euchre (1:30pm). Karaoke has returned after a long hiatus on alternating Tuesday nights. The Country Ramblers' 'Open Mic' will continue weekly on Thursday nights and Friday Night Bands will also return - 2 Bands per month. The Wing Calendar of Events are posted throughout the Wing.

Fly Safe; Stay Healthy.

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Cuffe
Chairman, 447 Wing RCAF

September 2022

Record-setting 2022 CFB Borden, Ontario Air Show

Photos and report by Gord McNulty

Sunny skies and a desire to beat the COVID-19 blues prompted aviation fans to turn out in droves for the Canadian Armed Forces Day and Air Show at CFB Borden 18-19 June. The first show held at the base since 2018, it surpassed expectations in many ways. In fact, Base Commander Col. Daniel Riviere told CTV Barrie that a record crowd estimated at 54,000 people attended the event this year.

Spectators enjoyed an impressive lineup featuring strong RCAF participation including the 2022 CF-18 Hornet Demo, the Snowbirds and the Skyhawks among others. Trevor Rafferty in a Pitts Model 12, with a 400 horsepower Russian-built radial engine, and Manfred Radius in a Salto sailplane were among civilian performers. The A-10C Thunderbolt II demonstration team represented the U.S. Air Force.⁶



RCAF CF-18 Hornet 188707 with “Borden 100” tail fin logo was a featured hangar display at the CFB Borden Air Show

Static displays included a RCAF CH-147F Chinook, a Tutor in Golden Centennaires colours, and the resplendent Beech Expeditor 3NM in “Canadian Queen” markings among other aircraft. The twin Beech, (s/n 1552/C-FTLU) served in the RCAF from 1952 until 1967 when it went to multiple owners in the U.S. Dave Hewitt of Woodstock, ON acquired the aircraft from a museum in Arkansas and repatriated it to Canada in 2015.



Old Gold CT-114 Tutor in Golden Centennaires colours on static display at the 2022 Borden Air Show



Beech Expeditor “Canadian Queen” owned by Dave Hewitt of Woodstock ON was on static display at the 2022 Borden Air Show.



Static Tutors at CFB Borden illustrate different schemes on the CT-114 during its service as the RCAF basic jet trainer.



Poster for the 2022 CFB Borden Air Show featured an image of the 2018 Demonstration Hornet

Base Borden provided attendees with a complimentary 46-page program that featured a tribute to the RCAF CF-18 Hornet Demo Teams, from the first appearance in 1993 to 2022. An illustrated three-page section, providing a comparison of the various paint schemes created each year, was especially appreciated. The 2009 finish, highlighting the colour gold as its base to ‘fit’ with the Golden Centennaires and the Golden Hawks, celebrated the 100th anniversary of powered flight in Canada and ranks as a personal favourite.

A long row of bleacher seats, ideal for spectators who didn't bring chairs, was also much appreciated --- especially given the size of the crowd. It was a thoughtful event in many ways, as Base Borden plant 2,000 red pine trees to offset carbon emissions generated by the show.

In addition, spectators donated netted 4,000 pounds of non-perishable food items for area food banks. Full kudos to CFB Borden and all of the generous sponsors and participants for a tremendous event.

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Successful Skyfest 50 fly-in at CWHM

Report and photos by Gord McNulty

A two-day Skyfest 50 fly-in staged by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum on 25-26 June delighted aviation enthusiasts.

The two-day event saluted the 50th anniversary of the CWHM. It was limited to advance ticket sales of 2,000 per day and quickly sold out. Weary of the COVID-19 doldrums, people lined up early outside the museum doors at Hamilton International Airport to wait for the doors to open.

The CWHM Fairey Firefly, returning to the skies after an eight-year hiatus for repair, attracted considerable attention. It was rewarding to see this impressive aircraft, powered by a 2,245 hp Rolls-Royce Griffon, back in action again.



The prized Fairey Firefly of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Skyfest 50 on 25 June.

The CWHM B-25 Mitchell and other CWHM vintage aircraft were also crowd-pleasers, as the museum's Lancaster was on static display pending the replacement of its No. 1 engine.



Skyfest 50 attendees watch the CWHM B-25 Mitchell firing up.

The RCAF CF-18 Hornet Demo, in its two-tone grey colour scheme for 2022, took centre stage. The RCAF also contributed a CT-156 Harvard II. Hannu Halminen flew his striking P-51D Mustang in the colours of 424 Auxiliary Squadron as flown at Mount Hope in the 1950s.



The RCAF CF-18 Demo Hornet at Skyfest 50 in a scheme combining operational grey with a geometric pattern on the wings and tail fins.

The Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, Va., sent a variety of warbirds including a Spitfire Mk IX, a P-40 Warhawk, a P-39 Airacobra and a full-scale replica Focke-Wulf Fw 190.

For more coverage, check out extensive images by Gus and Clara Corujo at Gusair.com (the Aviation Events 2022 link) and a 20-minute YouTube video by Ernest Gutschik showing arrivals to the fly-in, complete with sound.

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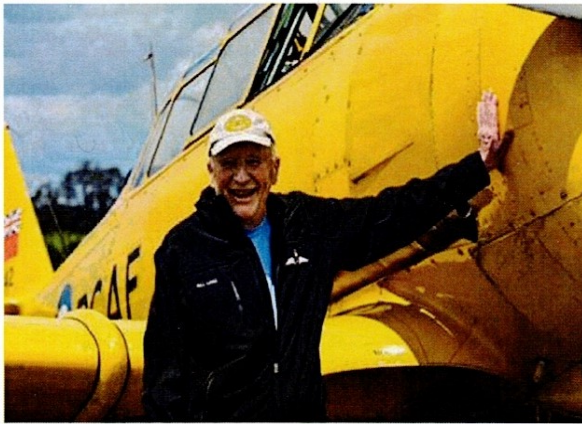
Celebration of Life for Bill Long RCAF (Ret'd)

Report and photos by Gord McNulty

Family and friends filled the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 60 in Burlington on July 17 for a fond farewell to Major (Ret'd) Bill Long. The Celebration of Life culminated in a fitting memorial flypast by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Canso and two Harvards from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association based in Tillsonburg.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF William Robert Thomas Long "Bill"

June 4, 1936 - February 2, 2022



*Celebration of Life
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 60
828 Legion Rd, Burlington
Sunday, July 17, 2022
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm*

Bill Long enjoyed an illustrious career as a pilot in the RCAF and commercial aviation.

Speaking at various meetings, he recalled the Nieuport's rotary engine came apart on a low pass and one of the engine mounts let go. Bill quickly shut the engine down but couldn't land straight ahead because the RCMP were using the runway. So he put the aircraft into a turn but a wingtip struck the ground. "The seatbelt let go and I went headfirst into the machine gun," he said. Bill stumbled out with his white scarf and helmet and watched the incident on the CBC News that night.

After his retirement from the RCAF, Bill continued flying 707s for Wardair. Then he flew other jetliners including the McDonnell Douglas DC-10, the Boeing 747, and Airbus A300s, A310s and A320s. In 1993, he became Chief Pilot and Flight Operations Director with RegionAir of Singapore, flying a Boeing 767 leased to Air Vietnam.

A stalwart member of the CHAA and the CWHM, Bill passed away at Joseph Brant Hospital on February 2 at the age of 85. He was a fine gentleman who thoroughly enjoyed an extensive and rewarding 60-year career as a multi-tasking pilot in the RCAF and later flying commercial jetliners.

Bill became an RCAF pilot as a 17-year-old teenager and trained on Harvards at Claresholm, Alberta. He later served as an instructor at Claresholm, then served as a transport pilot flying Dakotas, Cosmopolitans and Boeing CC-137s (707-347C) transports. During his wide-ranging career, Bill enjoyed flying the Royal Family in the Cosmo on a week-long tour for the Centennial of B.C. in 1971.

Bill's expertise was such that he flew a vintage First World War Nieuport 17 of the National Aeronautical Collection as part of a major air show at Ottawa in 1967 to celebrate Canada's Centennial. It was an unforgettable flight, in more ways than one. Bill was known for his sense of humour and invariably looked back on the episode with a smile.

Returning to Canada, he continued to fly and went to Air Canada as a simulator instructor before retiring from that position around 2014.

On August 5, 2017, Bill had a special thrill in celebrating his last flight in a Harvard at the home of the CHAA in Tillsonburg. In fact, Harvard #242 was the same aircraft in which he made his first flight in the famous trainer 60 years previously. Find excellent coverage of this event by Gus Corujo by Googling “Gusair.com and Bill Long.”



Bill enjoyed his final Harvard flight in CHAA Harvard #242 at Tilsonburg in 2017

Terry Scott of the CHAA, where Bill served as a former Chief Pilot, was master of ceremonies for the Celebration of Life. Pat Hanna, Past President of the CHAA and Leon Evans, Chief Pilot of the CWHM, paid heartfelt tributes to Bill’s achievements, dedicated service and friendly personality.

Everyone in attendance appreciated the opportunity for an in-person commemoration. We wish blue skies and tailwinds for an aviator who made a difference and epitomized the spirit of High Flight written by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee.



A CWH Canso and two CHAA Harvards in a Celebration of Life tribute for Bill Long in Burlington. (Gord McNulty photo).

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 |

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<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

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779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
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| 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 |



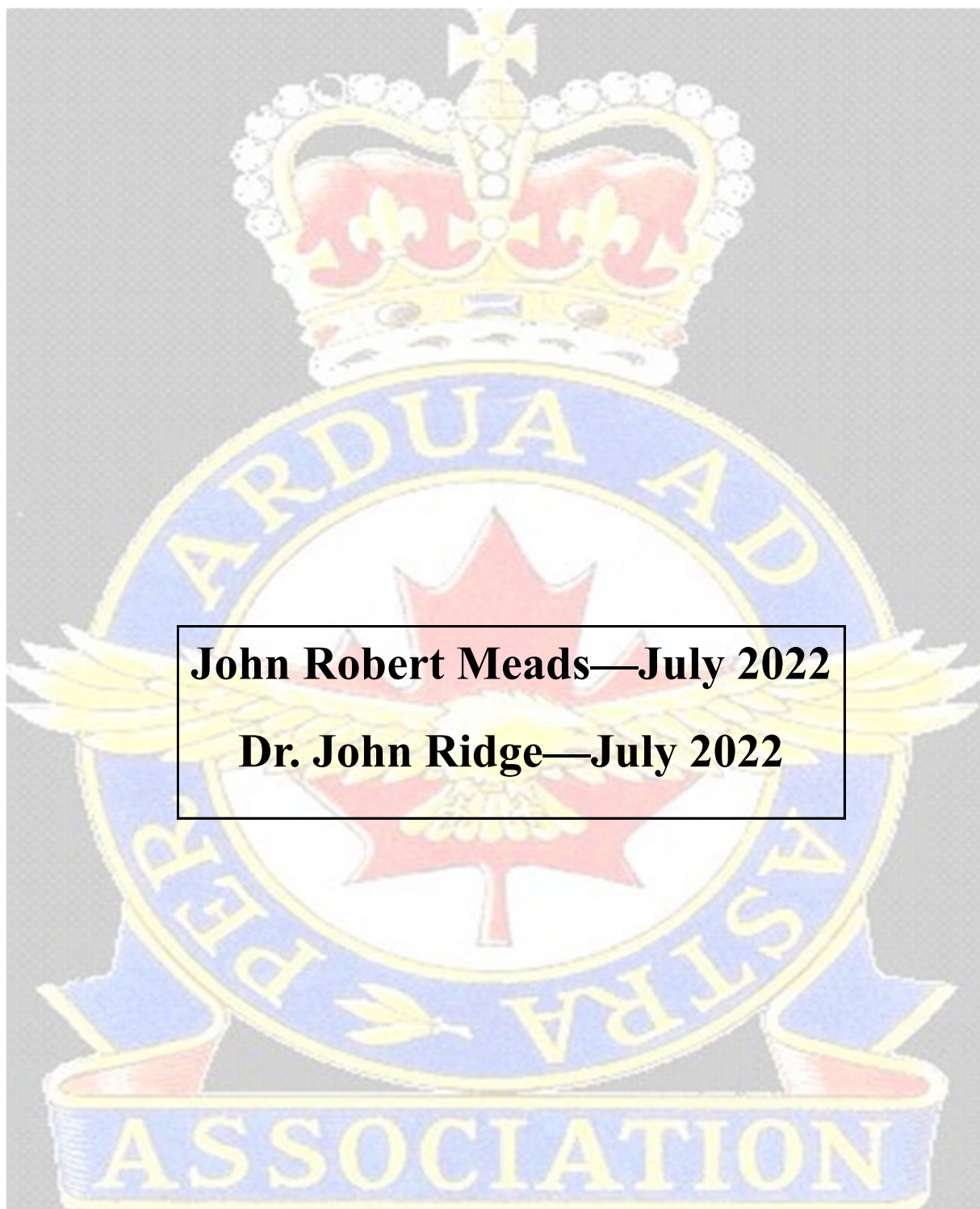
447 (City of Hamilton) Wing***Past Presidents***

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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) |



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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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



John Robert Meads—July 2022

Dr. John Ridge—July 2022



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.