



Wing Drift

September 2024

Message from the 447 Wing Chair

Well, July, August and part of September are gone and in the history books. One must ask, where did the summer go?

It was a tumultuous beginning with three board members resigning at the beginning of August 2024. Their resignations came at a time when a course of action, espoused by some, was not fast enough and a total change in direction was not approved because of constitutional conditions making the motion “ultra vires”.

Other than that, the 447 Wing Board of Directors carried on with the business of the Wing and our commercial endeavor.

The Wing enjoyed modest success over the summer months despite the crowds being smaller due to holidays and other warm weather endeavors. Meat Draws continued to provide a fun time for patrons and raised some much-needed capital for the management of the Wing.

The newly decorated Flag Room was heavily damaged due to a faulty plumbing fixture in one of the upper apartments. The damage was significant and will be repaired in the not-too-distant future.

A meeting with the landlord held in August was initiated because a water leak in another upper apartment was causing flooding in the club room. This new malady forced a planned re-decoration of the flag room to be postponed. The landlord suggested that the problem was the fact that The Wing was a commercial enterprise, and the plumbing was not being maintained properly. He suggested the system be scoped by Roto Router and your chair suggested the landlord pay for the scoping. He agreed. Result...our plumbing is just fine and did not require a flushing procedure. However, a severe leak in the shower area of the upper apartment was located and needs to be fixed. Unfortunately, the landlord ended up in hospital, ---- -- therefore repairs will be authorized when he returns to Hamilton.

Repairs were done unsatisfactorily, and more work is required. Repairs and fixing of damages will be completed once all water issues are resolved.

With the end of summer approaching fast Wing members met with Reverend Stephenson and a delegation of St. Paul’s Church to discuss and plan for War Graves Decoration activity to be held on Sunday September 15th, 2024. The after event get together this year will be held in the church hall. For convenience’s sake, it was felt that attendees would remain at the Church Hall rather than travelling to the Wing.

A ZOOM meeting was held in August with Provincial officers running the meeting. It was productive to a point but too much territory had to be covered instead of a specific goal. A good meeting that requires follow-up.

447 Wing will be hosting a regional meeting at the Wing on September 21st, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to noon. Regional Chair Mike Cuffe will chair the meeting.

447 Wing will be hosting a Customer Appreciation Day on that same date from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. to say modest thanks to the community.

The first general meeting of the fall will be September 28th, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. followed by the meat draw.

Notice is given that the meeting will adjourn at 2:20PM to allow for preparation of the Meat Draw and in order to ensure our regular meat draw patrons are taken care of. They help pay the bills.

The Chair and your Board of Directors wish all members and their loved ones well in the coming months and into the new year.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Welsh

Chair, 447 Wing

September 2024

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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

Kitchen Hours

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/>

Grand Opening of LCol William G. Barker, VC Park an inspiring event in Ottawa Sept. 9, 2024

Story and photos by Gord McNulty

A throng of RCAF veterans and air force dignitaries, joined by civic and federal politicians, attended an impressive Grand Opening of the LCol William G. Barker, VC, Memorial Park in Ottawa on Sept. 9.

The park is highlighted by an eight-foot statue of the renowned First World War aviator, Canada's most decorated war hero. Sunshine fortunately prevailed for the ceremony, hosted by 410 (Ottawa) Wing of the RCAFA.

William 'Bill' Barker was awarded the Victoria Cross after he engaged 15 enemy aircraft, shooting down five while being severely wounded, in 1918. He was credited with 50 enemy losses and was instrumental in establishing the RCAF in 1924.

Barker was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974 along with his better-known First World War contemporary, the colourful William A. 'Billy' Bishop.

The park is situated on the site of the former RCAF Station Rockcliffe. Barker died tragically when, as vice president of Fairchild Aircraft of Canada, he was test flying a new Fairchild aircraft near the Rockcliffe airfield in 1930. He was 35. An honour guard of 2,000 soldiers and some 50,000 spectators attended his funeral in Toronto.

The journey to the new park began more than 15 years ago under the leadership of Hon. Col. John Wright, Founding Chair of the RCAF Foundation. A partnership involving the Foundation, the Canada Lands Company, 410 Wing and the City of Ottawa made the park and unveiling another highlight of the RCAF 100th anniversary events.

Barker's great granddaughter, Mary Mackenzie, came from Victoria, BC, to attend as well as sculptor Armando Barlon of Victoria. Mary told CBC Ottawa that she was "just thrilled" to attend the special occasion.

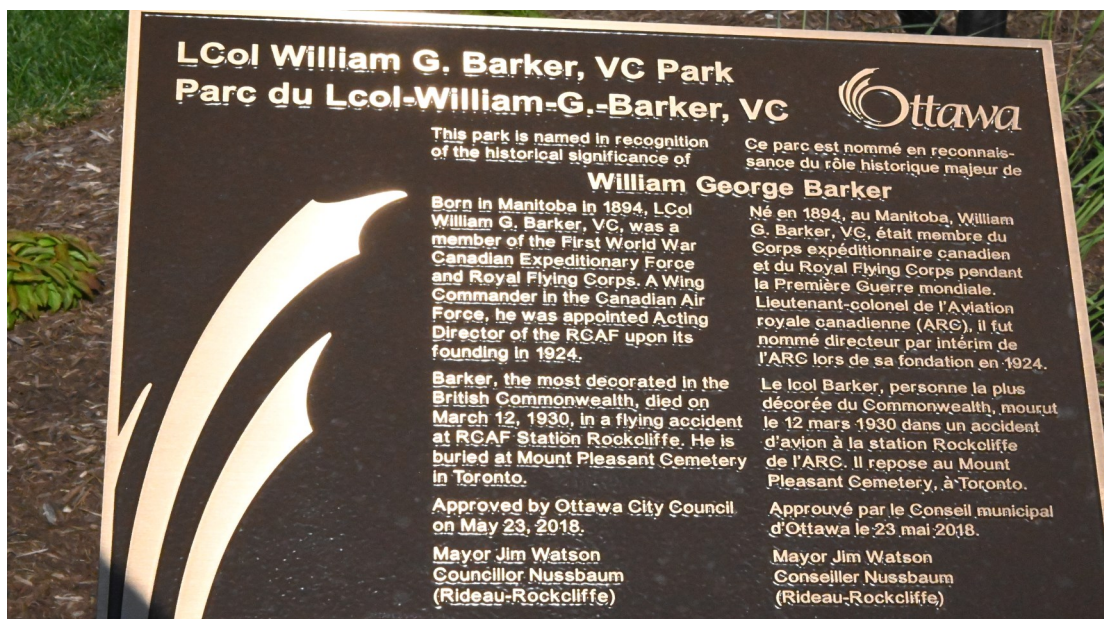
"It's a little surreal, to be honest, and incredible," she said. "What an honour to have such a beautiful statue to commemorate his legacy and all that he accomplished in his short life."

Speakers included Jeremy Diamond, CEO of the RCAF Foundation; Marie-France Lalonde, MP for Orleans; Rawlson King, Deputy Mayor of Ottawa; and LGen Eric Kenny, Commander of the RCAF, among others. It was a pleasure to join Michael Cuffe in representing 447 Wing and conversing with RCAFA colleagues.

The memorable occasion ended with a flypast of two Spitfires and a Hurricane from Vintage of Wings of Canada that was appreciated by everyone.



LCol William G. Barker, VC Park unveiled at original Rockcliffe site Sept. 6, 2024



Inscription on the statue of LCol William G. Barker, VC at the park.



Sunshine prevailed at the Grand Opening.



MC Cathy Priestman of 410 Wing welcomed attendees to the Grand Opening.



LGen Eric Kenny, Commander of the RCAF, was among the speakers at the unveiling.

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).

Britain's Red Arrows visit Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Photos and report by Gord McNulty

The Royal Air Force Red Arrows aerobatic team made a big impression in a colourful visit to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum on Sept. 11.

Flying nine BAE Hawk trainers, the world-famous team came to the CWHM as part of a five-week “Maple Hawk” tour across Canada celebrating the 100th anniversary of the RCAF. It was a memorable occasion in more ways than one, as the Red Arrows are celebrating their 60th Diamond Season in 2024.

The Red Arrows arrived in bright sunshine with a trademark ‘holy smoke’ demonstration before landing and parking in formation. They later completed a spectacular flypast over Niagara Falls after first joining the CWHM Lancaster bomber.

The Red Arrows, for their part, stated on Facebook that appreciated the “incredibly warm welcome” they received from the large number of aviation fans in attendance. The presence of the Lancaster made the occasion all the more special for the visitors from the U.K.

CWHM staff, volunteers and members were thrilled with a day that delighted everyone in attendance



The Red Arrows arriving at CWHM Sept 11 2024



Four Hawk trainers of the Red Arrows at CWHM Sept. 11 2024 (1)



A Red Arrows pilot prepares with his Hawk trainer before the team departs the museum.

RCAF Enters Guinness Book of Records

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) has entered into the storied pages of history after setting a record for illuminating the most landmarks around the world in 24 hours.

The prestigious Guinness World Record recognized the efforts of the RCAF after setting a world record on April 1, 2024.

The Guinness World Record was set in recognition of the RCAF's centennial anniversary.

“We are incredibly proud to have set this Guinness World Record. This illumination event was a visual spectacle and a heartfelt tribute to RCAF personnel, past and present, who have served our country with distinction. We are grateful to all Canadians and our global partners who participated and helped us light up the nation and the world in celebration of our Centennial,” said LGen. Eric Kenny, Commander of the RCAF and Chief of Air Force Staff.

The record was set with 56 landmarks illuminated in 24 hours. The previous record was 38 illuminated landmarks. Moreover, over 500 sites, including landmarks, were illuminated worldwide.



The Ottawa Peace Tower shines in blue on April 1, 2024, in recognition of the RCAF Centennial. The Peace Tower was among the 56 worldwide landmarks which counted towards the RCAF's Guinness World Record for number of landmarks illuminated in 24 hours.

Hundreds of sites lit worldwide

To set the world record, the RCAF blue proudly illuminated over 350 sites across Canada. Additionally, more than 150 sites were illuminated worldwide.

International countries that displayed the RCAF blue are Australia, Austria, Bermuda, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Peru, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, South Korea, and the United States.

“To see so many people come together to celebrate the Centennial of the Royal Canadian Air Force was truly remarkable. Over the past century, the RCAF has achieved incredible feats thanks to the dedication and talent of its amazing personnel. This milestone is a testament to all who participated at home and abroad, whose unwavering support has made such achievements possible,” said Col. Margaret Jacula, Campaign Manager, RCAF 2024.

In total, 56 landmarks were lit worldwide, 42 of which were in Canada. The sites included the CN Tower, the Ottawa Peace Tower, and the Ambassador Bridge. Other locations, which made up more than 500 sites in total, included government buildings, museums, and private residences.



BC Place and Vancouver Lookout are illuminated in Blue on April 1st, 2024, for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial. BC Place and Vancouver Lookout were among the five landmarks in Vancouver which counted towards the RCAF’s successful Guinness World Record attempt for number of landmarks Illuminated in 24 hours.

Making the cut

According to the Department of National Defence (DND), the RCAF needed to follow strict guidelines provided by the Guinness World Records to make the cut.

To be considered a landmark by Guinness World Records, a location had to be recognized by UNESCO, national governmental registers, or significant third-party registers.

To enter into the records, the RCAF needed to include evidence such as a ten-minute timestamped video, a photo of the landmarks and two witness statements, shared DND



The CN Tower in Toronto illuminated in blue on April 1st, 2024, for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial Illumination campaign. The iconic Canadian landmark was one of the 56 landmarks which counted towards the RCAF's successful world record attempt.

Celebrating the achievement

To celebrate achieving this milestone, the official Guinness World Records certificate was presented to the RCAF commander. It was also presented to Chief Warrant Officer John Hall, Command Chief Warrant Officer of the RCAF, and Captain Aaron Niles, Strategic Planner for the RCAF Centennial Team and lead for the illumination campaign, during the RCAF Centennial Ball on June 1, 2024, in Ottawa.



Above images: Locations around the world to be blue on April 1, 2024. Left to right, N Seoul Tower in South Korea, Riga Town Hall in Latvia. Tromostovje Bridge in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Cork City Hall in Ireland, Tallinn TV Tower, Estonia.

List of sites

A list of sites illuminated for this extraordinary feat include:

Canada

- Bradford Heritage Clock Tower – Bradford East
- Gwillimbury
- Calgary Jack Singer Concert Hall – Calgary
- Telus Sky – Calgary
- Calgary Plus 15 – Calgary
- Calgary Tower – Calgary
- Canada Life Centre – Winnipeg
- Canadian Warplane Museum – Mount Hope
- Diamond Valley – Diamond Valley
- Innisfil Legion – Innisfil
- Mississauga Clock Tower – Mississauga
- Ottawa Peace Tower – Ottawa
- Radome – Clinton
- Rogers Centre – Toronto
- Thunder Bay Battle of Britain Monument
- Thunder Bay
- Vancouver City Hall – Vancouver
- Alberta Legislature – Edmonton
- Vancouver Lookout – Vancouver
- Bloedel Conservatory – Vancouver
- Saanich Municipal Hall – Saanich
- Queen Elizabeth Theatre – Vancouver
- New Westminster City Hall – New Westminster
- BC Place – Vancouver
- Signal Hill – St John's
- Government House (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- St John's
- Selkirk Water Tower – Selkirk
- Government House (Nova Scotia) – Halifax

- Halifax City Hall – Halifax
- Camp Hill – Halifax
- CN Tower – Toronto
- Guelph City Hall – Guelph
- Brockville Rail Tunnel – Brockville
- North Bay City Hall – North Bay
- Gummer Building – Guelph
- The Post Office – Guelph
- Meaford Water Tower – Meaford
- M.L McConaghy Seniors Centre Cenotaph – Richmond Hill
- Aurora War Memorial Peace Park – Aurora
- The Armoury – Aurora
- Belleville Town Hall – Bellville
- Estevan Water Tower – Estevan
- Charlottetown City Hall – Charlottetown
- Pearson Airport – Toronto

New Zealand

- Christchurch Airport – Christchurch
- Queens Park Feldwick Gates – Invercargill
- Queens Park Fountain – Invercargill

Guinness Book of World Records

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, “the previous record of 38 was achieved by The Estée Lauder Companies as recognized in New York, New York, USA, on 1 October 2010.”

Scotland

- Falkirk Wheel – Falkirk
- The Town House Hamilton – Hamilton
- Marischal College – Aberdeen
- Scullion Law – Hamilton
- St Andrews House – Edinburgh
- Allan Church – Bannockburn

Ireland

Cork City Hall – Cork City

South Korea

Seoul Tower – Seoul

Austria

Danube Tower – Vienna

Estonia

Tallinn Tower – Tallinn

France

Juno Bach Centre – Normandy

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

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779 Air Cadet Sponsoring Committee

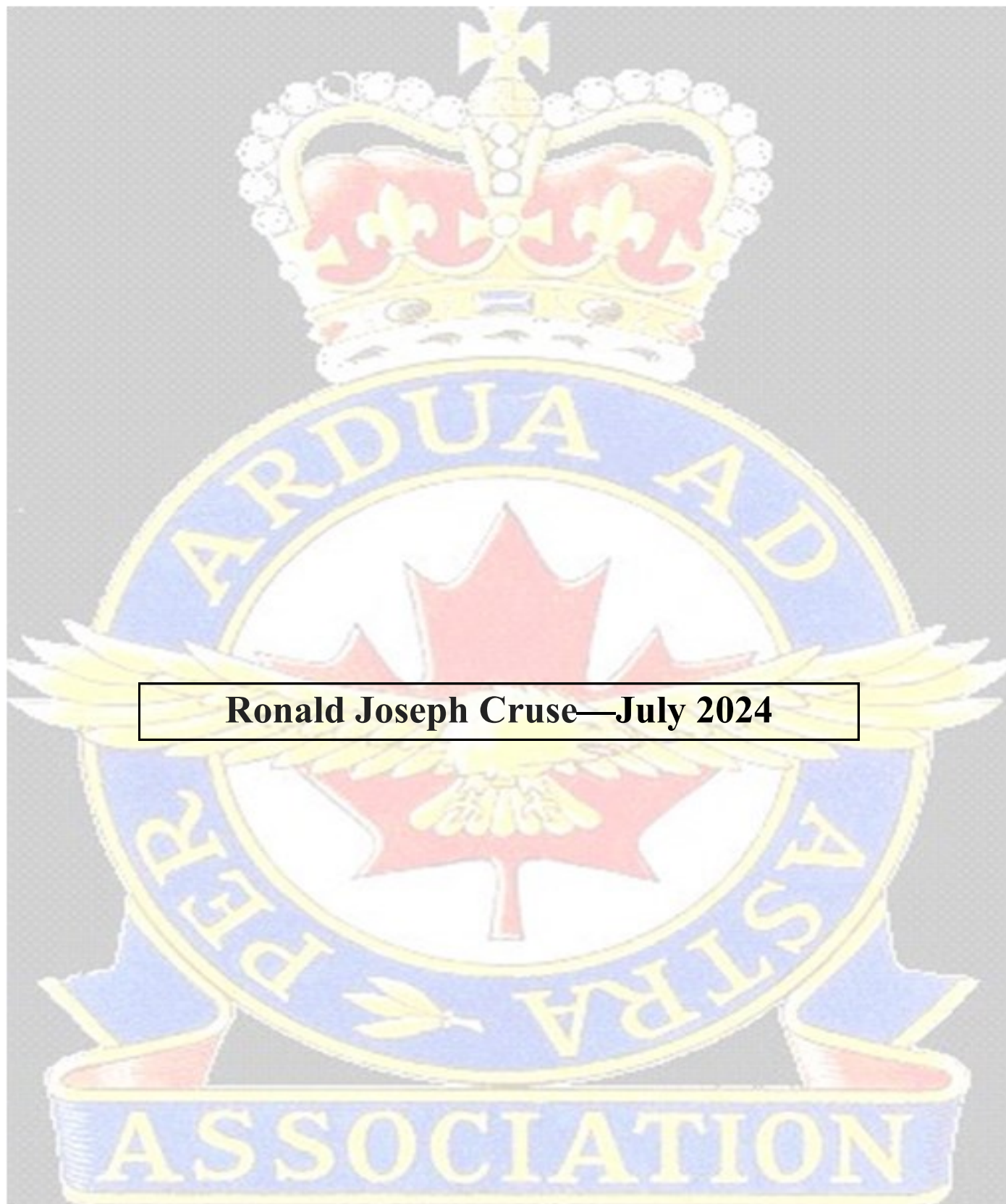
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Member: Risk Management:	Cheryl Jackson-Checkley	
Black Knight Squadron HQ:		(905) 679-6485
Alumni:	Chantelle Wark	(905) 975-0373
Commanding Officer:	Captain Marilyn Coleman	(905) 765-2414



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)

IN MEMORIAM



Ronald Joseph Cruse—July 2024



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.