447 Wing RCAFA



Wing Drift

September 2026

Message from the 447 Wing Chair

Well, summer is over and fall begins in a few days. One must ask, where did summer go? I hope all had an enjoyable summer, and that health and happiness was with you all.

Since our last edition there have been few matters of importance to report on as summer months are usually a very slow period for meetings and our business enterprise.

We have continued over the course of summer to have regularly scheduled board of directors' meetings carrying on the business of 447 Wing R.C.A.F.A. as mandated by constitution and National and Princial directive. We are well on our way of separating R.C.A.F.A. and our business "THE WING" from common ground in accordance with directions from National and Provincial boards.

The Association is preparing a Strategic Plan that will soon be shared with Chairs. I will forward the details once I receive them. Association Town Hall meetings will begin this fall, prior to the National AGM. The Membership Renewal System is nearly complete, although some questions remain about how it will operate.

Our membership is sparse now, and not everyone who was a member last year has renewed their membership. This may be due to higher costs or because many members are older and no longer able to attend functions.

Our board members met with St. Paul's Anglican church to plan the Remembrance ceremonies for Sunday September 20th, 2026. This yearly remembrance is our memorial to R.A.F. personnel who lost their lives training at Mount Hope. This year we also commemorate a deceased Canadian officer whose ornate stained glassed commemorative window now graces the church for years to come.

On September 13th, 2026, a euchre tournament was held at the Wing where great fun was had by all, prizes were awarded and this fundraiser provided much needed funds for the good works done in the community by your Wing. Particularly securing monies for a donation in the future to 779 Black Knight Squadron cadets.

Our past Chair, Mike Cuffe, has been ill for about six weeks now and is slowly but surely returning to a degree of health. We wish him we on his journey.

We had a meeting with "Sam" the landlord and have hopefully sorted out some issues of importance to us both. We have scheduled another meeting in November where hopefully tasked efforts will come to fruition.

September will once again see the resumption of our scheduled general meetings which are followed by our meat draw. Our September meeting for 2026 – 2027 will be held on Saturday, September 26. Hope to see you at the General Meeting!

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Welsh

Chair, 447 Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Refurbished T-33 Silver Star makes impression at Barrie, ON

Report and photos by Gord McNulty

A refurbished Canadair-built T-33 Silver Star in original 1950s colours is an attractive display at the RCAF Centennial Parkette in the Barrie, ON area. The aircraft, ex-RCAF 21443, was restored by members of the RCAF Association 441 (Huronia) Wing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the RCAF in 2024.



Silver Star 21443 at RCAF Centenial Parkette in Barrie



Canadair Silver Star 21443 at RCAF Centennial Parkette in Barrie. Aug. 5, 2026.

In a project that involved considerable dedication and teamwork, the ‘T-bird’ was disassembled, relocated in two trucks from the base, and refurbished for display at a small parkette adjacent to a surveying business owned by Rudy Mak in Springwater Township just west of Barrie.

Rudy assisted Wing members and other RCAF veterans with the project in appreciation of the RCAF contribution to the wartime liberation of Holland. He desired a public park that as he put it "would honour the history of the RCAF and everything that it represented."

The memorial parkette was dedicated in December 2024. It features seven plaques outlining various details of RCAF history. One plaque, for example, describes the early days of Camp Borden, where my father Jack enjoyed his time in the RCAF.



The parkette sign.

The versatile Silver Star, the Canadair-built version of the Lockheed T-33 jet trainer, was famous for its remarkable longevity of 52 years in RCAF service from 1953 to 2005. Canadair built 656 Silver Stars, equipped with a Rolls-Royce Nene engine that was more powerful and provided better performance than the Allison J-33 in the Lockheed-built aircraft.



RCAFA 441 (Huronia) Wing emblem on the Silver Star at Barrie.



Another view of the Silver Star 21443 at the RCAF Centennial Park in Barrie

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CWHM Fly-In marked 80th Anniversary of the Chipmunk

Photos and report by Gord McNulty

An impressive fly-in to mark the 80th anniversary of the Canadian-designed and built de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Chipmunk trainer was held at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum on August 29.

Pilots from Canada and the U.S. arrived in 10 Chipmunks to join the event with the CWHM Chipmunk, donated in 1973 by John Weir, one of the museum's founders. Everyone enjoyed the remarkable gathering of 11 colourful examples of the famous trainer on the ramp, the opportunity to see the aircraft up close, and plenty of lively conversation.



Eleven DHC-1 Chipmunks attracted fans at the 80th anniversary fly-in, CWHM, Aug. 29, 2026



The Chipmunk pilots and crew at the 80th anniversary fly-in at the CWHM on Aug. 29, 2026.

The ‘Chippies’ on the ramp ranged from beautifully polished examples like CF-OAV from Saskatchewan to a British-built aircraft in striking Royal Air Force display paint that circumnavigated the Northern Hemisphere in 1997.



DHC-1 Chipmunk CF-OAV from Saskatchewan at CWHM for 80th anniversary of the Chipmunk Aug. 29, 2026.

It was fitting recognition for the Chipmunk, first flown on May 22, 1946, by British test pilot Pat Fillingham at Downsview. The RCAF accepted its first Chipmunks in 1952 and the fully aerobatic primary trainer continued in Canadian service until the end of 1971.

A total of 217 Chipmunks were built in Canada; 1,000 in the U.K., and 66 under license in Portugal. Many of these attractive and popular aircraft are still flown today. Pilots appreciate the Chipmunk’s delightful flying characteristics, rugged airframe and reliable engine.

An outstanding variety of warbirds added to the excitement. They included a rare Westland Lysander, now operated by Lysander Historical Aviation and previously with Vintage Wings of Canada. Dave Hadfield, brother of astronaut Chris Hadfield, piloted the Lysander, based at Collingwood, ON.



Westland Lysander C-FVZZ at CWHM 80th anniversary of the Chipmunk Fly-In Aug. 29, 2026.

A Supermarine Spitfire Mk. XVIII and a TF-51D Mustang came from the Timmermans Legends of Flight in Chatham. The Great War Flying Museum arrived with their Sopwith 1½ Strutter and Fokker triplane, the Waterloo Warbirds brought their T-33 in ‘Mako Shark’ colours and four T-28 Trojans flew in along with several other vintage aircraft.



Timmermans Legends of Flight Spitfire Mk XVIII C-GANI at CWHM Aug. 29, 2026.



Great War Flying Museum replica WWI aircraft arriving at CWHM for 80th anniversary of the Chipmunk fly-in.



Waterloo Warbirds 'Mako Shark' T-33 C-FRGA at CWHM 80th anniversary of the Chipmunk fly-in Aug. 29, 2026.



DHC-1 Chipmunk from Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor at CWHM 80th anniversary of the Chipmunk fly-in Aug. 29, 2026.



Chipmunk N833WP in RAF display paint at 80th anniversary Chipmunk fly-in, CWHM Aug. 29, 2026.



Two Canadian Aviation Museum Chipmunks departing from the 80th anniversary fly-in at CWHM Aug. 29, 2026.

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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**

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 2026— 2028

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447 (City of Hamilton) Wing

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6 Presidents served during	**(2003 & 2005)**
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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.