

TO LEARN - TO SERVE - TO ADVANCE

AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

Issue 29 – Fall 2021

NEWSLETTER

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*“WE WILL CONTINUE TO
prepare as local health
guidelines allow, for the
“new normal.”*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



How quick the summer has gone by, and we now turn the corner into Fall and a new training year! Congratulations to all those Cadets that were able to participate in some form of virtual summer training and activities.

Now more than 16 months into this pandemic, we still face some challenges ahead, especially with the 4th wave. We will continue to prepare as local health guidelines allow, for the “new normal”. Provincial/Territorial Committees (PTCs) and local SSCs have been working closely together to plan and review how this can be done safely for all, so we can continue the success of this program.

As a federal government entity, the CAF may issue additional guidance and direction in the near future regarding squadron operations. When it comes to League activities, it is the League that bears the responsibility to apply government protocols and implement all required safety measures. I cannot overstate the importance of P/TCs and SSCs chairs exercising diligent leadership to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers. P/TCs and SSCs must continue to ensure safety protocols are in place in accordance with provincial & Territorial government regulations.

Amongst the Board of Governors, we are moving forward on various initiatives at the national level including the revision of the PPBLC, participating in the League Costing Working Group with the CJCR and other leagues, and working on year 2 of our Strategic Plan. We are also awaiting from CJCR their plans related to the rescope of the Cadet Program, starting with the delivery of cadet summer training and the attraction and recruitment of staff. I look forward to having BGen Speiser-Blanchet in her new role and for us to be working together.

Wishing everyone a great training year. Stay well and stay safe.

Hille Viita, CD
National President

AN HISTORICAL DONATION FOR AIR CADET' SCHOLARSHIPS!

This summer, The Air Cadet League of Canada (ACL) was proud to announce an historical donation of \$1.02 Million from Major-General (Ret'd) Ken C. Lett. This donation represents the largest sum ever donated to the ACL in the history of the League. The purpose of the gift is to support the creation of an academic scholarship fund for Air cadets. Specifically, scholarships will be named the "K.C. Lett Scholarships" and will be awarded for postsecondary enrolment in an aviation related program at an accredited educational institution or for continuation flying at a certified flight school. The selection criteria for these awards will include individual performance in the cadet program, secondary school academic performance, and community involvement. Annual disbursements will be based on the annual investment income derived from the fund. Fifty percent (50%) of disbursements will be awarded to Air cadets' resident in Alberta.

Who is this generous man?



Ken Lett receiving his wings from Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1942.

Ken Lett started a lifelong affair with aviation as a teenage pilot in World War Two. He was a member of RCAF 402(F) Squadron flying the famous Spitfire aircraft and, while stationed in England, participated in many raids on the continent to disrupt Nazi Germany's logistical efforts to support their war effort. In his own words, he attacked anything that moved with a swastika - including trains and truck convoys.

His highlight of the war was his participation in the D-Day landings at Normandy by flying many sorties of "top cover" for the Allied troops coming ashore in France; an invaluable contribution to the success of the D-Day landings. He continued in this role for several weeks until the beachheads, and surrounding areas in France, were secured.

Ken joined the post-war Royal Canadian Air Force/Canadian Forces and served in many capacities from squadron pilot to senior command and staff positions. A highlight was his membership on the selection team that chose the CF-104 as the replacement for the Canadair F-86 Sabre in the early 1960's. As such, he was a natural choice to be the first Commanding Officer of #6 Strike/Recce Operational Training Unit at RCAF Station Cold Lake, Alberta, the unit responsible for training military pilots on the new CF-104. Rising to the rank of Major-General, Ken retired from the RCAF as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations in NORAD, after enjoying an outstanding military career.



After his retirement from the RCAF, Ken moved to Calgary and stayed in the aviation world. He was President and CEO of a family of companies including the Executive Flight Centre, a commercial air charter service operating from Calgary and Edmonton, a flying school at Springbank and three leasing companies. In addition to his executive duties, Ken flew on worldwide operations as a Learjet Captain and was, therefore, an active pilot from 1941 to 1989 - which is a remarkable achievement.



Ken is currently the Chairman and majority owner of Executive Flight Centre Fuel Services Ltd, a company which provides facilities and services to the aviation industry with a fleet of over forty refueling trucks. His involvement in community activities includes serving as a Director and President of the Alberta Aviation Council, the Calgary Airport Business Association, Director of the Air Transport Association, the Aerospace Museum Association of Calgary, The Calgary Airport Authority and a member of the Calgary Transportation Authority. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the aviation community was as a founding member of the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta where he was a major financial contributor to the original Air Force Museum in Calgary. He followed this up with a major contribution of several hundred thousand dollars to establish infrastructure for the Ken and Roma Lett Cold War Exhibit (adjoining the main museum in Calgary) which houses the aircraft (F-86 Sabre, the CF-104 and CF-18) that the RCAF flew in Europe as part of NATO during the Cold War from 1951 to 1989. Indeed, Ken provided another several hundred thousand dollars to purchase the F-86 and the CF-104 - which are mainstays of the Cold War Exhibit. He recently donated \$2.4 million dollar to the Mount Royal University Aviation Diploma program!

Based on all his selfless contributions to aviation in Canada, and particularly Calgary, there is no doubt that Mister Ken Lett would be an excellent candidate for induction into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame - and the sooner the better.

Learn more about this successful generous veteran and businessman by clicking on this video link:

<https://youtu.be/5g3pJCSDG9M>

CBC Alberta French television interview about the \$1M donation we received from Ken Lett. The interview took place during the 6pm news program on Friday, September 17.

The interview takes place at minute 12:35.

[Bulletins de nouvelles | Le Téléjournal Alberta | ICI Radio-Canada.ca](#)



2022 POST -SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS - GOOD NEWS!



In addition to cadets still active in the program as of April 1, 2022, it will now be possible for those who will be leaving the program between April 2, 2021, and April 1, 2022 because they are turning 19 and will be in their first year of post-secondary studies in 2022 to apply for a post-secondary scholarship. For this reason, the post-secondary scholarship nomination form will be available in late October!

As always, we encourage nominations from across Canada! One of our donors is offering thirteen post-secondary scholarships of \$1000 each; one for each province (10) and

territory (3). These scholarships will be awarded to cadets who choose to study science, math, engineering or aviation.

We count on you to inform your cadets as soon as possible!

At the end of October, the form will be available on our website at the following link:

<https://aircadetleague.com/for-cadets-squadrons/awards/scholarships/> and on our Facebook page [Air Cadet League of Canada / Ligue des cadets de l'Air du Canada | Facebook](#)

Stay tuned!

Gilles Cuerrier
Chair, National Cadet Awards & Scholarships Committee

MUSIC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE



It is time to apply for Air Cadet Pipe Band Musician Award and Air Cadet Military Band Musician Award!

Visit <https://aircadetleague.com/for-cadets-squadrons/awards/music-awards-excellence/> and send your **ACC58 application form** and video no later than October 30, 2021.

Awards offered are courtesy of Long & McQuade Musical Instruments.



RISK MANAGEMENT



Where there is a risk, there may be an opportunity. The last year was a struggle for the overall program, whether it was from the vantage of the CAF, sponsors, or cadets. However, across the country, there were good news stories about squadrons in the program coming together with different ideas on keeping the program relevant during the pandemic. Here are a few.

816 Rogersville, being a small rural New Brunswick community with one K to 12 level school programs and approximately 260 students total in the area, has always had a challenge sustaining the Air Cadet program but now, faced with the pandemic, really had to dig in and work as a team more than ever before. So how did they maintain connection, sustain the program, and keep Cadets engaged?

Having a good team of officers and a well-organized sponsoring committee certainly helped. Working hand in hand, CIC and sponsors were able to organize local activities, and bring cadets together as much as possible virtually or in person when permitted by following Provincial and DND health measures.

Parents, guardians, and the whole community were and are convinced that this movement is too important to fail. With the help of everyone, Facebook, word of mouth, the whole community, 816 were able to recruit 10 new cadets and maintain approximately 30 cadets in the squadron.

386 Komox BC continues to have impressive parade numbers despite COVID. They had 25 new enrolments, all smoothly integrated into the sqn activities, which has of

course been mostly virtual; bringing them to 93 on virtual parade. Additionally, the majority of cadets had better than 90% attendance, and several had perfect attendance! Despite the restrictions and uncertainties, they have delivered an engaging program and explored a multitude of unique ways to learn, and to have virtual fun too! Indeed, 386 sqn was the first in the country to reach out and engage the new Comd for a virtual visit last fall. The SSC ensured funding for all equipment required to conduct virtual training such that every level was able to participate, and the level 5 instructors could teach, monitor and participate as if they were in-person. The year-end awards illustrated the high level of engagement and “out of the box” thinking as well. The uniqueness of the training year was reflected in awards such as: “Dedication Award” to all Level 1’s; “Pun-dit Award” to the cadet with consistently good jokes; “GIF-fy Award” to the cadet who consistently responded with GiFs (vice texts) that were always on point; “Another Thing Award” to the cadet instructor always adding “one more thing” at the end of the session; and the “most Elaborate Video Montage”, to name a few. The initiative and planning is very much in the wheel house of the most energetic CO; but she is enthusiastically supported by the SSC and together the cadet sqn has emerged stronger than before.

808 Coquitlam B.C. To adapt to the virtual environment while still keeping cadets engaged and active, 808 RCACS has been running inter-flight competitions throughout the 2020-21 training year. The premise of the inter-flight competition is for cadets to participate in weekly and occasional weekend activities that are designed to build camaraderie. A major way for cadets to contribute to their flight is based on their classroom behavior and participation. Once a month, the senior cadets run an activity night. During these events, cadets may compete alongside their fellow flight mates in activities such as a scavenger hunt, or in a game called “Scattegories” where cadets are given a list of prompts and brainstorm words beginning with a specified letter.



Aside from activity nights, a new fitness activity the squadron is undertaking is World Walking. Inspired by the annual International Four Day Marches Nijmegen held in the Netherlands each July, cadets will be competing in flight teams using the World Walking app to track their steps.

Congratulations to these as well as many other squadrons across Canada for looking at risks caused by the pandemic into opportunities that strengthen. In all cases, a common vision of the CIC officers, sponsoring committee, parents, and cadet leaders working and planning together was the theme for success. In any situation, even with negative aspects, never fear to look outside the box at possible opportunities that can arise.

Ron Ilko,
Risk Management Committee

*Where there is a risk,
there is maybe an
opportunity.*

*Do you have a story about your
squadron turning the negatives of the
pandemic into an opportunity? Let us
know at risk@aircadetleague.com.*



HOW DID I USE MY SCHOLARSHIPS?



In front of a Schweizer 2-33A glider, gliding centre in Wingham

My name is Liethan Seth Velasco. I, like the rest of you now, was privileged to have been a member of the Air Cadet Program at 121 Red Arrows, Guelph, Ontario. During my 5-year career, I've had many unforgettable experiences: going to FTXs, air rifle marksmanship, learning to play the bagpipes, making life-long friends, and much more! But of all the things I've accomplished, for me, the most exciting and honorable privilege I've had as an air cadet was achieving the one thing that makes us who we are: to learn to fly, earn my wings, and become a pilot. And here's the catch - I did it all for free!

In the summer of 2018, after a lengthy selection process, I was one of the fortunate to be selected to attend the Glider Scholarship Program in Trenton, Ontario. For six and a half weeks, I would undergo long days of ground school, and of course, learning how to fly a glider. Even to this day, I can vividly recall moments of pure bliss in the front seat of a Schweizer 2-33A as I marveled at the magnificent views of the world around us from up above. After that, I was convinced that putting in the hard work to begin my flying career was one of the best decisions of my life.

Shortly after receiving my glider wings, I applied for the Continuation Flying Training Awards (CFTA) and

Pilot Training Achievement Awards (PTAA) - bursaries provided by the Air Cadet League of Canada and sponsored by numerous companies nationwide. Recipients of such bursaries are awarded with fundings to continue flying on their own. In other words, they are a wonderful way to continue flying basically for free! Christmas for me came early that year, as I was chosen to be the recipient for the *Hamilton Watch – Irvin Erb Award*, which came with \$1000 to continue flying, and a ravishing Hamilton watch. Thanks to the advice of a family-friend pilot, I immediately put the money towards a few family-flights in the Cessna 152 at my local flight center, in preparation for the next step in my flying career: getting my private pilot license.

After an even more difficult selection process, I was fortunately selected to attend the Power Pilot Course the next summer - the 7-week training program to receive my private pilot license. Power for me took place in London, Ontario at the Diamond Flight Centre, where 17 other guys and I trained on the DA-20. Unlike in a glider, the addition of a propeller introduced a whole new dimension to flying – I could go even higher, and much, much further. The thrill of flying was even more electrifying. And the breathtaking sights of lakes and cities from above, especially during solo cross-country flights, are indescribably stunning. To be 17 years old, and able to say, “I flew from London, to Sarnia, to Windsor, and back, all alone,” was something I'd never imagine become a reality for me.

After applying once again to the CFTA and PTAA that year, I was awarded the *Air Canada Pilot's Association Award*, which came with a generous \$2,500 bursary. I used the money to fly once again at the Diamond Flight Centre, and to get checked out on a Cessna 172 at my local flying center. Thanks to the bursary, the companies who funded them, the Air Cadet Program and the Air Cadet League of Canada. I had the privilege to take up my family as passengers, and show them as well the thrill to flying, all for free.

Looking back, I'll admit, the journey of becoming the pilot that I am today was admittedly very challenging, many times stressful, and took an immense amount of effort. There were many times I was close to giving up, but I reminded myself that to achieve anything worthwhile in life, such as getting my pilots license, I knew I had to



put in my 110%, 24/7. One thing for sure, I'm glad I did it. I had spectacular amounts of fun. I am indebted to the Air Cadet Program, as without them, I wouldn't have been inspired, and gathered enough confidence to apply for, and successfully be accepted as a pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces through the ROTP program at the Royal Military College of Canada.

To those who are aspiring to be future pilots and are still eligible to apply for the Glider Pilot and Power Pilot Scholarships, I'd say, shoot your shot. Apply for them and give it yours all the whole way. Yes, it won't be easy. But because of that, the feeling of the wings you earned being pinned to your chest would be even more gratifying. Trust me, take it from someone whose been through it all. Have courage, spread your wings, and take flight.

Liethan Velasco



I Took my brother up for his first flight in a D20A



On Grad Day of the Power Pilot Scholarship with my brother and mother in front of the specific DA20 I mostly trained on.



IN MEMORIAM



The ACL regrets to announce that former NBPC member and Honorary Chair, Ruth Sabourin, passed away on 1 August 2021 at the age of 102.

Ruth was a valuable member of the Provincial Committee for over 50 years and will be greatly missed.

We are extending our condolences to his family and friends.

More info: [Obituary and Funeral Details](#)

(Photo credit: Telegraph-Journal website)



The Air Cadet League of Canada regrets to announce that Mr. Robert "Bob" Alkins passed away on Sept 1, 2021. He volunteered with the Air Cadets for 18 years. He was part of 547 Canuck Squadron located in North Bay.

We are extending our condolences to his family and friends.

More info: [Obituary and Funeral Details](#)

(Photo credit: Martyn Funeral Home)





PRESIDENTS CLUB

Producing young leaders and outstanding Canadian citizens from coast to coast to coast is no small challenge. By becoming a member of the Presidents Club, you will be at the center of positive change – fostering the same leadership qualities that have always made the Air Cadet program great.

The President's Club is about building Legacies! **Legacies for our youth. Legacies for our movement. Legacies for leaders like you.**

Continue the strong tradition of giving back to our youth. Your commitment will be commemorated in perpetuity as a key contributor to our future success. Like those before us, we invite you to play a part in ensuring that our valuable, national youth movement will succeed and prosper in the coming years.

It takes resources, vision, and leadership! For over 80 years, we have been fortunate to have pioneers and leaders who capture the vision and took on the challenge to build the Air Cadet program – supporting more than 1 million youth who have participated in our program.

The time is now to create new visions and to attract the leaders who will help build the program for the future.

The Presidents' Club has been established to help build and shape the future of the Air Cadet program and our League.

As leaders, we are focusing on new, national initiatives to support young people and our organization – from new training and employment streams, renewing and enhancing our fleet, expanding Cadet programs across the country, and working towards a new Centre of Excellence!

For further details and to discuss a Presidents Club membership package that is right for you, please contact our Presidents Club Coordinator, Krystel Blanchard at presidentsclub@aircadetleague.com



'Mountain View Morning'. High quality print depicting our 233 Glider, paper size 24"x 33"

FRANKLIN PRINT

Take advantage of this **Limited Edition, high quality print** that has been signed and numbered by artist Barry Franklin, a skilled artist and former Air Cadet. 'Mountain View Morning' portrays one of the most prestigious parts of the Air Cadet program as the youth of Canada pursue their glider wings!

Order your limited edition signed print today!

Visit: <https://aircadetleague.com/store/>



SQUADRON ANNIVERSARIES

The following Squadrons have celebrated or will celebrate Anniversaries between
July 1st and September 30th, 2021

25 Years

911 Memphrémagog

30 Years

550 Chevaliers de Colomb Conseil 2814 Donnacona

35 Years

363 Campbell River

45 Years

844 Norseman

845 Avro Arrow

50 Years

502 Vallée du Richelieu

804 Lions d'Alma

806 Optimiste Ste-Thérèse

807 Mount Pearl Kinsmen

809 Newark

55 Years

764 Happy Valley, Goose Bay

60 Years

713 Thunderbolt

65 Years

626 Châteauguay

70 Years

534 Raider

75 Years

395 Edmonton

80 Years

1 West Montreal

6 Jim Whitecross

7 Penhold

9 Neepawa

10 Timmins Kiwanis

11 Lethbridge

12 Edmonton

14 Shawinigan

15 Medicine Hat

17 Yorkton

18 Dartmouth Lions

20 Freedom Fighter



DARIO COSTA CONTINUES TO MAKE HIS DREAMS A REALITY IN DARING FLIGHT THROUGH TURKEY'S ÇATALCA TUNNELS

On Sept. 4, 2021, Italian aerobatic and racing pilot Dario Costa once again proved his precision and skill with a world-record-breaking flight through two auto tunnels near Istanbul. Completely enclosed and in near-darkness, the Hamilton ambassador and Red Bull athlete executed a tricky takeoff in the first tunnel, continued through an open-air gap and then into the second tunnel – all at 245 km/h, flying less than one meter from the ground.

A pilot since age 16, Dario is known for his passion, dedication and perseverance, in 2019 making flying history over the dunes of Namibia in the short film [“Dreams of Flight.”](#)

“Dario’s spirit and determination make the impossible possible,” says Hamilton CEO Vivian Stauffer. “In the cockpit, timing is everything and we’re incredibly proud to support Dario as he continues to make his dreams a reality with skill and precision.”



THE FLIGHT

Even with more than five thousand hours of logged flight time – over half in high-performance aerobatics – diligent preparation, immense skill and the highest level of flying were required of Dario as he wrote a new chapter in aviation history.

After a year of planning and practice, Dario took off in the cockpit of a specially modified Zivko Edge 540 race plane just after dawn. Limited overhead clearance required him to maintain a steady flight path between 30-70 cm from the asphalt, and 3.5 meters from each wingtip to the tunnel’s concrete sides.

Less than forty-four seconds later, Dario had flown 1,730 m, reaching an average speed of 245 km/h and set a new World Record for the Longest Tunnel Flight.



His incredible accomplishment also set four additional records: first airplane flight through two tunnels, first airplane flight through a tunnel, longest flight under a solid obstacle, and first airplane takeoff from inside a tunnel.

"If you believe it you can do it!" says Dario following this daring maneuver. "I've been making my dreams come true one at a time through hard work and passion, and I can't thank Hamilton enough for being on my wrist – or in this case the dash – through every flight."

THE WATCH



"Hamilton's Takeoff is practical, technical and precise," says Dario. "But it's also just really cool, and I love wearing it every day whether I'm in the cockpit, on the road or with my family."

Originally launched in 2014, the Khaki Aviation Takeoff Automatic Chronograph features a unique function created to meet the needs of pilots: a removable case and mount. Wearers can 'takeoff' the case without removing the full watch and attach it to its fixed mount on a cockpit dash.

In celebration of Dario's record-breaking flight, we worked with him to produce a new Khaki Aviation Takeoff Automatic

Chronograph – a special edition limited to 100 pieces, the number a reference to the maximum possible flying height of 100cm inside both tunnels.

With a focus on counting every second up to 40 – the length of Dario's tunnel flight – we added extra layers of Super-LumiNova® on the central seconds hand and seconds indicators up to 40. To ensure Dario's focus even in the tunnel's darkness, there is no Super-LumiNova® on the remaining indicators or the hour and minute hands.

Powered by our H-31 automatic chronograph movement, the 46mm Takeoff features two sub dials and a bi-directional turning flange for easy countdowns. As a nod to the dangerous tunnel flight, the limited-edition piece features yellow-ringed counters: The 12 o'clock sub dial has been adapted to a 15-minute countdown to correspond with the maximum stunt duration, and at 6 o'clock is a 60-second counter.

Finally, the watch will come with special packaging which can be used as a table clock.

THOMAS J. SANDRIN
BRAND MANAGER HAMILTON



ACL KIT SHOP

Did you know that there are a number of 80th anniversary items you can purchase?



Les entreprises Denis Ringuettes are able to offer you items such as plaques, wine or beer glasses, a kitchen apron, a wooden cutting board, an insulated coffee mug, a gift set of steak knives, an umbrella, a key ring, a backpack, a briefcase. The possibilities are great and you can even personalize some items on request.

Here are some examples of what you can buy to support our 80th anniversary!



Contact Mathieu by phone 819-568-6669 or by email mathieu@denisringuette.com to order your 80th ACL anniversary items. You can also visit their website for **other items available**.

<https://denisringuette.com/boutique/>

