

## AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

Issue 36 – Summer 2023

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Air Cadet League of Canada as a National body has had a continuous vision since 1942 as an aviation focused organization encouraging and supporting youth to be engaged Citizens of Canada. We don't do this alone but in collaboration with the Canadian Forces and other organizations including the Royal Canadian Airforce Association and the Royal Canadian Legion and other Industry partners. Statistical data from 1942 shows 10, 000 Air cadets and 135 Squadrons. In 2022 we see 23,000 Air Cadets and 450 Squadrons across the Country.

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As a support organization through our governance model, we continue to inspire an active well-trained network of local, provincial and National Volunteer's whose passions shine in the support of Air Cadets across Canada. As we strive to meet our goals and objectives, we continue to be vigilant seeking long term financial stability nationally through the government of Canada and our industry partners who see the value we bring in supporting young Canadians who one day will join the aviation industry workplace.

In June 2013 the government of Canada published its IPSOS Reid study on public awareness and perceptions of the cadet program in Canada. The survey looked at all aspects of the Cadet program from training to community involvement. It was great to read that community leaders surveyed believed that the cadet program is a "good thing for Canada" and that "it develops tomorrows leaders". What an incredibly positive impact statement to all our 8000 Volunteers from the 450 Squadron sponsoring committees, provincial boards and our national board and volunteer's thanks for your continued service and passion you bring each day in the support of our Vision and mandate.

Yours in Service,

Thomas Taborowski  
National President





## YOUR NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT YOUR SERVICE!

Each year, we have some Governors leaving, while new ones are appointed. This year is no exception. National Governor retiring this year is Mr. Jerry Elias, CD. We thank him for his service.

This year we have one new member joining the Board of Governors: Angèle Mullins.

Here is the list of the Board of Governors for 2023-2024

Thomas Taborowski – President  
Marc Lacroix, CD – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Sue Madden – Vice-President & Treasurer  
Doug Slowski, CD – Vice-President  
Jacquie Pepper-Journal, CD – Vice-President  
Hille Viita, CD – Immediate Past President  
Dee Davis  
Jerry Elias, CD  
Kevin Robinson  
Thomas Sand, CD  
John Nolan CD  
William Cahill  
Terri Hinton  
Arlo Speer  
Vern Toews  
Angèle Mullins





## 2023 POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS



*On May 27, thanks to the generous support of our donors, the ACL proudly presented a total of twenty-nine national post-secondary scholarships worth \$61,000 to our outstanding cadets across Canada.*

*This year, we received 177 applications for post-secondary scholarships. Almost all the recipients and donors attended the third edition of the virtual ceremony. It was a great success! This format gave donors the opportunity to present the scholarships to the recipients themselves. The recipients did not know in advance which scholarship they were being awarded.*

*All recipients are listed on the following page.*



(Continued...)

Name	Squadron Number	Scholarship Name	Value
Amélie Lavallée	NB – 866	99's Canada	\$1,000
Troy Cheah	BC – 808	ACL Advisory Council	\$1,000
Lauren Espe	ON – 151	ACL Advisory Council	\$1,000
Jenna Diamond	NL – 774	Birchall	\$2,500
Aidan Matyasovszky	ON – 70	Birchall	\$2,500
Aidyn Pearce	MB – 82	Birchall	\$2,500
Matthew Jacob S Wall	AB – 952	Birchall	\$2,500
Hagan Carson Cheung	BC – 692	CAE	\$2,500
Kaili Marie Grace Foster	NB – 334	CAE	\$2,500
Jia Cheng (Jacky) Li	ON – 8	Thomas Colfer	\$2,500
Clara Marcoux	QOV – 894	Thomas Colfer	\$2,500
Manasva Katyal	ON – 540	Dale	\$2,500
Nicole Xie	QOV – 338	Dale	\$2,500
Alek Guitard	QOV – 921	KC Lett	\$2,000
Candace Huffman	SK – 107	KC Lett	\$2,000
Faraaz Salman Jan	QOV – 742	KC Lett	\$2,000
Yukyeom Jang	BC – 754	KC Lett	\$2,000
Anandi Jawkar	ON – 789	KC Lett	\$2,000
Janice Lam	ON – 351	KC Lett	\$2,000
Brendan Christopher Tam	ON – 351	KC Lett	\$2,000
Aidan Quinn Tam Telewiak	ON – 296	KC Lett	\$2,000
Andrew Wylie	QOV – 710	KC Lett	\$2,000
Vanik Park	BC – 777	Legion National Foundation	\$2,500
Julian Junyan Wang	ON – 8	Anthony A. Martin	\$1,000
Ryan Arthur Stevens	NS – 106	RCAFA	\$2,500
Aurora Matti-Lynne Donner	NB – 334	2nd TAF MBA	\$1,000
Frances Ingjaldson	SK – 41	Alex Venables	\$2,000
Kathleen Costain	NB – 527	Dr. William Weston	\$1,000
Julian Yu Xuan Tan	AB – 918	Young Citizen Foundation	\$5,000

*Once again, we would like to thank all the donors who made this possible!*

*Gilles Guerrier, CD  
Chair, Scholarships and Awards Committee*





## HONOURS & AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2023



Again, this year, the Honours and Awards Committee, in collaboration with the National Cadet Scholarships and Awards Committee, held its third virtual award ceremony on May 27. The ACL was honoured to present 60 awards to individuals or groups that have made a difference, either at the local, regional, provincial, or national level of our youth organization. Some of the Awards were personally presented at the AGM to the people that were in attendance, June 17<sup>th</sup>. All awards were handed over to Provincial Chairs or their designate.

The booklet of the recipients can be seen on our website [www.aircadetleague.com](http://www.aircadetleague.com) under the Awards and Scholarships Tab.

The H&A Committee thanks all of you who have given their time and skills for the benefit of Air Cadets across Canada!

Guy Albert  
Chair, Honours & Awards Committee



## HIGHLIGHTS & GUESTS



On top of having the pleasure to listen our Guest Speaker, Capt Mary Cameron-Kelly, we had the honour to host many guests and partners. His Honours, Arthur J. LeBlanc (former cadet) has presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to Mr. Ernie Wiesner. The Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy has played during the banquet. Lcol (Ret'd) John Murphy has presented, on behalf of RCAFA, a 10k cheque for flying awards.







## Annual Ceremonial Review

The Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) is the most important event of the Air Cadet training year. This mandatory event is the opportunity for the cadets to display what they have learned over the past training year to their families and assembled guests. It is also the opportunity for the Squadron to honor deserving cadets by presenting them with various awards.

We have received pictures from some squadrons' ACR that we would like to share with you!



Sgt Mackay is presented the *Best Senior NCO* by Mr. Doug Slowski, ACL Vice-President and former CO of 205 Collishaw Squadron. This award is presented to the Sgt or above who has supported his/her squadron to the greatest extent.

On May 31, Mr. Bruce Morse (Regional Chairman of Southwest Region, Nova Scotia) has the honour to present awards at the 545 Privateer RCACS.



*Certificate of Honour  
being presented to  
Mr. George Mitchell*



*Certificate of Merit  
being presented to  
Mr. Gary Levy*



*Certificate for "70 Years of Squadron Training  
Activities" being presented to members of Tri-  
Service Club (Kinsmen, Legion, Lions)*

## PRESENTATION TO ANDRÉ GAGNON, 313 SSC MEMBER

- NBPC Regional Director, Paul Dowling, presents a National **Certificate of Honour** to 313 Edmundston Sqn's most dedicated, committed and longest serving SSC member **André Gagnon**, in recognition for his commitment as treasurer and dedication to 313 Edmundston Squadron Sponsoring Committee.
- He has been their treasurer for as long as anyone can remember. He never counts his hours of service and he is always available when needed. His vast experience has given him a wealth of knowledge which benefits all members of the SSC. He is highly respected by all who interact with him and by the community as a whole.



## PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN LYNE BARD COMMANDING OFFICER OF 313 EDMUNDSTON SQUADRON

- NBPC Regional Director, Paul Dowling, presents a National Certificate of Recognition to Captain Lyne Bard, in recognition of her outstanding dedication, professionalism and exceptional efficiency in the performance of her duties as Commanding Officer of 313 Edmundston Squadron.
- Knowing that things had to be done differently during COVID, Captain Bard came up with a plan and presented it to her team. Unable to meet face to face she devised a virtual program which she knew would maintain the cadets' interest. Captain Bard and her team were determined to succeed and the cadets were more than willing to follow it.
- Many activities were continued and new ones added. A Commander's Parade was even held virtually where, of course, cadet attire was the order of the day.
- As fate would have it in the middle of all this change, Captain Bard had to undergo major surgery. Again, she did not let this deter her. She took the time she needed to rest, but her desire to see her cadets and her team again was very strong. Against her doctor's advice she continued to attend some of the virtual meetings. This may, however, also have helped her to recover faster than expected as she soon was back at her desk drafting up more plans to motivate her cadets.
- Captain Bard has raised the profile of cadets in her area and brought great credit to the Air Cadet League of Canada.







## Environment and Community Visibility Day



On May 13, members of the 226 Trois-Rivières Squadron Sponsoring Committee and Regional Coordinator Caroline Lemire organized a clean-up day at Pie XII Park.

A promotional booth and demonstration glider were also set up on site for the day.

This event was an exchange of services with the St-Arnaud pavilion, which graciously offered the use of the gymnasium for the two end-of-year parades.



*A great recruiting and visibility initiative for the Mauricie region!*





## EFFECTIVE SPEAKING COMPETITION 2023 RESULTS

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Speaking in public is not an easy task. Many people can relate to this. The Air Cadet League of Canada (ACL), in 1991, made possible a national cadet public speaking competition. This activity led to local, regional, provincial, and even coast-to-coast competitions.

The COVID-19 situation has somewhat disrupted many youth activities, including public speaking competitions. For a third year, the National Effective Speaking Competition organized by our League was virtual.

Our partnership with the Department of National Defense, under the leadership of Captain Andrea Matheson, has resulted in an effective online communications program. Training is available to cadets from all regions of Canada.

Local, regional, and provincial virtual competitions were held since the beginning of April 2023, culminating in the national event held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The national competition was held on our Zoom platform which could accommodate up to 500 people free of charge.

We must thank the regional, provincial, and national teams for their excellent support of this event that is so popular with many cadets. We cannot overlook the technical teams who worked to set up the events at each level as well as the judges and evaluators (who observed our competitors and gave them sound advice in their development as speakers and trainers. The 2023 National Public Speaking Competition saw three speakers crowned as bronze, silver, and gold medalists.

Congratulations to all the cadets who participated in these events and long live this important public speaking activity among our young Canadians.





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Here is the list of the 2023 National participants:

FCpl Katelyn Browley – 825 Elks  
WO2 Andrew Connors – 514 Kinsmen  
Cpl Peter Dunnett – 58 Dwight Ross GC  
FCpl Saanvi Reddy Katireddy – 848 Royal Roads  
WO2 Matthew Ketch – 527 Simonds  
WO2 Daisy Kinch – 641 West Prince  
Cpl Kamea Lafontaine – 952 Westjet  
Sgts Diana Peter – 500 Outaouais  
WO2 Morvarid Rezaei-Noei – 517 FL/T Graham  
Sgt Neil Romoero – 702 Lynx Saskatoon  
WO2 Simar Ubhi – 176 Boeing of Canada

*André Mauger  
National Effective Speaking Committee Chair*





# Their Tomorrow for Our Today: My Vimy Pilgrimage Experience

Picture the scene: the sun rises on a beautiful April morning near the Belgian town of Ypres. The sky is blue, with not a cloud in the sky. The atmosphere is calm and serene, and birds fly gracefully, chirping their songs.

All while completely oblivious to what had happened, the lives that were spilled on these soils.

This scene repeats itself all across Belgium and France, from the fields of Flanders, to the streets of Mons, from the now-peaceful farmland of the Somme, to the slopes of Vimy Ridge. It is hard to imagine that a war of devastation and scale that had never been seen up until then was waged on this very ground over a hundred years ago.



In January, I had the honour and privilege to be selected as a recipient of the Vimy Pilgrimage Award. The award consists of a fully funded week-long educational program in Belgium and France to study and explore Canada's involvement and contributions in the First World War. Just the past November, I was given the opportunity to participate in the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa, and now I had this incredible opportunity to visit firsthand the sites where Canadian soldiers fought and died, thousands of kilometres away from home. Together with 21 other youths which included five cadets from across Canada, we would all start our journey from Montreal. The knowledge I gained as a result of this opportunity cannot be fully covered within this article. Yet through my experiences there, I learned so much more about the First World War from different perspectives, and also developed a deeper connection with the people who fought in it.

In preparation for our time in Europe, my fellow peers and I spent much time delving into discussion questions and projects in areas such as the involvement of Indigenous peoples in the war, and the daily lives of soldiers. Despite being only preparatory work for what was to come, I learned a lot from both my research and from my peers, although no amount of careful study would compare to the wealth of knowledge that was subsequently bestowed upon us.

Our journey began in the afternoon of April 3rd, in the area surrounding the Belgian town of Ypres. Here, Commonwealth and German forces were locked in a stalemate in the surrounding area for the majority of the war, and it was here where many of the First World War's bloodiest battles were fought. Right away, we were exposed to the cost of the First World War, when, just outside of the town of Ypres, we visited New Irish Farm Cemetery, the first of the many visual reminders of the cost of the First World War.

Each headstone, in the end, marked the final resting place of what was once a living, breathing human, one who just as much as you and I, "lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow" as John McCrae wrote in "In Flanders Fields", and who are now laid to rest in a field far away from their homes and families.

Although by far not the largest cemetery we would visit, with only about 5000 Commonwealth graves, the thought of one of our chaperones picturing each headstone as a soldier, standing at attention before you, was a perspective that impacted the way I saw every cemetery we visited throughout the week. Each headstone, in the end, marked the final resting place of what was once a living, breathing human, one who just as much as you and I, "lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow" as John McCrae wrote in "In Flanders Fields", and who are now laid to rest in a field far away from their homes and families. It was an emotional experience that would stick with me even as I write this.

We spend the next two days exploring the area around and within Ypres. During our time at locations such as Langemark German Cemetery, where more than 44,000 German soldiers from around the area are buried in a series of graves and mass graves, and the streets of Ypres itself, where keys are placed on the streets

commemorating the civilians who died in the relentless shelling of the town, we had many opportunities to learn about the First World War from other lesser-known perspectives. We were also able to visit sites of important Canadian contributions in the fighting around Ypres, including memorials at St. Julien, where the first poison gas attacks occurred, and Passchendaele, where so many Canadian lives were lost only for a couple of kilometres of land gained. No matter where we went, whether it was a small local cemetery in the middle of a field, or Tyne Cot, the resting place of about 12,000 soldiers and the largest war grave for Commonwealth soldiers in the world, the vast majority of the headstones marked the final resting place of an unknown soldier.



The Menin Gate, a memorial built on a road used by soldiers marching to the front, bears the names of about 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers, including nearly 7,000 Canadian troops, who were killed in the area and whose resting places were never found, inscribed on its walls, from floor to ceiling. These are constant reminders of the sheer loss of life that the war caused, and the fact that the stories of many of these soldiers have unfortunately been lost to time. Of the soldiers and stories we do know, some of them are painfully tragic. In Essex Farm



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Cemetery lies Rifleman Valentine Strudwick. Lying about his age and joining the British army when he was fourteen, Strudwick was killed in action in 1916 at Ypres. He was just fifteen years old. Strudwick's story highlighted the different attitudes society had at the time towards the war. Strudwick was seen as an example for those older than him who had not enlisted yet and were seen as cowards. To think that someone younger than myself went and died in the war and was hailed as a hero for it, was heartbreaking to think of, and something that no parent should ever have to go through. On our last day in Ypres, I had the opportunity to participate in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, a tribute to the fallen every evening. The ceremony has been held every day since the opening of the memorial in 1928, except during the German occupation in the Second World War. Standing in the hall, listening to the familiar bugle call of the Last Post echoing across the vast walls of the memorial gave me hope that every single person on that wall would be remembered in some way or another.



Holly Ghandhi and the Vimy Foundation





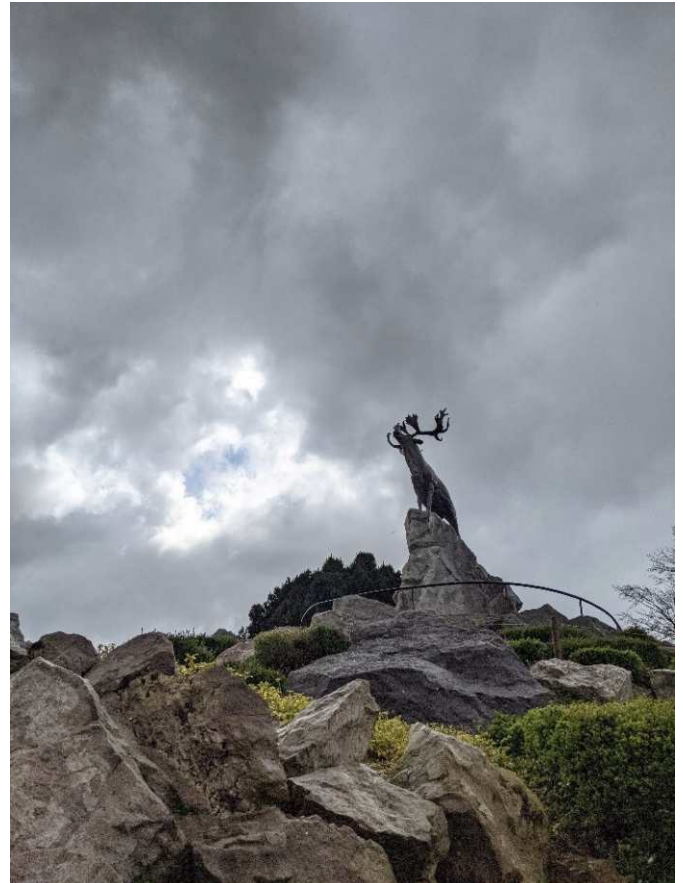
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These scenes continued to play out as we passed through the Belgian town of Mons, where the war both started and ended, and crossed the French border towards the Somme region, where we would stay for two days. Dominating over the surrounding area stood the Thiepval Memorial, the largest Commonwealth memorial to the missing in the world, bearing the names of over 72,000 of those who rest in an unknown field far away from home. Two sites captivated my attention here.

A sign points towards Newfoundland, 4000 kilometres to the west across the stormy waters of the Atlantic, a sad reminder of the distance that separated their final resting place and the place they called home.

A light drizzle was falling as we arrived at the memorial at Beaumont-Hamel, which gave the significance of this site more poignancy; for this spot on July 1st, 1916, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment went over the top on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The attack would be a disaster, with the regiment suffering almost 90 percent casualties out of the roughly 800-strong unit. Today Canadians celebrate July 1st as Canada Day, but it still remains a dark day for Newfoundlanders to this day. I walked the distance between the Canadian trenches and the site where the "Danger Tree," the remains of a tree in No Man's Land that roughly marked the farthest point of advance for the regiment. A mere 130 steps. Such a high casualty count for such a small amount of distance was shocking enough, and the thought of the same scene playing out across the entire 25-kilometre-long front seemed utterly incomprehensible. Could paying such a high price for so little ground be truly justified in any sense? Today a bronze caribou, the symbol of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, overlooks the battlefield, its raised head facing the direction of the regiment's advance as if calling out for its fallen comrades.

A sign points towards Newfoundland, 4000 kilometres to the west across the stormy waters of the Atlantic, a sad reminder of the distance that separated their final resting place and the place they called home.



As we made our way across the fields of France we came across the Ayette Indian and Chinese Cemetery. It was here that I first learned about the Chinese Labour Corps, through the presentation of one of my peers. She spoke at length about their forgotten contributions to the war effort, the conditions they endured and the discrimination they faced. I could not believe how they, along with other labour units such as the all-Black No. 2 Construction Battalion, played such a crucial role in the war effort, through building trenches and railroads, and transporting materials, and continued to toil away after the war, clearing the battlefields of bodies and shells, while soldiers returned to their



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loved ones, only for their stories to be completely forgotten by our nation. I looked at the headstones before me, with Chinese characters neatly etched into the stone. Many of them bore a date of death that was months or even years after November 11th, 1918. Once again I felt the emotion rising within me. Whether it was sadness, anger, or a combination of both, I will never know. But I believe that now it is our responsibility, irrespective of who we are, to put in the effort to ensure that these little-known stories of the First World War are remembered. Even today, a hundred years later, it is still not too late to right the wrongs of the past and ensure that these stories are passed on to future generations.

Even today, a hundred years later, it is still not too late to right the wrongs of the past and ensure that these stories are passed on to future generations.

The last part of our journey took us to the hills of Arras. Here, after seeing the classical way of commemoration over the past few days, we were exposed to more modern ways of commemorating the lives lost in the war, through the Ring of Remembrance, situated just across from Notre Dame de Lorette, the largest French military cemetery in the world. Here the names of not only Commonwealth soldiers but all soldiers regardless of nationality are inscribed, with no distinction between rank. The number of names on the memorial, a total of almost 580,000, brings a sheer sense of the scale of how many lives were lost in this region alone, and the memorial's design invokes a sense of not only loss to a single nation, but humanity as a whole. We also visited the site of the Battle of Hill 70, an important battle involving Canadian troops, and were confronted with the reality that the First World War's legacy continues to the present day. The nearby Loos British Cemetery is currently under expansion, in anticipation of the potential discovery of hundreds of bodies that could be uncovered as a result of infrastructure works in the region. The effects of the war and the process of finding and identifying the dead are still very much present in the modern day.

On the final day, April 9, we finally were able to visit what many consider to be hallowed ground for Canadians: the site where a hundred and six years ago to the day, four divisions of the Canadian Corps attacked as one to achieve something that neither French



Holly Chandra and the Viny Foundation



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nor British forces had been able to do. This of course was the site of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where the Canadian National Vimy Memorial stands tall at the highest point above the surrounding landscape. That morning, fog blanketed the ground and it was a truly awe- inspiring moment when the memorial finally emerged from the fog. As I walked up the slope to the ridge I could almost imagine the Canadian divisions around me in the fog following the same path I took on that day in 1917. I will never forget the sight of the statue of a woman, representing Mother Canada, mourning over her war dead. This, alongside countless other examples of symbolism in the design of the memorial, struck a chord with us. Later in the day, we attended the remembrance ceremony at the memorial. Once again, we heard that all- too-familiar bugle call of the Last Post echoing across the hills, and during the ceremony, I reflected on my experiences of the past week.

*The thought of the number of graves in all the cemeteries we visited combined not even accounting for one percent of the total death toll in the war put into perspective how many lives were lost for what was often hundreds of meters of ground.*



In many ways, the echoes of the First World War continue to this day, whether it be from newly-discovered bodies, the scars left behind in the landscape, or those in humans that are harder to see. At Hill 60 near Ypres, a massive crater from a mine explosion and a pockmarked landscape of shell craters tell the story of what happened there. Each year during their harvests, farmers continue to dig up unexploded ordinance and personal belongings of soldiers long gone. Bodies are still being discovered, and in response, cemeteries continue to be expanded. There is simply no way of escaping the brutality of the war, no matter what form it might take. The thought of the number of graves in all the cemeteries we visited combined not even accounting for one percent of the total death toll in the war put into perspective how many lives were lost for what was often hundreds of meters of ground. So many lives were lost that we often



generalize the stories of soldiers, and too often we speak about them as “fighting for us.” When we look at memorials to the missing such as the Menin Gate and Thiepval, we often tend to think of the soldiers on the wall as simply that: names with no memory of the person behind them. We forget that they were all human, all with their own unique stories, experiences and opinions of the war, and the more we generalize those stories, the more their stories will be lost to the incessant march of time.



So in that spirit, I would like to share my experience at the Arras Flying Services Memorial at the Faubourg D’Amiens Cemetery, near the heart of Arras itself. Including the 2,678 Commonwealth soldiers buried in the cemetery, and a memorial to the missing of the Arras sector, with almost 36,000 names listed on its walls, the Flying Services Memorial stands tall within the complex, with the names of nearly 1000 Commonwealth aviators of the Royal Flying Corps, the Royal Naval Air Service, and the Royal Air Force, who lost their lives over the skies of the Western Front who have no known graves. It was here that I gave my presentation on 2nd Lieutenant Cecil Bertram Whyte of St- Jacques-de-Leeds, Quebec, and later of Edmonton, Alberta. Throughout his life, Cecil was many things; he was the middle brother of three who would all serve in the war, an arts



Photo courtesy of Queen's University Archives  
Photo taken and graciously shared by the archives of Queen's University



Holly Ghanthi and the Vimy Foundation

student at Queen’s University in Kingston, a sapper in the Canadian Engineers and later the Royal Scots, and subsequently an observer in the Royal Air Force. Cecil’s story was interesting for me because he left behind two diaries, through which I was able to directly follow his life as a soldier. Additionally, as an air cadet, I had the desire to share his story with the air cadet community in my home city of Calgary. He was involved in some ways with all three of the regions we visited during our time in Europe; he first saw combat at the Ypres Salient in late 1916, he was wounded at the Somme in January 1917, and returned to Ypres as an airman in April 1917. However less than a month later, on May 3rd, 1917 his aircraft was shot down over Ypres, and with his body never being found, he is

*As I took one last look at his name perfectly inscribed high up on the memorial, I promised him that if he could not bring himself back to his native land and tell his tales to his fellow Canadians, then I would bring him and his story home for him in my heart, and tell them for many years to come.*

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commemorated in Arras. As I read out my letter addressed to him I could not help but feel emotional. Here was a person who in his diaries had so often fantasized about the coming of peace and his future after the war, and to realize that he never got to experience that future was truly heartbreaking. Yet as I read my letter, I could just imagine him standing in front of me, alive once more. In a sense, although Cecil has been dead for over a hundred years, learning about and sharing his story has allowed him to live on in our hearts today.

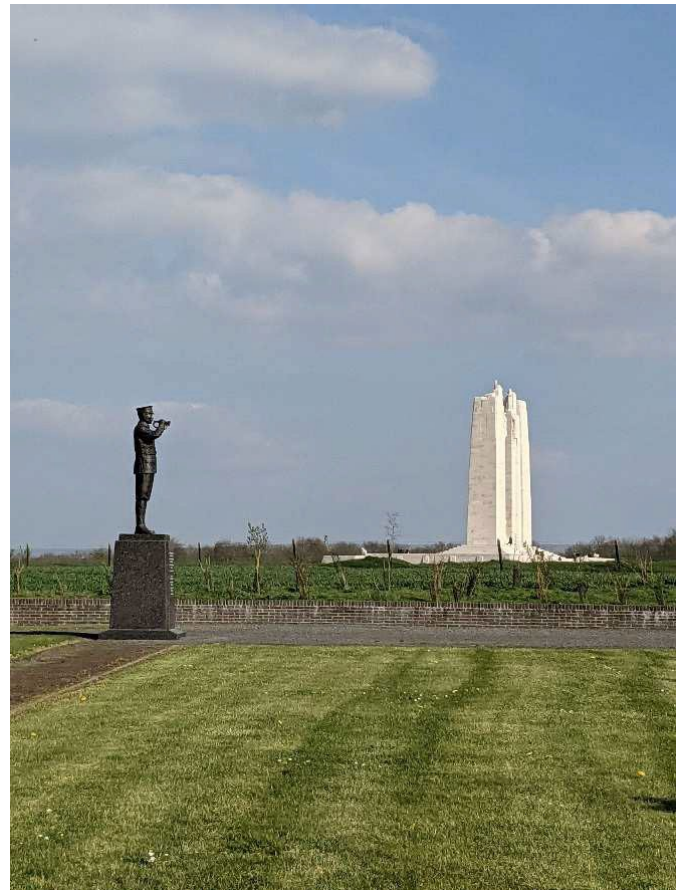
Today society still very much generalizes about the experience and reasons for the common soldier to enlist as a desire to sacrifice for the nation or its people. Yet after researching the life of Cecil Bertram Whyte, it turns out that there is much more to that, and by learning about the individual experiences of soldiers, we realize that the reasons for enlistment are much more complex. For instance, through his diary, it can be inferred that Cecil could have been influenced by many factors such as his older brother enlisting in the year prior, wanting to go with his university classmates, a desire for adventure away from home, or a sense of duty to represent Canada on the battlefield. By exploring the lives of these soldiers, we can ensure that the names on those memorials can come to life once again. As we departed the Flying Services Memorial, I laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial, with a copy of the letter I wrote to him, and a pin from his home province of Alberta. As I took one last look at his name perfectly inscribed high up on the memorial, I promised him that if he could not bring himself back to his native land and tell his tales to his fellow Canadians, then I would bring him and his story home for him in my heart, and tell them for many years to come.

My experiences as a recipient of the Vimy Pilgrimage Award have humbled me in so many ways. Most importantly, I think it has taught me that history is an evolutionary study. New discoveries are being made every day, and as such, it is our responsibility as citizens to learn about our past, revise prior understandings and remember accordingly. Only through this can we truly remember, and ensure that stories that were neglected for so long can finally be passed on.

To do that is to gain a better understanding of how such a complex event such as the First World War continues to hold relevance in Canadian society and shaped our nation to what it is today.

So although the birds flying in the skies over Flanders Fields do not remember, we will remember, and ensure that those who lie there will live forever in our hearts and minds and those that come after us.

For they gave their tomorrow, for our today.



WO2 Julian Tan,  
918 Griffon RCACS

# SQUADRON ANNIVERSARIES

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The following Squadrons have celebrated or will celebrate.  
their anniversary between **April 1<sup>st</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## 10 Years

83 Juno Beach  
100 Laval  
952 WestJet

## 40 Years

179 Morden  
659 Brock  
898 Optimiste Brossard  
899 Vanderhoof

## 60 Years

733 Drayton Valley  
734 Alliston  
735 Firebird Squadron (Dundas)  
736 Mont-Joli  
737 Thompson

## 70 Years

570 Sir Winston Churchill  
573 Andrew Mynarski, V.C.  
574 Dakota

## 75 Years

Thunderbird

## 80 Years

283 Woodbridge Legion  
288 Red Fox



# PRESIDENTS CLUB

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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](mailto:presidentsclub@aircadetleague.com)

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## FRANKLIN PRINT



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

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/>



## AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA KIT SHOP

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We are looking for new suppliers and a distributor.