

AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

Issue 37 – FALL 2023

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CAP National Convention 18-
19 August 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I write this message as we close off our summer holidays and begin to focus our attention on the fall and for many of us the return of the next training year at the local levels from coast to coast. In June our annual general meeting was held in Nova Scotia, which brought us together to work on league business but also provided the very important opportunity for us to meet in person allowing the human element to flourish seeing old friends and working on projects together in one room with committee members.

Allow me at this time to acknowledge

Hille Vitta for her hard work and endless dedication to the League as she stepped into her new role as immediate past chair.

A warm welcome to our new national members: Duane Schippers as a special legal advisor to the Board; James Simiana Major (Ret) into the communications Chair; Angele Mullins as Chair of Risk Management; and Norman Comeau as Chair of Resource Generation. Tom Sands will be stepping up and taking on a new role as Chief of Staff. Each new member will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in their fields, and I truly look forward to working with them in their positions this year.

Some changes on our operations group chart included updating the VP positions titles that are more self-explanatory to the roles for each Vice President. They are VP Operations, VP Finance, VP Plans, and VP Programs. Welcome to Jacquie Pepper-Journal to the Executive Committee as VP Plans.

From our Advisory Council members, we see Jan Reidulff taking over from Gilles Cuerrier and Ron Ilko taking over from Guy Albert. Ron and Jan thanks for picking up the mantle and stepping up for us to take on these Key portfolios and Gilles and Guy our sincere heartfelt thanks for your service and continued dedication as members of the Advisory Council.

From our CAF partners side of the house, our thanks to the outgoing Commander BGen Jamie Speiser-Blanchet and wishing her well in her new posting with the RCAF. We welcome BGen Dominique Brais as the new Commander of the formation.



(CONTINUED...)

I issued a SITREP in September and am happy to advise you that I intend to release these monthly to keep everyone in the loop. September is also a key marker in the life of our League volunteers. I wanted to reach out and thank you for your leadership and dedication, both at the provincial and local level. Research has shown that community-based leadership is value driven and the commitment to the organizations they serve is strong and long standing. COVID impacted our volunteer numbers across the board, and we have seen a drop to approx. 7,000 volunteers. But I am confident as we begin this training year that we will see an increase in our volunteers as SSC's begin the business of providing hundreds of volunteer hours in support of their units. Past data has shown that the dollar value of ACL volunteer hours equates to \$15.8 million dollars in wages. Our strength has always been and continues to be you, our volunteers at the National, Provincial, and local levels.

To each one of you, thanks for what you do tirelessly, week in and week out. Your tenacity and courage are commendable, and I know you are appreciated by every Cadet across Canada.

Yours in service,

Thomas Taborowski, National President



AN UNFORGETTABLE CANADIAN SUMMER

After 3 seemingly never-ending years of pandemic, the International Air Cadet Exchange finally made its return. This year, Canada welcomed the best of the best cadets from the United States' Civil Air Patrol and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Air Cadets. As soon as they arrived, the American cadets already burst of energy, and the British, although more reserved, were equally eager to embark on this jam-packed 2-week adventure. Each day was an opportunity for them to satisfy their curiosity and their hunger for thrills as well as to flourish through their newly befriended mates.

Air Canada Workshop, Montreal



Despite their culture being generally speaking quite similar to Canada's, spending over a week in Quebec introduced them to the lesser-known Indigenous and Francophone cultures -with Beavertails easily taking the cake for best cultural discovery!- Visits to the Air Canada workshop and the International Civil Aviation Organization, both located in Montreal, as well as a tour inside Quebec city's Citadel, home to the Royal 22nd Regiment, nourished these young and promising Air Cadets' passions for the aviation and the military. Their journey in Ottawa comprised of multiple visits to various museums and the Canadian Parliament's components (i.e. the Senate and the House of Commons) proved itself an incredibly enjoyable educational experience. These increased their knowledge about Canada's

politics and history and were an eye-opener to its role in various wars. Many times, were the cadets able to pay their respects to the fallen Canadian soldiers in remembrance rooms as well as at the National War Memorial. Among all the guided tours and city walks, exhilarating sightseeing activities were also on the menu. These include a full day of adrenaline rush at Valcartier's waterpark, 2 days of camping at the Black Ripon Mountains, abseiling and many more.

Although their adventure did come to an end, it wasn't before they had exchanged t-shirts, gifts, and letters with each other to remember their camaraderie in future days. As Mr. Tzemenakis had hoped for and requested from the cadets, each and every single one of them "took it all in"; from the cultural enrichment to the people -and even the sometimes-not-so-great weather! -, they took it ALL in. One statement they all agreed with, that expressed the significance this trip had for them, was that IACE is the unmatched highlight of their years as an Air Cadet, as though everything they had done ultimately culminated to this very moment. For them, it is now a chapter they can cheerfully close, but for the Air Cadet League, it's time to look forward to IACE 2024 which hopes to be just as magical and thrilling!



Picture taken at the RMC in St-Jean, QC



Quebec Parliament with HH J. Michel Doyon



Picture taken in Ottawa



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION TOP AIR CADET'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY



WO1 Guitard & CI Félix Jacques are ready for the take-off!
Credit photo: M1 Guénette

Before I begin, I'd like to share with you a statement that represents me well: Dare, you have nothing to lose! This statement has been with me since the very beginning of my cadet career and in my everyday life. It inspires me to always surpass myself and take on new challenges. At the age of 15, I decided to join the Air Cadets 921 Ancienne-Lorette Squadron. This decision completely changed my life when I realized the benefits and opportunities the cadet program offered. From my very first year, I took part in every possible activity: precision shooting, public speaking, precision marching, piloting and more. Being a curious person by nature, I was particularly interested in the squadron's piloting course. It was there that I discovered my passion.

My career in the cadets was marked by effort and perseverance, but also by some fine achievements, including:

- Advanced Aviation Course – ANAVET's Medal. (2021)
- Pilot Training Course. (2022)
- Cadet Ambassador of the Air Cadet League of Canada – Quebec & Ottawa Valley. (2022)
- WO2 Training at CTC St-Jean. (2023)
- Royal Canadian Legion Top Air Cadet of the Year. (2023)
- Glider Conversion Course. (2023)
- Quote from Quebec's Lieutenant-Governor. (2023)

Because of my determination and varied experience, I was appointed a Cadet Comdt in December 2021. I am now entering my 3rd year of command.

Outside the program, I was heavily involved in the creation of a student newspaper, Le Camelot, at my high school, Collège de Champigny. It was during a leadership course that the newspaper was born, and its success exceeded our expectations. It is because of this student project that I was awarded the Quebec government's " *Prix reconnaissance jeunesse pour l'axe Entrepreneuriat*" in 2022.

In addition to cadets, I'm a space enthusiast and have my own telescope. I also do a lot of sports, cycling, cross-country, hiking and indoor training. My years in the program have taught me a great deal and allowed me to work with some extraordinary people. I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had. The experiences offered by the program transcend into our everyday lives and it is with this in mind that I intend to share my passion, experience and skills by continuing to LEARN daily, SERVE the common good and PROGRESS ever higher.

WO1 Alek Guitard
921 Ancienne-Lorette Sqn



Inspector Jean Brisebois presents
Lieutenant-Governor's Citation to WO2 Alek Guitard



ABOUT THE EFFECTIVE SPEAKING COMPETITION

We are pleased to provide you with the latest information regarding the 2023-2024 National Effective Speaking Competition. As we embark on this exciting journey, there are several important updates to note.

Registration Form

Cadet form must be completed prior to any level of competition.

In-Person Training Success

Over the past year, cadets have overwhelmingly responded positively to in-person training. The return to in-person activities has proven to be highly effective in enhancing their skills and preparing them for the future. As a result, the National Effective Speaking Committee encourages Provincial and Territory competitions to return to in-person formats wherever practical.

Virtual National Competition

While recognizing the effectiveness of in-person training, we also acknowledge the logistical challenges and cost considerations involved in organizing a national event. Therefore, the National Effective Speaking Competition for this year will be held virtually for 2024.



Exciting Partnership with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) for 2024

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 2024, we are thrilled to announce our partnership with them for both the choice of topics and the judging in the National competition. This collaboration promises to add a unique dimension to the event and create memorable experiences for all participants.

Flexible Competition Modes

We understand the importance of flexibility, especially in these times. Therefore, we will continue to offer provinces and territories the option to choose their preferred mode for their respective Effective Speaking competitions: in-person, hybrid, or full virtual. This decision allows us to adhere to provincial and territorial health standards, comply with Canadian Armed Forces regulations, and accommodate logistical challenges that may arise in some regions.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars! The National Effective Speaking Competition is scheduled for Saturday, **May 4, 2024**.

Vern Toews

National Effective Speaking Committee Chair



CAP NATIONAL CONVENTION 18-19 AUGUST 2023



Doug Slowski, Terri Hinton, Major-General Edward Phelka - CAP Conference 2023

Marc Lacroix and Doug Slowski thanked our president – Tom Tabarowski, for the opportunity to attend the Civil Air Patrol National Conference in Bellevue Washington state this past 18-19 August. It was a very enjoyable weekend learning and making friendships and surprisingly, met a few acquaintances from IACE, and some folks who have worked with CIC in Canada.

The conference was attended by over 700 folks from all over the country; MGen Phelka indicated this was much smaller than most years [usually 900 – 1000]. Interestingly CAP only has 28000 Cadets across the Country.

Terri Hinton, one of our Governors living in Seattle was with us on the invitation of the Washington state CAP Commander.

The Conference program consisted of keynote speakers, and many learning sessions, which were very interesting.

The most interesting/impressive speaker for me was Mr. Frank Kendall Secretary of the Air Force, he only spoke for about 10 minutes, highly praised the CAP and offered any assistance his department could provide to help the organization. The balance of the hour he answered very interesting questions about the future of the Air Force and the new Space formation in USA.

Marc and Doug were treated like special guests, our host was LCol Beverly Scoggins from Hawaii, who is involved with IACE, and attended the conference in London last year. She made sure we seated in our designated seats every day, and keep us informed on the events, and looked after during the Commanders Dinner Saturday evening.

Some of the sessions Doug attended were;

1. **Do you have what it takes to be a STEM Kit Survivor:** we had fun assembling an electronic kit as a small group [like playing with Lego] They have some awesome STEM kits available.
2. **Launching the Nest Generation: Great start 2023:** this was mostly discussion on recruiting new cadets, not much different than our programs.
3. **Enabling all CAP operations using Geospatial Information:** this was very interesting, describing how all the satellites, GPS, radio etc. information work together to provide photo maps of disaster areas, like the recent fire in Hawaii, he also described recently being involved in a search in Tennessee where an elderly lady was missing on a road trip, they used cell phone pinging and other GPS and radio tools and found her over 50 miles from where she was supposed to be heading.
4. **Ambassadors with Wings, Flying Overseas with IACE:** This was an opportunity to hear about the US 2023 exchange LCol Randy Petyak [National Coordinator] reported a favorable time, they entertained 36 Cadets and 6 escorts. Cadets from Canada, UK, Aust, and NZ Most likely not increasing the numbers for 2024. FYI CAP Cadets pay \$1400 fee to travel on exchange.

Some of the sessions Marc and Terri Hinton attended were;

5. **Mentoring you and me at all levels:** with Lcol Mike Willis. There is a mentoring program being implemented in CAP at national, regional and local levels. There is a lot of advantages implementing this kind of program. There is 500 CAP people involved in this program. I think we should consider this approach very seriously for the air cadet league of Canada with our volunteers.

There was another inspiring guest speaker Mr. Holtrough Ph. D from the search institute who has presented on young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they experience developmental relationships with important people in their lives. Developmental relationships are cultivated through five key elements: **express care; challenge growth; provide support; share power; and expand possibilities.** I think that our CIC officers and ACL volunteers can benefit from Dr. Holtrough researches with tool kits with concrete ways for adults supervising youngsters.

Marc and Doug did have a brief opportunity to talk to MGen Phelka [he was very busy], my take from the conversation:

1. He really wants to build on our relationship, by having more interaction with the Cadets across the borders
2. He would like to pursue the possibility of having 10 Air Cadets attend the Oshkosh Air Show, in 2025, over and above IACE, however this would have to be discussed with the CAF,
3. He is very interested in meeting our new CJCR Commander, he indicated it is very easy for him to visit Ottawa., possibly something to coordinate in near future
4. He really liked the Glider picture, it will be hanging up in his office.

Just to mention, next year's conference will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Marc Lacroix
National vice-president – operations



POWER PILOT SCHOLARSHIP - One Former Cadet's Story

On August 8th it was fifty-four years since I stood on the tarmac at Rockcliffe with nine other Air Cadets and received my power pilot wings. I didn't know it at the time, but this was a pivotal moment that was to shape the rest of life's journey. My chosen profession was as an artist and educator, but grassroots flying was to be an irresistible passion. In my view, grassroots flying and infecting others with the aviation bug was inseparable from the Air Cadet Movement. This view has been confirmed by many former cadets, CIC officers and League members that I've met along the way.

After university I started teaching in Cornwall and dropped by 325, my old squadron, to see what was happening. It was 1977. There were girl cadets, and the uniforms were green! LCol Steve Deschamps was a young Lieutenant and Training Officer at the time. He tempted me with..." only a couple of hours a week". You know the rest. I became a CIC Officer, tow pilot, and worked at various camps. In those days the Gliding Program was growing. This enabled cadets and instructors to continue their flying and provided summer employment that put a lot of former cadets through college or university.

Eventually I instructed for RCSU (Central), was a CO and moved on to the SSC. All the time, familiarization flying was a key interest for me. I'd become an aircraft owner in 1977 and this was a great opportunity to put something back into the program. The squadron normally rented a Cessna 172 to fly the cadets. My Piper PA-12 could help stretch the flying budget. We also did some famil flying for 661 out of Brockville. In 1994 I bought a Mooney Mark 21. This carried one more cadet and introduced them to more complex aircraft and avionics. By the time I became an OPC Director, we were flying three squadrons out of Cornwall and Brockville. These were 253, 325 and 379. Before Covid arrived, we were doing famil flights with 585 out of Smiths Falls.

Many things have changed since my Flying Scholarship Course. The training methods have changed, and the aircraft are more advanced. Glass cockpits have become the norm and computers are used extensively. Cost has increased exponentially. The cost of a Private Pilot Course in 1969 was about \$850.00. Compare that to current estimates with a minimum of \$12,000.00 or more. The challenges to all of us, from candidates to League members, are significant.

We have long known the need for dedicated volunteers to make the Air Cadet Program work. What qualities are essential for our volunteers? Many of them are the same ones we are training, leadership, integrity, discipline.

One of the things cadet experience teaches is to be persistent in pursuit of your goals. Persistence is setting a clear goal and working steadily towards it. If a plan goes off the rails, you have no hesitation to go back and revise. Giving up is never an option. Neither is pushing ahead with a strategy that does not work.

Barry Franklin, CD
OPC Governor - Life Member



(CONTINUED...)

Barry Franklin
10 hrs · Add Topics

Completed my 800th Air Cadet Famil Flight this evening.
This one was at 585 SQN Smiths Falls, a sister squadron in Wing 5.
Thanks to Jack Christie who took this photo!



Famil Flying Cadets at Cornwall Regional Airport Credit Photo: Barry Franklin



Famil Flying over the Smiths Falls Area June 2019 Credit Photo: Barry Franklin



Bags are packed...off to Flight School Credit Photo: Barry Franklin



Course Completed 1969 Credit Photo: Barry Franklin



PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE FROM THE THREE LEAGUES TO MGEN SPEISER-BLANCHET



The Change of Command Ceremony for the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group presided by Lieutenant-General F.J. Allen, CMM, CD from Major-General J.R. Speiser-Blanchet, CD to Brigadier-General D.N. Brais, CD took place July 13, 2023 in Ottawa.

The plaque was presented by Cathy Bach, (Army Cadet League of Canada's National President), Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Jennifer Bennett, CMM, CD (Navy League's President) and Mr. Marc Lacroix, CD (Air Cadet League of Canada's 1st Vice-President)

ONTARIO DIVISION BEST AIR CADET ARMI AWARD

Cadet Lilian Beaudoin won the Ontario Division Best Air Cadet ARMI Award presented by Krystel Blanchard, Administration Officer, from the Air Cadet League of Canada. This award is presented to the Course Air Cadet who has been an exemplary cadet in their drill, dress, conduct, teamwork, and overall training performance during the Air Rifle Marksmanship Instructor Course.



Picture provided by Lt Albion Fung, Connaught CTC

FOUR SQUADRONS HAVE A NEW NAME SINCE 01 June, 2023

OLD NAME	NEW NAME
Escadron 901 Kiwanis Val-Bélair	Escadron 901 Kiwanis Shannon
781 Calgary RCACS	781 Mcall Field RCACS
635 Asbestos-Danville	Escadron 635 Des Sources
70 Thunder Bay	70 Elsie MacGill



P.E.I. CADETS “HONOURED” TO TAKE OVER ORGANIZING BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL

The Battle of Britain, in the summer and fall of 1940, was a lengthy Second World War campaign waged in the skies over and around the United Kingdom. It was the first major military campaign fought entirely by air forces.

Cadets have been involved with the ceremony for years but will now be organizing the annual event.

Read the article posted September 15, 2023 by CBC.

Or download the free CBC News App to get the news without restrictions and read the article.



KEN C. LETT - CENTENARIAN

Honorary Director Kenneth C. Lett has celebrated his 100th birthday July 13, an event that was celebrated with family and close friends. As a Practice 100th Birthday, a group of RCAF associates, known as the “Relics”, assembled at a restaurant that opened in 1939 when the first stirrings of RCAF Station Patricia Bay began. During that occasion, I read your letter to Ken, which he and his colleagues very much appreciated.

Leonard Jenks, CD
Past President and Honorary Secretary
The Air Cadet League of Canada

Pictures: one of Ken with his RCAF 100 cap; and the other of me delivering your message.



CANADA'S AVIATION HALL OF FAME – 2023 INDUCTEE KEN C. LETT



Ken C. Lett was a fighter pilot in the Second World War and had a long and distinguished military career. In retirement, he also started several aviation companies.

Visit [Ken Lett - Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame \(cahf.ca\)](https://cahf.ca) to find out more info!

SQUADRON ANNIVERSARIES



The following Squadrons have celebrated or will celebrate.
their anniversary between **July 1st and September 30th, 2023**

5 Years

278 Cormorant

15 Years

609 Steveston

20 Years

2 VandenBos Whitby

25 Years

856 Pickering Kinsmen

35 Years

530 Havoc

40 Years

182 G. M. Stefnufastur
327 Southern Kings
544 Lobtinière

45 Years

532 Maitland
861 Silverfox

55 Years

756 Wild Goose

60 Years

739 Vallée du Lièvre
741 Elgin

65 Years

675 Bow Valley
676 Kittyhawk
677 Russell
681 Tantramar
682 Laurentides

70 Years

50 Lt Colonel Barker VC
575 Terrier

75 Years

504 Blatchford Field

80 Years

292 Halifax- Fairview Legion Branch 142
294 Chatham-Kent
295 MacPherson
296 City of Cambridge
299 Yarmouth Lions
300 Fisher
313 Edmunston
314 Grand Falls
315 Newcastle
317 Stathclair
325 Cornwall Kiwanis





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



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!

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

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