

TO LEARN – TO SERVE – TO ADVANCE

## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AIR CADET  
LEAGUE  
OF  
CANADA

Issue 37 – Winter 2024

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Flying and Music Awards  
Virtual Ceremony



Dear Volunteers,

As the year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who give so generously of your time and talents to support the Air Cadet League of Canada. Your dedication ensures that our cadets have access to opportunities that will help them thrive as leaders and citizens. Whether you're assisting with squadron activities, managing resources, or lending your expertise behind the scenes, your efforts have a lasting impact on the lives of countless young people.

The spirit of service and commitment you demonstrate embodies the very values we seek to instill in our cadets—integrity, perseverance, and a deep sense of community. Your contributions inspire not only the cadets but also all of us within this remarkable organization. As we celebrate this festive season, I hope you find time to relax, reflect, and enjoy the company of loved ones. May this Christmas bring joy, warmth, and peace to you and your families.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for making 2024 a year to remember, and I look forward to continuing our mission together in 2025.

Marc Lacroix, CD  
National President





## WO1 AIYANA BARRIEAU



WO1 Barrieau after her first flight solo (credit photo: Flight Instructor Benjamin Pope)

Becoming an Air Cadet has been one of the most life-changing and rewarding experiences of my life. When I first joined, it was because my mother wanted me to learn new skills and gain new life experiences. I had no idea how much this program would shape my character, teach me valuable skills and expose me to incredible opportunities. From developing my leadership abilities to pursuing my passion for aviation, my time in the Air Cadet Program has been nothing short of extraordinary.

One of the most significant milestones in my Cadet journey was earning my private pilot's license in Gander, Newfoundland, through the Power Pilot Scholarship. This prestigious program was both challenging and exhilarating.

Over the course of the summer, I underwent intensive ground school, flight training, and testing. I lived with 15 other girls, making some friendships that will last a lifetime. Our flying demanded sharp minds and steady focus, and through our countless hours of practice and each other's support, we were able to develop these skills. Things like time management, problem-solving under pressure, and self-discipline became second nature.

Earning my wings was more than a personal achievement—it exemplified the hard work and dedication the cadet program instills in its members. I remember my first solo flight. It was a moment of pure freedom and responsibility, knowing the trust my instructors placed in me to safely navigate the skies. Don't get me wrong though, I was terrified, but I trusted that my flight instructor prepared me well enough, and although no one was around to witness it, that was my smoothest landing ever. The bonds I formed with my fellow cadets, all of us united by a shared passion for aviation, remain strong to this day.

Another defining aspect of my cadet experience has been the leadership opportunities. From day one, cadets are encouraged to step up, take initiative, and lead by example. I've had the privilege and the honour of holding the role of Squadron Commander within my squadron for the past year, where I've guided the squadron, specifically younger cadets, helped organize training sessions, and participated in and led ceremonial events, such as the Annual Ceremonial Review. These experiences taught me how to manage people, communicate effectively and adapt to different situations. Leadership in the cadet program is not just about giving orders, it's about inspiring others and building a sense of teamwork and trust.

Participating in the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa was one of the most profound experiences of my life. Representing my squadron and all the Air Cadets of Canada and standing among veterans, government officials, and other cadets on Parliament Hill meant so much. The ceremony was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of Canadians to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. Wearing my uniform and helping people lay a wreath in honor of our fallen heroes filled me with pride and a renewed sense of duty.





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That trip to Ottawa also allowed me to connect with cadets from across the country, each with their own unique stories and experiences. Among the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers of the year, I met a girl from British-Columbia, a girl from Manitoba, and a boy from Newfoundland. It was amazing getting to meet people from all over the country. This helped to highlight the diversity and unity of the cadet program, where individuals from all walks of life come together with a shared commitment to service.

Beyond the major milestones, the Air Cadet Program has offered countless smaller moments that have left an impact. From weekly training nights to weekend exercises, I've learned navigation, survival skills, drill, and citizenship skills. The program emphasizes both personal growth and community involvement. Whether it's volunteering at local events or participating in fundraisers, giving back to the community has been a cornerstone of my cadet journey. Through all these experiences, I've developed skills and values that will stay with me for life. The cadet program has taught me to set high standards for myself, remain committed to my goals, and never stop striving for excellence. It has shown me the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and resilience.



*Credit Photo: PO1 Riley Stafford - Ottawa- WO2 Barrieau with the RCL Cadets /JCR of the Year 2024*



*Credit Photo: PO1 Riley Stafford - Mr. Berkley Lawrence, Dominion President is presenting a plaque and a monetary award to WO1 Barrieau*

Looking back, my journey as an air cadet has been nothing short of transformative. From flying in Gander to standing solemnly in Ottawa on Remembrance Day, the program has shaped who I am and what I stand for. It has ignited a passion for aviation, leading me to pursue a career in aviation, hopefully as a commercial pilot someday. As I move forward, I carry with me not only the skills and memories but also the core values of the cadet program: integrity, courage, and respect. These are lessons that extend far beyond the program and will continue to guide me in every aspect of my life. Being an air cadet has been more than what it was at first, an extracurricular activity. It has been a journey of growth, service, and discovery. I am incredibly proud to have been a part of it and excited to see where these experiences will take me in the future.

*Credit Photo: ACL: WO1 Barrieau is presented with the ACL President Coin and RCL Air Cadet of the Year certificate from Mrs Woodford, Dep Executive Director of ACL. Mr. Barrieau is next to her daughter.*





## IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Provincial committee invited and had the opportunity to host The Honourable Brenda Murphy, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick; at the gliding familiarization site in Miramichi NB on 26 Oct 2024.

Her Honour was able to see the equipment provided by the Air Cadet League; as well as participate in the operation and chat with staff and Cadets.

WO2 Banfield was the Cadet escort for Her Honour during her recent visit to our Regional Gliding Site in Miramichi, NB.



Credit Photo: SLt Kervin, PA Support Officer - RCSU (Atlantic)

*Left to right:* Capt Garrett MacKay, 2Lt Nigel Sood, Lt. Grace Thomas, CI Eden Thomas, CI Kerrington Sargent, Mr Chuck Nicolle – President ACL NB Provincial Committee  
in the glider: CI Alex Lovett, The Honourable Brenda Murphy Lieutenant Governor NB  
Mr Bob Mackay – Ex Dir ACL NB Provincial Committee, F/Sgt Onkit Saha (333 Lord Beaverbrook), Cadet kneeling is Cdt Ekans Kassimi (333), F/Sgt Rowan Fehr (333), WO2 Sophia Banfield (101 Moncton)

Credit Photo: SLt Kervin, PA Support Officer - RCSU (Atlantic)



Credit Photo: SLt Kervin, PA Support Officer - RCSU (Atlantic)

NBPC Honourary Patron The Honourable Brenda Murphy, OSTJ, ONB, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick; and WO2 Sophia Banfield from 101 Moncton RCACS.





## IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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### The Prince Edward Island Provincial Air Cadet League Mess Dinner 26 October 2024

Cadets from all the Cadet Squadrons on Prince Edward Island including over 270 people were in attendance for this magnificent Mess Dinner.

The newly invested Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island - The Honourable Dr. Wassim Salamoun and his wife Ms. Marie Salamoun-Dunne were in attendance along with the Guest of Honour - Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) LCol Eleanor Taylor, OMM, MSM, CD.

This Provincial Air Cadet League Mess Dinner took place at the Delta Hotel in Charlottetown Prince Edward Island on the afternoon of 26 Oct 2024. It was in Celebration and recognition of all the Air Cadets in PEI and the Royal Canadian Air Force Centennial 100th Birthday.

The Prince Edward Island Regiment Band from Charlottetown played an amazing assortment of music throughout the afternoon. (PEIR). Many Honoured guests including Cadet alumni and retired Veterans were also in attendance, including many CIC Officers.

Photo By James Nightingale CD retired CAF Image Tech.



*Newly invested Lt. Governor of PEI- The Honourable Dr. Wassim Salamoun giving his welcome speech and Aide-de-Camp Cindy Galt. His honour's first official event as Lt. Governor of PEI.*



*Veteran George Dalton and Cartoonist Wayne Wright share history with our cadets*



*Cadets playing with the PEI R Band.*





CONTINUED...



## 60 CONFEDERATION RCACS - REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Day service included the Provincial Chair of the Air Cadet League is 2024 Silver/Memorial Cross on 11 Nov 2024 in Charlottetown PEI. Retired Captain Kendra Mellish (Medical Services)

A former cadet herself and her late husband WO Frank Mellish (1RCR, KIA 03 Sep 2006) also a former PEI Air Cadet.

Remembrance has come full circle.



Brookins, WO2 Gavin Wells, WO2 Chloe Willis. Credit Photo: CBC News





# NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION PERIOD STARTING SOON

Application period is **coming up** for cadets entering any post-secondary schooling in 2025. Look for the form mid-January on the ACL website [www.aircadetleague.com](http://www.aircadetleague.com) under Library/ Documents & Forms/ Forms/ ACC64 for further details. Deadline for submissions is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Forms can only be completed online and will utilize workflow management, whereby once applicant has completed form, form goes on to CO and then on to Sponsor Chair for recommendation. If you plan to apply, please ensure you have the correct email address for your CO and the CO has a proper email address for the SSC Chair.

A big thank you to our many sponsors for providing these great opportunities for cadets.  
The National Scholarship Committee hopes to hear from you soon.



Ron Ilko,  
Chair, National Educational Scholarships





# MUSIC & FLYING AWARDS VIRTUAL CEREMONY



On November 30, the first Air Cadet League of Canada (ACL) Virtual Music and Flying Awards Ceremony was held. As with the virtual post-secondary awards ceremony, donors, cadet recipients, parents and ACL members were in attendance.

Click here to see the [Flying Recipients List](#) and here for the [Music Recipients](#)

37 scholarships totaling \$51,800 were awarded to deserving cadets. This year 87 cadets applied.

Once again, we'd like to thank our valued donors and congratulate all the recipients!

Ron Ilko,  
Chair, National Educational Scholarships







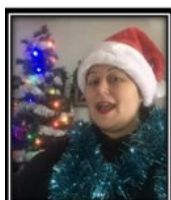
## ACL NATIONAL STAFF IS TAKING TIME OFF!

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The Air Cadet League of Canada Headquarter will be closed for the Holidays from **21 December 2024 until 5 January 2025 inclusively.**

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season  
and all the best for the new Year!

Pierre Forgues, Executive Director



I wish everyone a safe & positive holiday season and health for the coming year!  
Take time for yourself and phone someone you have not spoken with for a while!

Josée Woodford, Deputy Executive Director I Communications

May your Holidays sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill,  
and may the year ahead be filled with happiness and joy. Wishing  
each and every one of you a Magical and Safe Holiday Season.

Krystal Blanchard, Administrative Officer



Wishing all oof our cadets and volunteeers a wonderful holiday season and brighter 2025!

Laura Weinrauch, Administrative Assistant



**Don't forget to send your questions/requests to the right person to receive a quicker answer!**

**Pierre Forgues** – Executive Director  
[execdir@aircadetleague.com](mailto:execdir@aircadetleague.com)

**Josée Woodford** – Deputy Executive Director I Communications  
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## SEASON'S GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Thank you so much to our 5000 volunteers throughout the country for your unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions during the year. Wishing all ACL volunteers and office staff a restful break! A lot to do in each of our communities and squadrons for the next year to better support the air cadet program. I know we can achieve that together.

Here's to a fantastic holiday season and an even more successful year ahead!  
Marc Lacroix, President

"As we enter the holiday season and 2025, my family and I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. May your dreams and wishes be answered." As we look forward to 2025, I encourage you to look to the future of the ACL and how we may best serve our youth and communities.  
Jacquie Pepper-Journal, 1st Vice-President

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with warmth and happiness. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions throughout the year. Here's to a fantastic holiday season and an even more successful year ahead!  
Doug Slowski, Vice-President Programs

The Holiday season is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important people and things around us as we briefly slow down our lives. My thanks go out to our over 8,000 Air Cadet League volunteers and supporters across the country who selflessly give their time, boundless energy, and passion in support of the Air Cadet League and the Air Cadets. I would also like to recognize the efforts and support of the National Office team provides us all! I know everyone at all levels is working hard to support one another and finding innovative and creative ways to enable the program and keep it moving forward. Let us come back after the holiday break rested and energized to build on our accomplishments and make 2025 another successful year for the Air Cadet League and the Air Cadets! Warmest wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy holiday season!  
Tom Sand, Vice-President Plans

May this Holiday season be one of peace, love and joy as you celebrate with family and friends. Wishing all ACL volunteers and office staff a restful break, a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2025!!

From the sunny southern USA in middle Georgia, from our family to yours!  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!  
Sue, Vice-President Finance & Treasurer and Kelly Madden

Merry Christmas! Enjoy time with your family and friends.  
Vern Toews, Governor and Dawna





## CONTINUED...

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Looking back over the year that's about to end, we remember and congratulate all our cadets and League members on the awards, special recognitions, and honours they received throughout 2024. As the League's Aviation Committee, we're especially proud of the nearly 200 cadets who received a pilot license this past summer and those other cadets who had an opportunity to experience flight in a glider or aeroplane.

During this season of holidays, we wish to all cadets, families, League members, and our CAF partners the very best for 2025. Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, or any of the other holidays at this time of year, we wish you the best for the holiday season along with clear sky, smooth air, and tailwinds as we all move into 2025.

Arlo Speer, Governor

### Happy Holidays from Strategic Planning

Here at Strategic Planning, we have been organizing for this time of year all year, (it's what we do!) so we aren't stressed at all....right!

Here are some tips to help you through the season: -

1. DON'T PANIC
2. Outsource the elf duties (even Santa has helpers)
3. Keep hydrated (beverage of your choice, chocolate helps too)
4. Crank up the tunes and dance!
5. Order take-out instead
6. Don't forget it'll all be over tomorrow!

Seriously though, we thank you for your support of our wonderful cadets for another year and wish you all the very best of the season.

Dee Davis, Governor

This time of year, leading up to Christmas, tends to be very busy and we can get distracted by all the activity. It is also a special time of year when children get very excited about the approaching day. We tend to be more generous and helpful to others and our hearts are open to the goodness life has to offer.

In my faith tradition we are in Advent leading up the great Feast of Christmas, the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus and the Holy Family the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the manger. Lighted displays abound in our neighborhoods. Stores are very crowded. Many families are gathering for the feast. When I was a child midnight mass was a wondrous thing. It still is.

We are also focused on secular symbols of the season, Santa and his reindeer and elves and Christmas trees and presents. Fun times.

Whatever your beliefs I hope our many Air Cadet League volunteers and wonderful staff at the SSC's get a much-needed break to recharge your volunteer batteries. Thank you for your service to the cadets and to the League. And if I may, I hope you have a wonderfully blessed Christmas.

As Scripture says, "Glory to God in the Highest and peace to those of good will."

John Nolan CD, Governor





## CONTINUED...

On behalf of the Risk Committee, I want to thank you for all your contributions to our Air Cadet Program and wish you the happiest of holidays with your family and all special people in your lives. May 2025 bring you all the best for a happy, safe and "low risk" new year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Angèle Mullins, Governor

This holiday season, I wish to send my gratitude to all our volunteers, especially those doing the screening and registration at the local, provincial and territorial levels. I send a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Screening and Registration committee.

May you all have a happy holiday season with your family and friends.

Terri Hinton, Screening & Registration Chairperson



## IN MEMORIUM



It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of John (Jack) Doty November 9, 2024, at the age of 92 years.

Jack was a loving husband to the late Irene Doty; wonderful father and grandfather to his daughter Shawn Doty (Web Brown), granddaughter Shelby Brown (Jacob Barsalou) and grandson Colby Brown (Myla Bridgeman-Forbes); son Mark Doty (Wendy Poole); son Trevor Doty (Nickie), granddaughter, Halle Matthewson (Sam), great grandson Henry Matthewson; granddaughter Anna Doty (Randy Hamilton); brother Jim Doty (Joy); sister-in-law Sylvia Johnston, and daughter-in-law Jackie Hodges and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack was well-known and appreciated by the Air Cadet League of Canada Family.

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

Picture from Hall Funeral Services website



It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of Deborah (Debbie) Jean Dowling November 15, 2024, at the age of 75 years.

She will be greatly missed by her loving husband, Paul; son, Sean Dowling (Amber); daughter Tara Cleghorn (Jason); grandsons, Jaron and James Cleghorn; sister, Heather MacFarlane; brother, Albert MacFarlane (Marcia); dear friend, Althea Arsenault, and special granddaughter, Mackenzie Sharkey.

Debbie was a great support of her husband Paul who is volunteering with the Air Cadel League of Canada. She was well known by the ACL National and Provincial members.

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

Picture from Oromocto Funeral home & Crematorium website

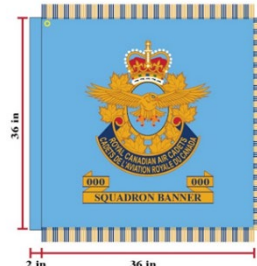




## MÉDAILLES NJMS MEDALS INC



Air Cadets Squadron Banner - (F)



Air Cadets Squadron Banner - (E)

Nathalie Joanisse and Marlene Schmidle, from the former companies of Joe Drouin Enterprises Ltd and Denis Ringuette Enterprises Inc., have continued the proud tradition of providing Air *Cadet Medals, bars and rosettes* as well as *Squadron Banners and Ceremonial Sashes/Baldrics* to the Air Cadet community. Our experience spans 29 years in the medal making business and we have been serving the Air Cadet League and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets for over 15 of those years.

We encourage the representatives from the Provincial and Territorial Committees, who are in need of Air Cadet Service and Volunteer Service Medals, to contact us by email at [nathalie.njms@hotmail.com](mailto:nathalie.njms@hotmail.com) or [njms2023@hotmail.com](mailto:njms2023@hotmail.com) for the medal order form. If there are Squadrons who are interested in the ceremonial Squadrons Banners and Sashes/Baldrics they are welcome to contact us at the same email addresses.

**Nathalie & Marlene**



## THE WEAR OF MESS DRESS (NO2 OR 2A ONLY) AFTER RELEASE IS PERMITTED

The uniform (Paragraph 31b)

[Dress instructions | Chapter 2 Policy and appearance - Canada.ca](#)

**The wear of Mess Dress (No 2 or 2A only) after release is permitted. Former members are to wear the style of Mess Dress authorized by their Branch/Corps or Regiment at the time of their release, this includes their rank, decorations, skill insignia which they were entitled to. To distinguish retired members from serving members, retired members are to wear the distinctive CAF Retiree Insignia, produced and sold by CANEX, on the lower left sleeve of the mess dress jacket 1.5 cm above the cuff, or any embellishment including PO1/WO, CPO2/MWO or CPO1/CWO rank insignia.**

It is expected that CANEX will sell these R (Retired) badges at the end of Dec 24/early Jan 25.





# SQUADRONS ANNIVERSARY

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The following Squadrons have celebrated or will celebrate their anniversary between **October 1<sup>st</sup>** and **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

## **20 Years**

242 Ross Ferguson

## **25 Years**

572 Coyote

## **40 Years**

379 Glengarry Mustangs

## **65 Years**

699 Jasper Place

## **70 Years**

598 Sabre

## **75 Years**

232 Big Horn

511 Humber

512 Exploits

513 Hornet

514 Kinsmen

515 North Atlantic

## **80 Years**

24 Red Deer

386 Comox





## 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, Krystal Blanchard at [presidentsclub@aircadetleague.com](mailto: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!**

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



'Mountain View Morning'. High quality print depicting our 233 Glider, paper size





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Birchall Family  
Anne Bochna  
Gregory Boudreau  
Bomber Harris  
CASARA Foundation

Canadian Fighter  
Pilots Association

Thomas Colfer  
Dale Family  
Allan DeQuetteville  
Dodo Bird Club

Gary & Jane Droppo  
Brian Eggleston  
Irving Consumer Products Limited  
Irvin Erb  
Garbutt Family  
Gerald Gilroy (Alex Venables)  
Ken Goh  
Barbara Goodhand  
Adam Hunt  
Jackman Foundation  
Leonard Jenks  
Mrs. Audrey Kenny  
Frank Kobe  
Reginald & Kathryn Macdonald  
Virginia Mitchell  
Alex Steele  
RCAF 426 Squadron Association  
Dr William Weston Scholarships



Normand Comeau  
Chris Ecklund  
Harold Fowler  
R. (Bob) Goudie  
In Memory of Henry Kimas  
Scott Lawson  
Ken Lett  
Maj Konrad Mech  
Charles (Chuck) Nicolle  
Thomas Taborovskij  
Hille Viita  
Harry Zamonski

Thanks to our  
sponsors and  
partners



Merci à nos  
commanditaires  
et partenaires

Canada