I am not sure what season we are in anymore. The weather patterns have changed so much; at times you may think it is spring. Given some of our temperatures you may even believe that it is late spring – 10 degrees, day time high with an overnight low of +5 degrees. However we know it is not late spring or even spring as some of our friends have not returned from Florida yet. For those of us who have stood the test of winter and braved our varying temperatures and who stood tall to be called “True Canadians”, we have had the enjoyment of two great TGIFs.

Thanks to the efforts of Gunta and Elizabeth for our January Ham and Scallop Potatoes TGIF and Norma, Lise and Alan for our February pasta night. The 35 plus members that attended forgot about the weather and enjoyed each other company. On March 23rd Merle and Darlene will be providing a warm Irish stew for those of us still in the frozen north. More details will be sent out in a flyer closer to the date.

The spring dinner is now set for May 12th at the Salzburger Hof Resort in Batchawana Bay. We will arrange for a bus to depart from the Legion parking lot, around 4:30 PM to take us out to the restaurant. Full details will be issued in a special notice to all members. I expect that this one will have a high demand, so the “Early Bird Gets the Worm”. Our capacity will be limited to that of the bus, unless some members wish to drive out on their own.

Our Wing Bylaws require that we start the nomination process for Wing Executive positions, for 2012 2013. John Hooper, as the immediate Past President has been asked to chair the committee, which is composed of all former past presidents. He will be seeking “notice of interest” from members for positions that they wish to run for. Elections will be held in the late spring.

Gunta and I will be travelling to Sarnia at the end of the month for the Western Region Quarterly meeting. If anyone has items that they wish me to address at that meeting please advise me by e-mail as to the topic and the details.

Earlier I had sent out an e-mail to all members requesting that veterans please identify themselves and provide me with a brief historical biography about themselves. This is part of my information gathering process so that I can accurately fill out our Year End Report to National. It was also done with the intent of having a proper understanding of who our members are and potentially what services they may require in the future. I know I have not heard from everyone and maybe have not even communicated with everyone. Your assistance is required to get the word around and help those that have not heard, to get in touch with me, by which ever means serves them best.

Look forward to seeing you all at the March 23rd TGIF and at the Spring Dinner on May 12th.
Book of the Month

War As I Knew It (Bantam War Book)

George S. Patton Jr.

About this Book

The personal and candid account of General Patton's celebrated, relentless crusade across western Europe during World War II

First published in 1947, War as I Knew It is an absorbing narrative that draws from Patton's vivid memories of battle and his detailed diaries, covering the moment the Third Army exploded onto the Brittany Peninsula to the final Allied casualty report. The result is not only a grueling, human account of daily combat and heroic feats—including a riveting look at the Battle of the Bulge—but a valuable chronicle by one of the most brilliant military strategists in history. Patton's letters from earlier military campaigns in North Africa and Sicily, complemented by a powerful retrospective of his guiding philosophies, further reveal a man of uncompromising will and uncommon character, which made "Georgie" a household name in mid-century America. A human and eloquent story told by a great military genius.

Mike Prochot Goodreads

General Patton's view of war "from the top". Interesting perspective/biography as the General holds nothing back - of course - and the original editing was handled by the General's wife, Beatrice.

Editorial Review - epinions.com

A brilliant example of strategic thinking and primer on leadership and decision making, War As I Knew It is recommended for all readers who want to improve their minds.

A must read for anyone interested in the European theater of WWII as well those interested in the Generals career.

Should you be interested in borrowing this book or have a title that other wing members would be interested in reading, please forward the information to 2nd Vice Jim Browne. He is coordinating the virtual loaning library and will ensure you are able to receive the titles you would like to read. There are many titles available. sub: ijk1@shaw.ca
Since our last issue of Time Flies, 432 Wing has lost the following members:

Henry Lang, Q.C.

Graham MacHattie

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air... . . .

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high un trespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

— John Gillespie Magee, Jr

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old...age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn...at the going down of the sun, and in the morning...

We WILL remember THEM!

Too Close to Home...

432 Wing members John and Jean Burke mourn loss of grand-daughter Sarah

Sarah Burke (September 3, 1982 – January 19, 2012) was a Canadian freestyle skier who was a pioneer of the superpipe event. She was a four-time Winter X Games gold medalist, and won the world championship in the halfpipe in 2005. She successfully lobbied the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to have the event added to the Olympic program for the 2014 Winter Olympics. She was considered a medal favourite in the event. Burke died following a training accident in Utah.

As a teenage moguls skier, Burke would often sneak onto the Snowboard halfpipe at the end of the day. She was considered a pioneer in the sport of superpipe skiing, along with American Kristi Leskinen. The pair were frequent competitors, and often against male skiers.

Burke won first place in the 2001 US Freeskiing Open in the half-pipe event and finished second in slopestyle. When half-pipe made its debut at the 2005 FIS Ski Championships, she emerged as the first world champion. She was the first woman ever to land a jump with 1080-degree rotation in competition.
Greetings All:

Well it has been almost a year since I was elevated to the position of Western RVP.

It has been an interesting time. We tend to think that we are up here and everybody is South and East and it’s all different. Well I’m here to tell you that we ALL experience the same sorts of ups and downs in the life of a Wing. Granted those that maintain their own accommodations have property management to deal with and it is getting harder to make ends meet when it comes to those obligations, but we all contend with the other things that make up a Wing’s existence.

In the past 10 months I have been able to get to 4 of the 6 Wings that are my responsibility. Windsor and Chatham are still to be visited and I hope to conquer that this year before spring has run out. Plans are in the works. I have been able to talk with members from those 2 Wings on several occasions but I feel there is nothing better than being there.

As those of us in the North know distance is the difficulty and our Provincial budget is one that my travel and lodging could quickly deplete.

Our regions next semi-annual meeting will be in Sarnia on the 31st of March and I meet with the rest of the Ontario Executive on the 14th of April in Trenton. Please let your Wing Executive know what you think and what you would like to have considered by those that represent you.

Please attend your regional meeting if at all possible and make sure representation is coming to that meeting at the very least.

John C. Hooper

Western Regional Vice President, Ontario Group, AFAC

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA
Name that plane....

Last edition we gave you these to figure out...they are the F-35 Lightning II. Canada has chosen this aircraft to replace the aging CF-18 Hornet.

What is this? Hint: Ever seen the Red Arrows?

D i d  y o u  k n o w...

A new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

During the year of celebrations, 60 000 deserving Canadians will be recognized.

The Chancellery of Honours, as part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal program.

Key dates for upcoming Wing events...mark your calendars:

2012 Spring Dinner: 12 May 2012
2012 Battle of Britain Dinner: 15 Sep 2012
2012 Christmas Dinner: 1 Dec 2012

Contact Sue Browne 705-946-1291

Don’t forget to watch for our monthly TGIF events at the armoury.... great food for only a ‘fiver’!
One of our own—John Burke, DFC

John Burke was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario where he attended Sault Collegiate.

John enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in North Bay on the 27th of June 1941 and was sent to Regina to train as a pilot. However, a depth perception problem prevented him from finishing and he proceeded to various other training posts; Chatham for Air Observer school which he finished in April 1942; Bombing and Gunnery school in Mountain View, Ontario which he finished in May 1942; and Astronavigation in Rivers, Manitoba which he completed in July 1942. He also had some wireless operator training. As Sergeant Burke he was sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia to await his overseas assignment which came when he was posted to Bournemouth, England as a bombardier. There he trained for operational flying on Wellington Bombers.

His first operational assignment was to 420 Squadron bombing Europe and flying over such strongly defended targets as Wilhelmshaven, Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Manheim, and Duisburg. F/L Burke remembers the flight over Duisburg in heavy cloud which kept them flying figure eights over the target until they could drop their bombs.

After 8 operational flights, 420 SQN was one of 3 squadrons posted to North Africa for the invasion of Sicily. The flight to Africa was a transit flight but it was counted as an operational flight because it was a daylight flight and the planes were attacked. Three of the planes were lost. On June 2nd they landed in Blida, Algeria to refuel. When leaving the airfield, an engine quit and they had to turn back. However, the plane had lost hydraulic power and F/L Burke crawled to the belly of the aircraft. After manually lowering the landing gear he pulled the rudder controls by hand to assist the pilot land the aircraft. They crashed landed just short of the airfield. There were no injuries but the plane was damaged and it was July 8th before the crew got back to the Squadron.

The invasion of Sicily started on July 10, 1943. The first of the two planes leaving the squadron base were carrying jamming equipment which worked so well it jammed both the enemy and the allied communication equipment. The planes had to turn back and F/L Burke’s flight was cancelled that day. On July 16 the destination was the airport in Naples where enemy aircraft were concentrating. This time F/L Burke’s plane was coned in search lights over the target and was hit by enemy fire. The escape hatch was blown open knocking F/L Burke over. He was injured with shrapnel in the leg. The hatch door landed back down with F/L Burke still on it. Had he not been on the door he would have fallen out of the plane. The plane was still functional but crashed on landing. F/L Burke’s injuries kept him in hospital for 2 months. In December he returned to England by ship.

In Jan, 1944, F/L Burke reported back to operational training with a new crew and converted to Halifax aircraft. He was assigned to 424 Squadron. On 16 March 1944 they flew a diversionary mission over the North Sea and on 19 March 1944, a ‘nickel’ flight dropping leaflets near Paris. In June, 1944, 424 SQN resumed operational flights. Their first flight was on D-Day in the Invasion of Europe, bombing the coastal areas at night. F/L Burke went on to fly 21 more sorties concentrating on oil refineries, railroad marshaling yards, and to buzz bomb rocket sites, one being the V2 rocket site. On November 1944 F/L John Burke was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The terms of the DFC are, ‘awarded to Officers and Warrant Officers for an Act of Valour, Courage or Devotion to duty performed while flying in active operations against the enemy’. By August, 1944 F/L Burke had flown 33 missions.

John left the service in October of 1945 and returned to the Sault and his job in the Chemistry Lab of Algoma Steel. In 1946 he moved to the Canadian Forestry Service from which he retired in 1982.

John still resides in the Sault with Jean his wife of 57 years. They have two sons, Kenneth and Gordon.
The Wing is a not-for-profit organization composed of aviation-minded citizens established to remind Canadians of their country’s rich aeronautical tradition and history; to support Canada’s Air Force and to support and encourage the civil aviation component in this country.

The wing provides a forum for serving and former participants in military and civil aviation; Sponsors and encourages aeronautics in all its forms and branches; Supports 155 “Borden Gray, G.C.” Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, and works closely with the Air Cadet League of Canada; Maintains unity of purpose and effort among serving and former participants in military and civil aviation; Preserves and perpetuates the glorious traditions of Canada’s Air Force past and present, and all who have served, or are currently serving in it.

Wing Meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month, in the Boardroom of Branch 25, Royal Canadian Legion starting at 1930 hrs.