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Moose 419 Bomber Squadron Stephane Guevremont, Honourary Colonel



President David introduced our speaker, Stephan Guevremont, who is the honorary Colonel of the Moose 419 Squadron, and an independent military historian.

The name "Moose", which is used in the squadron's emblem and motto, is derived from the nickname of the first commanding officer of the squadron, Wing Commander

"Moose" Fulton. The tradition of squadron commanders bearing the nickname "Moose" was instituted after Fulton's death during operations. Squadron personnel are affectionately known as "Moosemen". This tradition continues to this day. Our speaker has recently completed a book on the history of this squadron (and its first commanding officer) in celebration of its 75th Anniversary, having begun operations in January, 1942.

John "Moose" Fulton came from a well established and accomplished family based in Kamloops, British Columbia. He tried to follow the business example of his parents, however it turned out that he was destined to spend his life out of doors ... in the air in fact. He travelled south to the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland, California and in 1934, he went to England and joined the Royal Air Force. In 1935 he was commissioned as a pilot officer and, after training, joined a bomber transport squadron in Egypt. He remained there for two years enjoying the peacetime life in the RAF. At the outbreak of the war, he was back in England flying with a bomber squadron, flying in 20 major operations in three months and in September of 1940 was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He received the Air Force Cross in January of 1942, and on August 4th of that year, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for attacks on industrial centers, dockyards, towns, aerodromes and other important enemy structures.



When the RCAF's 419 Squadron was organized, the executive officers were Canadians loaned by the RAF. The first commanding officer was of course "Moose" Fulton and his popularity is now part of the legend. The story of John Fulton includes more than fifty operational bombing sorties. He remained long enough to take part in the early bomber raids on Cologne, Bremen and the Ruhr. In these actions he flew a Wellington, a twin-engined, stable aircraft that formed the backbone of the Bomber Command's early efforts. On the night of August 2nd, 1942 Moose went to Hamburg. On the way home, enemy night fighters picked him up and just after 4am, the aircraft sent out this final message from Moose: "wounded...fighters...five hundred feet". The Moose and his crew were lost in the sea.

Between January 1943 to March 1944, 419 Squadron was involved in over 200 sorties involving 2,400 crewing operations, losing 59 aircraft, a rate of 1 in 40. 415 men were either killed or taken POW during those 15 months, averaging 4 crews per month. Today the Squadron remains the most decorated unit in the Canadian Air Force.

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Our greeters today were Paul Gaudet and Rhea Graham who provided an enthusiastic welcome to both members and guests.

President David started our meeting at 12:15. He introduced O Canada with George Van Schaick as our singing coach, followed by Rotary Grace. David

acknowledged the fact that the land on which we gather today is the Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot, Stoney and Tsuut'ina peoples, as well as the Metis Settlement of Calgary. He noted that Paul Gaudet would be today's

Scribe, and then called on Rhea Graham to introduce our visitors and guests. Today we had a total of 37 in attendance which included 3 guests and 2 visiting Rotarians.



George Van Schaick, standing in for Pat Hutchinson, provided today's Sunshine Report. He let us know that Bart Dailley is currently unable to attend meetings as he

recovers from ill health, and also that Pat Hutchinson is currently having some health challenges while visiting Victoria.

Minute Men:

- Peter Bickham reminded us about our final cribbage wrap up tournament, formerly the Lou Ried Memorial Award, now called the "Suckling Awards" on April 15th. There is a \$20 sign-up fee and all are welcome.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick



- Rhea stood in for John Charrett and reminded us all about the "Mix 'n Mingle" being held on Friday, April 7th from 2 to 3pm at the School. Our association with this school is a long and rewarding one, and we encourage as many members as possible to attend.



- Hank took the floor to remind us that the Grillin' and Servin' season is here, and that we have two events scheduled for June, further details to follow. He encouraged everyone to sign up online to take the Food Safety Course to be eligible to help out on this fun activity.



- David Irving advised us of an upcoming Rotary Friendship Exchange visit to our city from Sri Lanka. There are 8 visitors, 7 men and one lady, and we are seeking hosts to assist in making this group feel welcome. The dates are from June 14th to 17th. Please contact either Bev or David if you can be a host or have any questions.

approaching with the Horticultural Show taking place on April 29th and 30th. As in previous years, we will

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Maternal and Child Health Month

April 4th	Ken Goosen — GlobalFest
April 7th	Fairview School 'Mix 'n Mingle' — 2pm to 3pm — contact John Charrett for info
April 11th	Dr. Mary Valentich — Assisted Dying
April 15th	Cribbage "Suckling Awards" @ 10am, \$20 sign-up fee — open to members and guests
April 18th	Richard de Boer, Calgary Mosquito (Airplane) Society
April 23rd	Grillin' and Servin' for 400! — St Pat's Run, Prince's Island — contact Hank to sign-up
April 25th	Dawn Rennie and Dustin Rennie — Director's Report re Club website and 'Youth Dinner' evening meeting
April 29 - 30th	Parking at Spruce Meadows for the Horticultural Show — sign-up via the new system through ClubRunner — details TBA



Youth Service Month

May 5 - 7th	DisCon 5360 "Strength in Numbers" — register at www.discon5360.ca @ Sheraton Red Deer Hotel
May 10th	Kickin' It Country — Charity Concert with Lindsay Ell in support of the UofC Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit @ Ranchman's Cookhouse & Dancehall, 9615 Macleod Trail SE, doors open @ 6pm

KICKIN' IT
COUNTRY

Rotary Fellowships Month

June 3rd	Grillin' and Servin' for 700! — Brain Sprint, Edworthy Park — contact Hank to sign up
June 6th	Dr. B. Silvius
June 7th - 11th	Parking at Spruce Meadows for "The National"
June 14th	Atlanta 2017 RI Convention — last day for online registration — \$490
June 14 - 17th	Rotary Friendship Exchange group from Sri Lanka — contact Bev Tonkinson or David Irving if you can be a host or have any questions
June 18th	Grillin' and Servin' for 500! — Tri for Evan, Elbow Valley — contact Hank to sign-up



Meeting Minutes

.... cont'd from page 2

be parking in both lots 7 and 8, providing drivers for 3 people movers and manning the east side main gate. In addition we will be introducing our brand new sign-up system through our ClubRunner website. Paul will be providing further details shortly, however he encouraged our members to take a look at the new site.



Our 50-50 draw winner today was Dale Perret who told us this was the second time she has won.

Dale then took the podium as our Sgt at Arms. She quizzed our members regarding facts found in our most recent Rotarian magazine, all about the role Canada has

played in Rotary. For example:

- we have had 5 Canadian presidents since Rotary began
- Canada ranks second in the world in the percentage of female members and 6th in annual giving
- we have contributed \$34.5 million dollars (USD) to Polio Plus



- Norm rose to tell us of his granddaughter's progress in the ringette playoffs ... they won 10 to zero with Ireland scoring 5 goals. As Norm likes to say, "it's all in the genes".



- Tom Sorenson thanked Hank for assisting in the finalization of our Bursary program.
- Garth Sabirsh took the opportunity to celebrate Spring by telling us that he has seen his first robin.
- Bev rose to tell us that her Mom turned 93 yesterday so the odds are good that she (Bev) would be around for some time yet (a thought that makes us all happy).

President David introduced our speaker, Stephane Guevremont, who is the honorary Colonel of the Moose 419 Squadron, and an independent military historian.

David Wartman thanked our speaker by presenting him with our certificate noting a donation in his name to help eradicate Polio in the world.

President David closed our meeting at 1:30pm.



Good News / Bad News:

- President David told us that he recently attended his wife Katherine's retirement party only to discover that she has been asked to stay on for another couple of months.

Pilot Officer Andrew Mynarski of 419 Squadron was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on June 12/13, 1944 during a bombing mission over Europe. His flight was on fire, they were abandoning their aircraft when Andrew noticed one of his turret gunners could not get out. With disregard to his own safety, Andrew grabbed an axe and, while actually on fire himself, tried to free his friend and comrade. He couldn't free him, jumped from the craft and ultimately died. Ironically the turret gunner stayed with the plane but was freed upon crash-landing and, while captured, survived the war.



The 419 Squadron was adopted by the town of Kamloops. Since 1943 the townsfolk have been raising money to send support to the squadron. Today the airport in Kamloops is named the "Fulton Field Airport", and there is a building at Cold Lake named the "Moose Fulton Building".



The squadron was returned to Canada in June, 1945 and was disbanded at Yarmouth Nova Scotia on September 5th, 1945. The squadron was reformed on March 15th, 1955 as 419 All Weather Fighter Squadron, and moved to the Nato Air Division base at Baden-Soellingen, Germany. It was again disbanded on December 31st,

1962. It was reformed in 1975, disbanded in 1995 and finally reformed again at 4 Wing Cold Lake on 23 July, 2000 to conduct advanced fighter training for Canadian and Nato pilots, using nine CT-155 Hawk aircraft.

Our speaker advised that he is presenting a talk about "Vimy Ridge" at the Library on April 11th. He graciously stayed on to answer a few questions about the types of aircraft flown during the war.



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