

CONTACT

Canadian Aviation Historical Society

New Brunswick Turnbull Chapter



Fall 2012

<http://turnbull1922.wordpress.com/>

From the President's Desk

First, my thanks to our 'Contact' editor, Dan, for managing to produce this issue despite his heavy work schedule lately.

It was great to see all those who were able to attend our first hosted National Conference this past September. We have received many favourable comments on the speakers and the programs available to members and spouses.



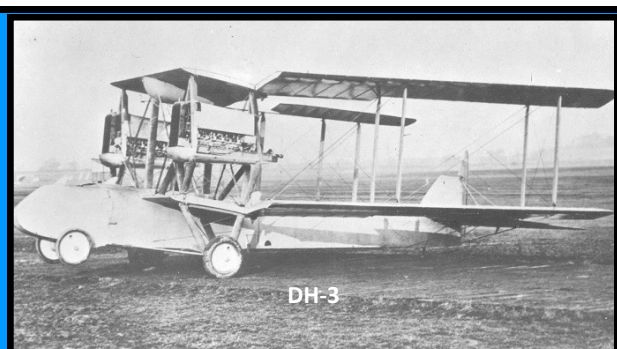
I would like to thank our Conference Planning Committee members, Sue Ehrlander, Boyd Trites, Harold Wright and Pierre Vachon for composing the schedule, lining up speakers, booking accommodations, raising financing and all the other items needed to present an interesting and informative Conference.

Also, my thanks to Sue's friends who volunteered to man the registration desk, and Hospitality suite.

Besides being on the Conference Committee, Harold Wright organized the Chapter's participation in the Atlantic National Exhibition's aviation display, the dedication of the Wade-Myles Aviation Park at the site of the former RCAF Station in Millidgeville, and successfully promoted the City of Saint John's re-affiliation with 410 Squadron, RCAF that was known as the "City of Saint John Squadron" during WW II. All this, in the week before the Conference.

There will be new projects to work on in the coming year, and hopefully we can boost our membership during the year. If you know of someone who has an interest in aviation, please encourage them to join with us in researching and promoting our maritime aviation heritage.

Cheers, Jim Sulis



DH-3

New Ideas from the past?



Content

- From the President's Desk
- CAHS Conference Highlights
- What Is It?
- At a Glimpse
- Memorial Service
- Other News / Sponsors

Contact



CAHS Conference and other events

By Harold Wright

Turnbull Chapter now has the two youngest members of the Society in Canada. Duncan and Logan Cunningham of Saint John are 8 and 10 years old. For the past few years they have wanted to become pilots.

Duncan wants to join the RCAF and become a fighter pilot flying the CF-18 Hornets. That means he would train with 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron at Cold Lake. Logan has been interested in the aviation industry since he was six and wants to become a Commercial pilot and run his own airline. He already has the corporate airline name picked out, the types of aircraft he plans to own, and his world-wide routes already mapped.



Both boys also volunteered at our national conference last month.

This year is the centennial of Captain Thomas Baldwin's flight at the Saint John Exhibition. This pivotal aviation event was marked by two weeks of events in Saint John.

The Saint John exhibition hosted Turnbull Chapter and several other aviation organizations. Historical displays, flight simulator exhibits, air cadets and veterans, as well as model making and contests, introduced the Chapter and aviation to some 20,000 exhibition visitors. The Saint John exhibition hosted a static dis-



play and air show of vintage aircraft, several from Vintage Wings, including its famous Golden Hawk Sabre. During week two we hosted the national conference of the



Canadian Aviation Historical Society with numerous speakers over three days. The papers represented both New Brunswick and national aviation stories.



A highlight of this conference was the dedication of the Wade-Myles Aviation Park at the former Millidgeville Airport. A cenotaph and memorial trees were dedicated to several local aviators and another five portraits were added to the Saint John



Aviation Hall of Fame hosted at the Teed School.



CAHS 2012 Convention Continued

By Harold Wright

The grades k to 2 students at the school were full participants in the ceremony, including when the City of Saint John held its reaffiliation ceremony with 410 (City of Saint John), Squadron, RCAF from Cold Lake, Alberta. The City also honored the Squadron and all local air force veterans, by presenting to the Squadron the Freedom of



the City of Saint John, the highest municipal award a municipality can award to a military unit.

The conference organizing committee were Sue Ehrlander, Boyd Trites, Jim Sulis, Harold Wright and Pierre Vachon.

There are still two items outstanding from our 2012 commemoration of aviation in New Brunswick.

We are in the editing stages



of a 30 minute commemorative video of the Wade-Myles (aviation) Park dedication at the M. Gerald Teed Memorial School. This dvd will incorporate video and images from the Saint John Exhibition and Air Show, interviews with members of 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron and the ceremony of the Millidgeville cenotaph dedication and Freedom of the City ceremonies. This dvd will be given to all students and staff at the M. Gerald Teed school. Copies may be made available to CAHS members for a small fee.



The second outstanding item is the virtual exhibit on New Brunswick aviation which is being done in concert with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. We are providing the images and text and the Archives are translating the text and will host it as an online exhibit on their web site, free of charge to the Chapter.



Subjects to be covered include: Airports: Saint John, Blissville, Moncton, Pennfield, Fredericton, Bathurst and Chatham: Famous Aviators such as Nicols, Earhart, Mollison and the Miscou Island crash; Local aviators/inventors such as McClure, Turnbull, Wade, Irving, Pepi, Carty and others; crash sites (without the specific locations identified), as well as local airlines which flew from various NB ports, such as Maritime Airways and Maritime Central Airways. This project is ongoing.



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What is it?

By: Daniel Goguen



What is it? Does this machine fly? Does it go over water, snow or land?

These were the questions that went through my mind as I saw what seemed to be a hybrid vehicle between an aircraft, snowmobile, road , or perhaps a water craft if floats were added!

Truth is, this is a snowmobile built by Charlie McEwen who was well known in the Maritimes aviation circle.

He started building this vehicle at the age of 15 in 1931 when he lived in Dorchester.

This delta wing, open cockpit vehicle was last driven by Charlie when he was 81 years of age. He used to take it out frequently around McEwen's Airfield. It is less than 20 feet in length and about half of that in width. It is built from wood and has aircraft parts such as wheel and gear, control yoke and windscreen. Controls are limited to engine throttle, on-off switch and steering.

Recognizing that the machine has gone through modifications over the years, it is still truly fascinating to think such a futuristic design and construction was done by a teenager and in the early 1930's! Move over Armand Joseph Bombardier!

Charlie's grandson, Daniel McEwen arranged for us to meet with one of Charlie's former employees Johnny Johnson.

John clarified a few things for used such as the name Panhard located on the side of the vehicle. The current twin cylinder boxer engine 850cc was taken out of a French made Panhard car found in a scrap yard. Hence the name. The engine was refurbished with new rings and a carburetor for



each cylinder. They had to design and make a new exhaust system as well. According to John, the engine had much more power than was needed for this vehicle. "it would have gone at least 100 mph if you had the nerve to take it there". He further states that it would have been better to have a belt driving the propeller rather than a chain as the chain would lash at low speeds. The prop itself had been damaged so Charlie decided to cut both ends square.

The first engine Charlie used for the vehicle was a Harley Davidson V-Twin. It didn't work as well as the Panhard engine due to its balance.

The machine in its current configuration has both wheels and skis attached at the wing extremities. However, the front steering gear seems to be limited to one or the other. It is not known if the vehicle was used with wheels only.



Charlie at the age of 63 in 1979.
Photo: Daniel McEwen





At a Glimpse

Obituary

IRVING, KENNETH B.
 - 1938 - 2012 - In his 74th year, Kenneth B. Irving passed away peacefully at the Moncton Hospital on August 28, 2012 after a short illness. He will be greatly missed by his wife Sonia (Cybak) and sons Glynn (Dana) of Enfield, NS and Robert of Banff, AB. He was a wonderful Grampa to Samuel and Aliya. His true passions involved family, friends and aviation.



Turnbull Chapter Executive

President: Jim Sulis
 Vice President: Norman Sheppard
 Treasurer: Boyd Trites

Directors

Gerald Greer	Frank Gale
Harold Wright	Bruce Lockhart
Everett McQuinn	Bob Mulhern
Garry Maclean	Charles Baxter Jr.
Pierre Vachon	

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The Eel River Crossing memorial in honour of 8 American lives lost on October 20th, 1996.

This crash remains New Brunswick's biggest lost of life in a single aircraft.



Special Thanks

Jim Sulis, Boyd Trites, Harold Wright, Lise Goguen,
 Everyone from CFB Gagetown and Saint-Quentin.

Aviation Quiz

Answers at the bottom of page 8

1. What was the name and occupation of the only New Brunswick fatality in the 1954 mid-air crash over Moose Jaw.
2. Which NB fighter pilot was part of a 2 aircraft attempt to break the cross Canada speed record?

Contact

Group Captain Cole Memorial Service

By Daniel Goguen



On the morning of October 20, 2012, 7 friends from the Saint-Quentin area and myself took off for the hour-long drive in the mountains of North Western New Brunswick. Our destination was the final resting place of RCAF F-86 Sabre 23083 which crashed there on October 23, 1967. Also known as the last RCAF Sabre crash in Canada.

I had been to the site before and was amazed to find so much wreckage still lying there. The feeling was as if I had stepped back in time and that this tragic event had happened only a few weeks before! The idea of a memorial was growing and a few friends from Saint-Quentin had been supporting the idea. Things got rolling and the Turnbull Chapter directors at their fall meeting decided to sponsor this effort along with Ultra Poly Manufacturing Ltd.

As we left our vehicles and commenced our 15-20 minute hiking trek near the summit, mother nature refused to give us a break and instead gave us a full day of fog and rain. Not to be deterred, everyone was carrying hardware and tools necessary to erect a permanent memorial at the crash location to honour and preserve the memory of its only victim, pilot Group Captain William Robert Cole.

The memorial was installed at the intersection of two small paths leading to the nearby aircraft wreckage. The location was specifically chosen before actually seeing wreckage to give passers by the opportunity to learn about the tragedy and how to respect the site.



The wreckage is scattered on both slopes of the mountain over a distance of approximately 500 metres.

Once installed, everyone present felt a sense of being part of something special. On October 23, I had the privilege to



accompany several CFB Galetown personnel to the crash site and participate in a memorial service celebrating the 45th anniversary of this tragic event.

Equipped with computer, video recorders, and a bagpipe player, Captain Kevin Anderson had everything in place for a special service near the summit of this remote mountain worthy of any held in more common places!

Base Chaplain Major Al Murphy delivered a wonderful eulogy followed by John Magee's *High Flight* read by 403 Squadron Griffin Pilot Captain Doug Boyd.

As Sergeant Chris Yeo played the pipes, the monument was unveiled by Capt. Boyd and myself followed by the placing of a poppy to close a truly moving ceremony!





2012 Saint John Airshow Highlights

Photos by Daniel Goguen





Other News

Editor's Note

Hello everyone!

I would like to send my sincere apology for the lengthy delay in producing this latest issue of Contact.

I'm hopeful that with everyone's collaboration future issues will take less time.

On this note, we welcome anyone, Turnbull Chapter member or not, to submit an aviation story with a New Brunswick connection.

You can send your story in hand written format with hard copy photos if it's easier. Don't worry about grammar or spelling, we'll take care of this and do the rest! A one-page article with 2 photos contains about 700 words which is what we are aiming for.

The main focus of this exercise is not to win a Pulitzer Prize, but to capture and record your memory of an aviation event or a particular area of interest you may have.

Looking forward to your collaboration!

My coordinates are on page 6.

Thank you all !

Quiz Answers

From page 5

1. R. McLean of Bathurst was on his way to dispute a boxing match .
2. In 1956, Ret. Colonel Ralph Annis and R.J. Childerhose crossed Canada from Vancouver to Halifax in five hours.

The Turnbull Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations.

