

Turnbull (NB) Chapter

Canadian Aviation Historical Society

Chapitre Turnbull (NB)

La Société Canadienne de l'histoire d'aviation

3 - 2023 Winter Issue

Visit our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/TurnbullNBChapter

President's Message

I will be retiring at the beginning of February from my medical practice in Bath. That will leave time for me to pursue more Turnbull activities over the next year.

First, our RCAF 100 Pennfield project with 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAFA will be dedicated on 07 June. I hope you can attend. This year will be a banner year for aviation activities. Further details are in the newsletter.

There are several potential speakers that we can book for this year. We will continue to use ZOOM as it allows for speakers and attendees right across the country. We will try to get back to having in-person meetings also.

Here are the subjects that I will try to arrange speakers for this spring and fall.

*- the transformation of the Sea King for Operation Desert Shield in 1990;

*- a NB corporate pilot whose grandfather had a connection to The Great Escape and also at Stalug Luft 3;

*- another corporate pilot whose father was a ferry pilot in the 1950s RCAF. He wrote a few books mainly about his Sabre experiences

*- a RCAF engineer from the mid-fifties to the late eighties.

I ask that you renew your membership for 2024 as we embark on recognizing the women and men of our RCAF.

Our RCAF 100 banner project will be unveiled on 01 April. All of us should thank Arthur Irving and the staff at Irving Oil for supporting this initiative.

100

Bruce

Congratulations to those who received a RCAF 100 Centennial (1924-2024) Banner

> Turnbull (NB) Chapter, Canadian Aviation Historical Society 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association PO Box 2751, Saint John, NB, F21, F21 — unbulble-better#gnail.com

Tid-Bits from the Secretary

It seems there is always too much to put into one newsletter. Then when it is time to put one together, it's a delicate task of selecting what to put in, without overloading you with 50 pages!

Perhaps the most important things on this years calendars are our events and speakers for the RCAF 100. We partnered with 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association for our prime project, which is to recognize the 70 aviators who died at the RCAF Station Pennfield Ridge. During the war several units of the RCAF and RAF were stationed there. You may not know that Pennfield was the landing site of Captain James Mollison in 1932—the first east to west Trans-Atlantic flight.

Further in the newsletter you will find information about several of these RCAF 100 events. It might surprise you that planning for some of these events began in 2019.

The RCAF Pennifeld Ridge Air Force Memorial is a one acre lot of the former air base. It is owned by 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAFA Inc. There are four members on this not-for-profit Board—two from Turnbull and two from 250 Wing.

All told, we and 250 Wing will be investing about \$300,000 into our projects, with the money raised from various funding sources. Details about Pennfield, our Banner project, and the Group Captain Cole memorial restoration are in this newsletter.

Do you have a personal RCAF 100 project? Please share with us for our next newsletter. If you do not have a project, then maybe you can take a local RCAF Veteran for a coffee and thank him/her for their service.

Details on the next three speakers are in this newsletter. You will receive a separate invitation for the ZOOM meeting. If you do not have a computer and cannot do ZOOM, call me to see what we can arrange.

Harold 506-639-4435.

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RCAF 100 Centennial

There are several events planned by us and our partner 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association. These will take place at various locations around the Province. Details will be provided over the next few months.

We have asked the City of Saint John, and through the Province, all municipalities in the Province, to have one crosswalk painted in RCAF colours with a Roundel.

01 April	*Unveiling of RCAF 100 Banners around the Province.
	- Sponsored by Irving Oil Ltd. and Turnbull (NB) Chapter.
	- This is a \$50,000 project.

- **07 June** *Dedication of the RCAF 100 Air Force Memorial at Pennfield Ridge. 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAFA Inc. owns one acre of this former air base. -This is a \$250,000+ project.
- Summer *Assisting the City of Moncton for the rededication of their CF 100 Canuck in Centennial Park.
- 24-25 August *Participate in the Air Show Atlantic, CFB Greenwood.
- 4 September *85th anniversary of the loss of Northrup Delta 673 and the loss of the first two members of the RCAF to die during the Second World War, Juniper
 Sponsored by Turnbull (NB) Chapter and 250 (Saint John) Wing.
- **15 September** *84th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Eight New Brunswick pilots participated, of which five were killed in action.
 Sponsored by 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAFA and Turnbull (NB) Chapter.
- **15 October** *Restoration and re-dedication of the Group Captain W.R. Cole monument at Pineville, NB and visit to the crash site at Mount Winslow.

- Sponsored by Turnbull (NB) Chapter and a private sponsor.



RCAF 100 Banners

We received funding to print 100 commemorative RCAF 100 banners. These will be displayed throughout the Province for this years centennial of the RCAF.

We have selected 100 nominations for 100 women and men from NB who served between 1924 to 2024.



There were over 50 New Brunswick communities repre-

sented by these aviators, and nominations were received from many Provinces and from two US States

Our plan is to display them around the Province from 01 April to 12 November 2024.

We also designed two commemorative banners for 403 and 410 Squadrons, both which received the Freedom of the City of Saint John.

We are discussing with our sponsor and the Lieutenant Governor about having an official kick-off event at Government House on 01 April. Stay tuned for details.

https://www.cahs.com/cahs-newbrunswickchapter.html

This AD appeared in several NB newspapers during the summer.





Our RCAF 100 Banner Aviators

These are the 100 women and men aviators who will receive the RCAF 100 centennial banner. After the banners come down in November, the nominators will be given their banner, compliments of our sponsor, Irving Oil, and our Chapter.

The banners highlight the two Squadron crests of 403 and 410 Squadrons, both with a strong connection with New Brunswick and which have supported our Chapter. The background images are of aircraft flown by these Squadrons and the RCAF.

The information shown is their rank and name, decorations, and their place of birth. If born outside of New Brunswick, it will also include where in NB they spent much of their life.

The banners will be four feet high and are designed to be hung outside or inside a building. The RCAF motto is at the bottom along with the logos and names of the two sponsors, Irving Oil and Turnbull (NB) Chapter.

2024 is also the centennial of Irving Oil.

We have three pre-1924 aviators who served with the Royal Air Force during the First World War. Two of those three continued to serve until the Second World War. Four of our Second World War aviators are still with us and we plan to display their banners in one location.

Our motto is *Per ardua ad astra*, a Latin phrase meaning "through adversity to the stars".

Second Lieutenant Kenneth Colin Irving, Buctouche, 1918-1920 Air Vice Marshall Leigh F. Stevenson, CB, Richibucto, 1917-1945 Corporal Gordon Boyd, Windsor, Saint John, 1951-1958 Flight Lieutenant Miller Brittain, DFC, Saint John, 1940-1946 Flying Officer Aubrey F. Izzard, Saint John, 1940-1942 Flight Lieutenant Gerald D. Carty, Saint John, 1943-1945 Lt.General LWF Cuppens, CMM, CD, Nijmegen/Saint John, 1968-1998 Corporal Joseph L. Durelle, CD, Baie-St. Anne, 1952-1972 Leading Aircraftman C. Laurence Carlson, Titusville, 1942-1947 Flight Sergeant Edith T. Carson, Saint John, 1941-1946 Flight Lieutenant John R. Myles, DFC, Saint John, 1941-1945 Major K. Wayne Vail, CD, Sussex, 1962-1996 Flying Officer Walter A. Wallace, Sussex, 1940-1943 Flying Officer Herbert C. McGee, St. Andrews, 1943-1945 Squadron Leader Richard L. Lee, Centreville, 1939-1943 Corporal Katrina M. Currie, Saint John, 2012-2020 Flying Officer John J. McGinley, Chipman, 1942-1945 Sergeant Donald E. Weeks, Little Ridgetown, 1941-1945 Flight Sergeant Ray L. Holdsworth, Digby/Saint John, 1939-1946 Major Mark F.G. Currie, CD, Saint John, 1996-2008 Leading Aircraftman Douglas H. Ramsey, Saint John, 1942-1945 Warrant Officer James A. Griffin, CD, Moncton, 1941-1945/1949-1970

Sergeant Matthew W. Wright, CD, Moncton, 1990-2005 Leading Aircraftman Norton R. Christie, Harvey, 1942-1946 Leading Aircraftman Ernest G.C. Graham, Saint John, 1940-1946 Flight Lieutenant Donald E. McQuinn, Moncton, 1955-1961 Warrant Officer T.M. Kelley, CD, Chicoutimi/Saint John, 1962-1974 Master Warrant Officer Louis G. Nowlan, CD, Chatham, 1960-1992 Lt. Colonel Shelley M. Peters, OMM, CD, Saint John, 1986-2012 Major Walter W. Peters, CD, Litchfield/Saint John, 1963-1984 Warrant Officer A. Murdoch, CD, Hardwick Parish, 1941-1945/1949-1970 Flight Lieutenant George Pridham, Toronto/Saint John, 1939-1946 Corporal John J. Lavigne, CD, Ste. Therese, 1951-1965 Squadron Leader Kenneth G. Taylor, AFC, Port Elgin, 1941-1947 Leading Aircraftman Gordon MacMackin, Saint John, 1965-1966 Leading Aircraftwoman Doris E. Carlson, Saint John, 1943-1945 Warrant Officer R. Harrison Murdoch, CD, Hardwicke, 1940-1945 Captain Shawn D. Brooks, CD, Saint John, 1990-2024 Master Corporal J.A. Andrecheck, CD, Ontario/Blissfield, 1976-1996 Lieutenant Colonel Stephen W. Allan, CD, Renforth, 1979-2018 Flying Officer Robert A. Coneen, Humphrey, 1950-1956 Flight Lieutenant Donald J. McKay, Sydney/Saint John, 1957-1967 Pilot Officer Charles A. Elliott, Coles Island, 1942-1945 Warrant Officer Shelley L. Jollimore, CD, Saint John, 1989-2019 Sergeant Terry Campbell, CD, Saint John, 1970-1991 Warrant Officer Aage C. Skaarup, CD, Denmark/Lakeville, 1954-1974 Captain A. Peter Smith, MMM, CD, Toronto/Fredericton, 1975-2007 Corporal Glennis M. Boyle, Saint John, 1943-1946 Leading Aircraftwoman Lois A. Anthony, Saint John, 1943-1946 Sergeant George H. Fawcett, Sackville, 1941-1942 Master Warrant Officer K.P.J. Pike, CD, Barrie/Fredericton, 2001-2024 Pilot Officer Robert F. Chase, Fredericton, 1940-1942 Lieutenant Colonel Edward A. Lowery, CD, Moncton, 1951-1981 Leading Aircraftman John R. Maxwell, Saint John, 1959-1964 Master Warrant Officer R. A. Hutchinson, CD, Sussex, 2000-2020 Corporal Zachery A. Hutchinson, Sussex, 2020-2024 Honorary Colonel Robert A. Quartermain, St. Stephen, 2019-2024 Pilot Officer William L. Barrett, DFC, Fredericton, 1941-1945 Warrant Officer Leonard J. Leland, St. George, 1943-1945 Cadet Squadron Leader Joseph A. Day, Saint John, 1963-1968 Corporal Douglas E. Vincent, Saint John, 1941-1946 Warrant Officer Maurice H. McBride, Saint John, 1941-1945 Sergeant T. Patrick McMenamon, CD, Saint John, 1940-1967 Flight Lieutenant Paul E. Burden DFC, Poquiock, 1940-1946 Flying Officer Laurence A. Blaney, Maple Ridge, 1941-1945 Warrant Officer 2 Edward T. K. Mooney, Saint John, 1943-1946 Corporal Mary E. Henry, CD, St. George, 1956-1970 Warrant Officer Roderick Allen, CD, Montreal/Saint John, 1997-2016

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Lieutenant George O. Brown, Saint John, 1942-1946 Warrant Officer Raymond Wasson, CD, Ripples, 1957-1987 Flight Lieutenant Donald S. McClure, Moncton, 1940/1942-1945 Captain Larry Ricker, CD, Lower Coverdale, 1981-2002 Corporal Lilian E. Hawkins, Beaver Harbour, 1942-1945 Major Brianne Strong, CD, Wirral, 2010-2024 Squadron Leader B.C. Carter, CD, New Zealand/Saint John, 1950-1966 Corporal Sadie L. Moore, Saint John, 1943 - 1944 Captain Marie-Claude Labee, St-Quentin, 2013-2024 Captain Rodney M. Ermen, CD, Moncton, 1985-1998 Leading Aircraftman John Evans, Saint John, 1952-1957 Flight Lieutenant Mark Constantine, Konteagle, 1957-1967 Corporal Donald S. MacDonald, CD, Saint John, 1956-1976 Captain James L. McCarthy, CD, Saint John, 1966-1971/1988-1994 Leading Aircraftwoman Helen M. O'Neill, Newcastle, 1944-1945 Corporal Ronald E. McRae, CD, Tignish/Saint John, 1953-1978 Pilot Officer Lloyd W. Moore, Saint John, 1941-1945 Master Corporal Charles Plaster, CD, Beaverdam, 1954-1977 Warrant Officer Brian Dykeman, CD, Saint John, 1967-1995 Group Captain Kenneth R. Patrick, OBE, CD, Saint John, 1939-1960 Flying Officer Hazen E. Dougherty, St. Stephen, 1941-1944 Warrant Officer 2 Victor R. Burrill, Yarmouth/Saint John, 1943-1945 Squadron Leader WW Rogers, MC, PEI/Saint John, 1917-1918/1938-1940 Brigadier General Sidney A. Connor, CD, Fredericton, 1991-2024 Sergeant Ross A. Rennie, CD, Halifax/Fredericton, 1981-2023 Leading Aircraftman George O. Kelley, New Zion, 1940-1945 Flight Lieutenant William H. Arrowsmith, Saint John, 1939-1945 Leading Aircraftman Eldon W. Callahan, Saint John, 1940-1944 Warrant Officer Arnold A. Adams, CD, McAdam, 1960-1997 Sergeant Hilbert H. Barry, CD, Beaver Harbour, 1949-1974 Chief Warrant Officer David Hepditch, CD, Sackville, 1997-2019

Four of our aviators. Two with Second World War service, one during the Cold War and one who continues to serve.





In December, members of the Chapter and 250 (Saint John) Wing, met with Her Honour Brenda Murphy, our Lieutenant Governor, and the Hon. Mary E. Wilson, MLA and Minister responsible for Military Affairs. We updated them on the New Brunswick events for RCAF 100.

Left to right: Jim Landry, Landscape NB; Greg Boudreau, Turnbull; Eileen Boyd, Turnbull; HE Wright, Turnbull; Her Honour; Bev Harrison, 250 Wing; Hon. Mary Wilson, MLA; and Jim McCarthy, 250 Wing.



The 2024 RCAF Air Show will be held at CFB Greenwood on 24-25 August.

During that Air Show the Canadian

Warplane Heritage Museum will have their PBY CANSO, DAKOTA and an AVENGER.

The Chapter and 250 Wing attended last years Air Show at Debert. We plan to attend again this year to highlight the Chapter's many projects over the years, with highlighting our RCAF 100 events.

Debert, 2023





Joseph "Pepi" DiGiacinto



The Chapter lost one of our distinguished members this past fall. "Pepi" passed on 13 November 2023.

This is his obituary from McAdams Funeral Home in Fredericton.

"The family of Rose-Anne wishes to announce that after 53 years of love, flying, sailing, laughter and adventures Joseph "Pepi" DiGiacinto has departed this world. Pepi was born in Fredericton, NB,

March 31, 1931.

Pepi enjoyed life. His love of flight took him to many places. He flew for Maritime Central Airway where he worked in the north for the Dew line. He worked for his father, Guy, with Fredericton Aviation flying contractual flights within Canada and USA. He was hired by Pan International and Bavaria German in Germany, flew to the Azores, Canary Islands and within Europe. He flew 747 for an American Company then to Saudi Arabian Airlines from which he retired from flying Tristar 1011. He moved back to Fredericton to work in construction and renovation.

Pepi was a member of St. Dunstan's Catholic Church and a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. He also belonged to the Turnbull (NB) Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society.

Pepi is survived by his wife, Rose-Anne Michaud. Also by his sisters, Mary (late William Spurrell) of Mississauga, ON and Nina (late Victor Bober) of Fredericton, NB; nephews, Gordon Spurrell (Sandra) of Mississauga, ON and Kris Bober of Halifax, NS. He leaves several cousins, in-laws and special family, Moreau-Mailhot Gaétan, Nathalie, Jacob and Charlotte.

He was predeceased by his parents, Cavaliere Guy and Adela DiGiacinto.

A special thank you to the staff at Neill Hall where Pepi was for the last 11 months. Your good care and love was always appreciated ... especially his back scratch!

There will be no visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated from St. Dunstan's Catholic Church on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 12:00 pm with Fr. Suresh as celebrant. For those who wish, donations in Pepi's memory may be made to St. Dunstan's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus or the Alzheimer Society of Canada."

Pepi spoke to the Chapter a few times. This image is from his last talk in Fredericton.

He may best be known locally as the pilot who flew our Lancaster into Edmundston in the 1960s.





In 2023 Past President Dan Goguen placed this crash plaque at the site of a Harvard crash. Dan has placed several of these plaques at his own expense, and the Chapter has also placed some plaques. The plaques recognize significant aviation archaeological sites.

The plaques highlight the story of the aviator lost or injured at this crash site.

The Chapter will be restoring the Group Captain R.W. Cole memorial and crash site plaque in October 2024.





RCAF Time Capsule



As part of the RCAF Pennfield Ridge Air Force Memorial, a Time Capsule will be placed as part of the memorial.

The cap to the capsule is a piece of St. George, Charlotte County, Red Granite.

If you have a small aviation related item which you would like placed in the time capsule, please send an email to turnbullnbchapter@gmail.com .

Prioritized items will be those which relate to the RCAF, RCAirCadets, the RCAF Association, Private/ Commercial aviation items, and the communities of Pennfield, St. George, St. Andrews and St. Stephen.

We will have all items individually sealed before being sealed into the Time Capsule. The items will be exposed to humidity and temperature changes over the next 100 years.

It is proposed to reopen the Time Capsule at the RCAF 200 commemoration in 2124.

ZOOM presentation—

The Wrongly Executed Airman

Saturday, 10 February

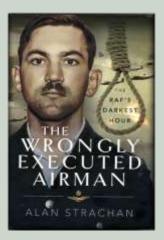
at 2pm Atlantic Time Zone

by Alan Strachan

Alan is an award winning journalist, His book presents a convincing narrative that Tom Hutchings was wrongly executed for murder in 1942.

Sgt. Hutchings was an armourer with the RAF, stationed at Pennfield Ridge. In June 1942 Bernice Connors was murdered. Tom was identified as the prime, and Alan presents the case, the only suspect.

Tom was found guilty and executed in St. Andrews in December 1942. Alan's story will convince you that the wrong man was found guilty.



ZOOM presentation—

The Flying Boats of Shediac

Saturday, 24 February

at 2pm Atlantic Time Zone

by Wade Short

Flying Boats Historical Society

This Society wants to interpret the story of the Clipper Ships of Shediac. Wade will tell us how significant this seaport was to overseas aviation prior to the Second World War.



ZOOM presentation—

A' is for Anson, a Pilot's Alphabet -

The Log Books of Arthur Lee-White, DFC

Saturday, 23 March

at 2pm Atlantic Time Zone

by His Son - Leonard Lee-White

Flying Officer Arthur Lee-White, D.F.C., Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, RAF.

He was born in England and flew in Peru, California, England and France.

Arthur flew 33 different aircraft including the FW-190, ME109 and ME110.

He spoke to the Society in 2005.

We may also be able to make this an in-person meeting at Fredericton. Details will be provided if this becomes possible.





Legion Magazine Articles

There are aviation related articles in the last two issues of Legion magazine which have New Brunswick connections.

In the Nov/Dec 2023 issue there is an article by Kallan Lyons, a granddaughter of a RAF flyer from Centreville, NB. Arnold (Smitty) Smith served with 192 Squadron and his Squadron was involved with electronic warfare. It is an excellent article.

In the Jan/Feb 2024 magazine Stephen Thorne has an article titled Icons of the Air. Many of you will be familiar with these aircrew - all flown New Brunswickers since 1917, or flown in New Brunswick. Both of our Squadrons, 403 and 410, flew many of these same aircraft. The article begins on page 52.

You can subscribe to this excellent magazine by visiting www.legionmagazine.com or call 613-591-0116.

RCAF Pennfield Ridge Air Force Memorial

Progress has continued over the past year. The parking and monument areas have been graded, for finished covering in early spring. The Park sign is being ordered now and the interpretive plaque design is being finalized.

Students at Fundy High and St. George Elementary planted our first 24 trees. We will be planting over 200 trees, consisting of Vimy Ridge English Oak, New Brunswick Spruce, and Canadian Maple.

Our Commander-in-Chief has been invited, and we have requested a RCAF Fly-By over Saint John, Pennfield, St. George, Saint Andrews and St. Stephen. The RCAF Band have been invited.

We have been greatly assisted by Lester McKay and Wayne McQuarrie of Pennfield. We have partnered with the Charlotte County ATV Club #40 and with Landscape NB.

The Chapter is a Registered Charity and if you wish to make a personal donation, we would be happy to receive your support. Individuals have donated amounts ranging from \$35, several in the \$2,000+ range to \$35,000.

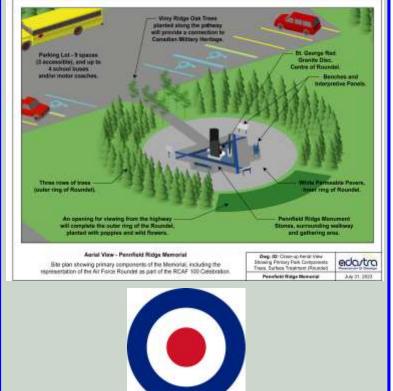
We will receive about \$4,000 from our GST rebate for last year and will use that as the seed money for the Trust Fund for the Park.

The dedication is Friday, 07 June at 1300 hours.



Tumbul (NB) Chapter, Canadian Aviation Historical Society 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association PO Box 8731, Sain John, NB, F2L 421 - umbilithet-opterAgnations







ZOOM Calls

You can download ZOOM here. It is free. You can watch a ZOOM presentation on any computer, tablet or even your cell phone.

https://zoom.us/

When you get an email with a Zoom link, you just click on the Zoom address and it will ask if you want to join the meeting. Click yes and it will take you to the meeting.

If you wish assistance with using ZOOM, email the Secretary and he will do a training session with you.

Using ZOOM allows us to reach far more members and aviation enthusiasts across the country.

Just click on this link and it will take you to the meeting.

Reminder that you do not need to have a video camera to show yourself. All computers, cell phone and I Pads will show a ZOOM meeting.

Membership

Do you have a friend who has an interest in aviation? Yes? Good, then why don't you give them a gift membership.

Annual membership dues are \$20.00

We can now accept internet email transfers for membership. Send to turnbullnbchapter@gmail.com Members 2024 - Have you renewed yet?

Some related Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John Organizations

250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association. Friends of the N.B. Military Museum, Base Gagetown. NB Air Cadet League, Fredericton. Riverview Veterans & Armed Forces Association. Airforce Veterans Club of Moncton. Royal Canadian Legion, Provincial Command. CASARA NB.



Canadian Aviation Historical Society

Extract from the CAHS web page.

Now well into our 5th decade, the Canadian Aviation Historical Society is the oldest and largest organization in the world dedicated to the celebration and documentation of Canada's flying heritage. Members receive the *CAHS Journal*, Canada's premier aviation history magazine, regular newsletters, and an invitation to participate in frequent local and annual national events.

The Society's objectives, as stated in our Federal Charter, are:

- to support and encourage research into Canadian aeronautical history, to foster the collection and dissemination of knowledge.

- to stimulate interest in and to further the appreciation and understanding of the influence of aviation on Canada's development and in the world.

The Canadian Aviation Historical Society is pleased to invite you to our annual convention in Kingston, ON, Wednesday 21 June to Saturday 24 June 2023.

Executive and Directors

Gary Williams, President

Gord McNulty, Vice-President

Dr. Rachel Lea Heide, Treasurer

Jim Bell, Secretary

John Chalmers, Membership Secretary

Jerry Vernon, Jim Bell, Kyle Huth, Dr. Richard Mayne, Mathias Joost, Bert Furlong, Bill Zuk

There are nine chapters of the Society. They are Montreal Chapter, Ottawa Chapter, Toronto Chapter, Manitoba Chapter, Roland Groome Chapter in Regina, Calgary Chapter, Medicine Hat Chapter, and Vancouver Chapter.

Our Chapter is named for W. Rupert Turnbull, the builder of Canada's first wind tunnel and who patented a modification to the variable pitch propeller. For further information about CAHS National,

visit their web site: https://www.cahs.com



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