

Medicine Hat Chapter Canadian Aviation Historical Society 2021 President's Report

It had been said that 2019 was the year that never was; 2021 Also began with a very dismal outlook. However, towards the summer we saw light at the end of the tunnel and began the long slow process to relative normalcy. As we moved forward, contact with our members was kept active over the first half of the year with frequent emails. Since we could not meet face to face and some of members were apprehensive about doing that, we maintained regular email contact.

Our small chapter here in Medicine Hat has had a challenge locating a venue that was open and available for all our members. We finally secured a location over the summer and began scheduling meetings with speakers. We are now meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion No.17 Robertson Memorial in Medicine Hat. We were able to welcome some legion members into our group as well. The Legion has become our home and we will continue to support them and they have supported us.

Over the 2021 summer we attended a local event which in the past had been a positive draw for local residents. The Family Fun and Fight event was very well attended this past year and we were allowed a booth/tent to promote the Chapter and National as well. Good contact was made with many new and old faces. The displays were well received by all and the CF-18 Fly-By from the RCAF was a highlight. We look forward to the 2022 Family Fun and Flight.

In September we held a Meet and Greet which was well attended and provided the opportunity to renew our enthusiasm. After the brief sojourn due to restrictions at the time we followed up the Meet and Greet with a November meeting where we heard a great talk of the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. Plans were made for our now annual Christmas get together held at a local pub. This location has become our executive home as they are incredibly welcoming and very friendly staff to work with. The Christmas get together was, again very well attended given the circumstances. Our Twelve Planes of Christmas, which ran from the 12th to the 23rd of December, was met with considerable enthusiasm and good cheer.

As 2022 opened we pursued the arrangement of more meetings and strived to return to our previous schedule. So far, we had held regular meetings monthly with and have had great speakers present very interesting subjects. The last meeting, we took a very cautious step into the realm of online meetings using Zoom. Being that I am somewhat technologically challenged it was truly an experiment which turned out amazing. We are now scheduling face to face and online meetings for the future. Additionally, we have been invited back to the Family Fun and Flight this year as well as hold our summer social at the Airport during the event. Even though 2021 seemed a bit dismal we are moving ahead with renewed energy and enthusiasm for 2022. With that in mind we will "Keep 'em Flying"!!!!

Sincerely
Wes Krause
Medicine Hat Chapter President.