



Turnbull (NB) Chapter

Canadian Aviation Historical Society

2021 Annual Report

Last year, 2021, was our 26th year as a Chapter. In 1996 nine aviation enthusiasts met at the Saint John City Hall to explore the formation of the Turnbull Chapter. From that first meeting, two are still members - Judge (retired) David Russell (#003), a former member of the Executive and Harold E. Wright (#006) our Secretary.

Like all Chapters last year, Covid-19 put a damper on many of our activities, or continued to challenge us in how we operated. I think Turnbull has managed relatively well.

Unlike other Chapters which meet in one location, our meetings are held in the three main Cities of New Brunswick: Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton, and we try to get a fourth meeting at a different community. I will update you on our 2021 programs in a minute.

We still own and maintain the Don McClure Aviation Gallery at the Moncton Airport. We are supporting the City of Moncton with technical advice and funding sources for the conservation of their CF100 at the Moncton Centennial Park. This aircraft was our first project in our founding year 1996 when we had several volunteers assist the City of Moncton in cleaning and maintenance of the CF 100 Canuck.

We continued to partner with 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association in holding our annual RCAF Station Pennfield Ridge Memorial Service. We have been jointly commemorating that service for over ten years. We have also been co-hosting the annual Battle of Britain ceremony in Saint John for the same period of time.

Our Secretary developed an Aviation Memorial Park concept for Pennfield which we and 250 Wing have adopted for a 2024 RCAF Memorial Park. The property owner, Acadian Seaplants, are deeding to 250 Wing one acre of the former RCAF Station for this \$200,000 project. We have identified several private sector partners to support this project.

Two years ago we requested that the City of Saint John confer the Freedom of the City of Saint John honour to 403 (City of Calgary) Squadron stationed at Base Gagetown, NB. That honour was granted but the celebratory parade and ceremony has yet to be held due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We have taken the lead in organizing this event, tentatively scheduled for Battle of Britain Sunday 2022.

In 2012 we requested the same honour for 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron stationed at Cold Lake. Those of you who attended our 2012 Annual Conference will remember the ceremony as part of that conference. In 2019 we also requested the same honour for the nine air, army and sea cadet units in the Greater Saint John area. That honour was also granted.

Two and a half years ago we organized the 80th anniversary commemoration of the loss of the Northrup Delta 673 in the woods of Juniper, NB. The two crew, Warrant Officer Second Class James Doan and Corporal Dave Rennie, were the first two RCAF casualties of the Second World War. J.D. Irving, Limited, the owners of the crash property, gave us tremendous support. They erected a permanent monument at the crash site and also set aside the property as a protected cultural area. Major General Blaise Frawley, the Deputy Commander of the RCAF, was our Guest of Honour.

As part of that Delta 673 commemoration, we invited two Early Childhood Educators to the ceremony, so they could develop an educational program for young children. We raised our budget of \$10,000 to

purchase two wood pedal planes and hangers. The pedal planes have been painted and numbered as the Delta 673 and K.C. Irving's red Stinson Reliant. Mr. Irving's aircraft played a significant role in the search for the Delta 673. The children, ages 5 to 10, will wear faux Second World War flight suits and helmets. This project is part of our commitment to extend an appreciation of our aviation heritage to a new generation. We have partnered with a Saint John Early Childhood Education Centre.

We also developed a program for the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebration of Her Majesty's 70th anniversary. We will plant 70 trees in seven New Brunswick communities, two being First Nation communities, one tree for every year of Her Reign. We will have students plant the trees and all trees will be dedicated to a New Brunswick Veteran who served during those seventy years.

As part of this tree program, we will plant seven Vimy Ridge Oak Trees (next generation), one each at the seven communities. Each tree will be dedicated to one of Her Majesty's family who is a Veteran. These trees will be for:

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the roots of the Queen's family tree and who inspired the Dominion and Allied Forces in defeating Nazi Germany;

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, both war Veterans;

Prince Charles, a service Veteran and Heir to the Throne;

Prince William, a service Veteran and Heir to the Throne;

Prince Harry, a war Veteran and Heir to the Throne.

We have partnered with Landscape NB for this project. Most of our budget has been raised. We have other private sector sponsors we will seek.

Another project which we developed for the 2024 centennial of the RCAF is our RCAF 100 Banners. These Banners are similar to what many communities hang from poles during the Remembrance Day period in November. Our Banners will have only RCAF imagery. The people of NB will be able to nominate those New Brunswickers who served in the RCAF or its various previous forms, from 1917 to 2024. We will select 100 who represent all New Brunswickers and all parts of our Province. These Banners will be hung at various locations within New Brunswick. This is a \$35,000 project and we have begun discussions with potential private sector sponsors.

Our newsletter CONTACT will feature a special Silver Jubilee 25th anniversary issue for the years 1996-2020. It will be more in a book format of 26 pages, one page dedicated to each year of our Silver Jubilee. Distribution of this anniversary book will be restricted to our paid up Chapter members for 2021 and one copy will go to National for their archives. There will not be a digital format.

We also invited 250 Wing and the Saint John District of the Royal Canadian Legion, to partner with us in developing a portable ceremony kit of a Public Address System, Flags and other materials needed for any ceremony hosted by us and the other two groups. Our Secretary, who is also a Legion representative, secured \$5,000 for the Saint John District from our local MLAs. That kit is hosted by the Saint John District at NB Command Headquarters in Saint John. Our contribution was \$100.

Finally I want to give you a brief outline of our five 2021 ZOOM meetings. I want to thank those members from other Chapters who joined us. We are still finding our way around ZOOM. Many of our members are timid of the format, so we have some work with our members to clear any misunderstandings of this option for meetings.

March 2021 - Hal Skarrup, a Turnbull member, spoke about the career of UFOlogist Stanton Freeman and a new exhibit at the York Sunbury Museum about his UFO career.

April 2021 - Matt Heinz, an air cadet historian, spoke about the changes in the Air Cadet uniform and badges since the formation of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

May 2021 - Harold E. Wright spoke about F/L Miller Brittain, DFC, RCAF War Artist.

June 2021 - Stephen Donovan, a retired naval diver, spoke about his career as a Bomb Hunter and Diver.

December 2021 - Kevin Windsor, Executive Director of the National Aviation Museum, spoke about the Edmundston Lancaster KB882

Finally, our Chapter received an \$11,000 donation which we were able to provide to a Saint John Legion for their new monument 'Stairway to Service' in recognition of all of the RCAF veterans commemorated on this monument.

All in all, I think we had a good year considering the pandemic restrictions.

Bruce Lockhart, MD, President
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30 January 2022