

FEBRUARY 2020



The

ROUND E L

THE VINTAGE WINGS OF CANADA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



2019 *in Retrospect*

Welcome to the 2020 season of activities at VWC. It looks to be one with engaging opportunities both on the ground and in the air. Since our May newsletter, our Foundation has been active with airshows and activities at the hangar.

Let's look back at these past months:

In commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Italy campaign, VWC hosted a display of Canadian military artifacts from World War II on 15 June 2019. We were

grateful to have the opportunity to display the extensive collection provided by Dwayne Hordj. This event was complemented by a Fly-in Breakfast.

Allen Granum, Warbird U Course Director, conducted another well

continued...



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attended course on aerobatic flying, including informative presentations from fearless pilots who conduct such manoeuvres.

Tours were conducted throughout the year by our volunteer guides, to both individuals and large groups of all ages. These tours follow the Vintage Wings principles to Commemorate, Educate and Inspire.

On 13 August 2019, VWC welcomed the famous Royal Air Force aerobatics team, the Red Arrows. A long-awaited visit from this demonstration team was fulfilled on a sunny afternoon. The British High Commission hosted a reception following the event at VWC.

VWC Foundation volunteers were hard at work on this year's AERO Gatineau-Ottawa Air Show, which was a 3-day event, on 6–8 September. The show was well attended, and the spectators were treated to an aerial demonstration of Canada's famous aerobatic team, the Snowbirds, who never disappoint with their thrilling display. This year also featured a fantastic demonstration of the USAF Demonstration Lockheed F35 II (F-35A Lightning II), the Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18, aircraft from Vintage Wings and the Michael Potter Collection, including the recreation of a dogfight between the VWC P-40 Kittyhawk and a Japanese ZERO, the Yellow Wings Harvard, Finch, and Cornell, and aerobatic displays from Manfred Radius and his glider, both in the day and a special evening event, and Rick Volker in his SU-26, just to name a few.

Acclaimed military historian, Ted Barris, presented his latest book at a beer and pizza call on 29 November 2019. This book is a fascinating look at the heroic efforts of medics throughout the various wars.

We closed out the 2019 season with the annual VWC Foundation Christmas party with a visit from Santa. This event is always open to family and friends.

After a well-deserved break with family during the holidays, we started the year with our now annual Modelling Workshop on January 18. It was another well-received seminar.

We look forward to various VWC events in 2020. As always, we want to hear from you, the Members, on new ideas and proposals. If you wish to lead an event, please let the Board know, and we will work to make it happen. Remember, this is your Foundation.

By VWC Board of Directors & Lucie Lacroix





CONGRATS *Mike!*

Michael U. Potter, philanthropist and former long-time CEO of tech company Cognos Inc, will be inducted into the Order of Canada in 2020 for his laudable contributions to our nation, including preserving Canada's rich aviation heritage. The Vintage Wings of Canada Family congratulates Mike for this prestigious recognition.





SMOKE ON! *The Red Arrows*

On August 13, 2019, we welcomed the Royal Air Force famous aerobatics team, the Red Arrows, to Vintage Wings. As was expected, it was a fantastic show. Their visit to the National Capital Region was a collaboration effort with the British High Commission. As part of the visit, a screening at the Canada Air and Space Museum of a documentary on the Red Arrows was followed by a discussion with members of the team. This was a special screening for our members.

The ongoing collaboration between Vintage Wings of Canada and the British High Commission has been reflected through events such as last year's RAF100 (the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force 1917–2017) and the 2019 visit to the National Capital Region of the Royal Air Force aerobatics team.

Alec Simpson





AERO *Gatineau-Ottawa 2019*

On the first weekend of September 2019 was presented one of the biggest air shows in Canada, AERO Gatineau-Ottawa. This year's extended three-day air show was bigger and more spectacular than the previous editions.

With Lockheed Martin Canada as the main sponsor, close to 70 aircraft featured the technologies of yesterday, today and tomorrow in the skies and on the ground. Here are a few of the performers that wowed us with their performances: the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, the USAF F-35A Lightning II Demo, the RCAF's CF-18 Hornet under the "NATO's 50th Anniversary" theme, a replica of the Japanese ZERO fighter in a special chasing performance with VWC's P-40N Mustang, The Collings Foundation Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX in a graceful duet with our VWC Roseland Spitfire, which was flown

by Chris Hadfield on the Saturday, and for the first time this year, a twilight presentation on the Friday evening of a glider equipped with flares, performing a celestial ballet. And those are just a few.

With many static displays on site like the AeroVolga Borey Amphibian, the Canadian Coast Guard's Bell 429 Helicopter, the Pitts Model 12 aerobatic aircraft, Lockheed Martin Virtual Reality Flight Simulator, etc., and partners like Inflated Amusements for the kids, AERO SimExperience with their visual flight simulator, Vintage vehicles and more, as well as food and beverage concessions, everyone got their money's worth.

Let's hope for as great of a turn-out this year!

MIDWAY PRODUCTION

Many members of Vintage Wings of Canada have already seen or are aware of the major motion picture *Midway*, which was released in early November 2019. Much of this motion picture was filmed in Canada, and Vintage Wings was engaged in mid-2018 to assist with early filming trials on the set in Montreal. Notably, the Harvard was contracted to be flown to a set at St-Jean airport south of Montreal where a hangar had been converted into a movie set.

The producers of the movie had commissioned the construction of

replica Dauntless SDB dive-bombers which was instrumental in the sinking of Japanese aircraft carriers during the Battle of Midway, a battle which proved to be a turning point in the war in the Pacific. In order to test the sets and equipment, filming trials were scheduled for July 2018 before the Dauntless replicas were available for use. Owing to the similarity between the canopy of the Harvard and that of the Dauntless, the Harvard from Vintage Wings of Canada served as a substitute during these early filming trials.

Michael Ruddick



AIRCRAFT ACQUISITIONS

One of the key items identified on the Vintage Wings business plan calls for the organization to operate Foundation-owned aircraft. As an initial acquisition target, Vintage Wings purchased the Fleet Finch from the Michael Potter Collection. An agreement to purchase the aircraft was formalized in early 2019, with the Foundation acquiring the aircraft through installment payments on track for completion by late 2020.

The Foundation acquired a second aircraft in the autumn of 2019 through the estate of MGen (ret'd) Robert Fassold. The aircraft is a meticulously-restored de Havilland Chipmunk, manufactured by de Havilland Canada in 1956. This Chipmunk served with the RCAF

for initial training of pilot candidates until being sold off through Crown assets in the late 1960s.

More recently, a third aircraft was donated to Vintage Wings by the estate of Larry Quinton. This latest edition is a Fleet Canuck, a post-war civil aircraft built in 1946. The aircraft was previously operated by the Edenvale Classic Aircraft Foundation and was acquired through the efforts of long-time Vintage Wings member Robin Hadfield.

All three aircraft are airworthy examples of classic Canadian aircraft and will be put to busy use during the 2020 flying season.

Michael Ruddick



NEWS FROM THE TOURS AND STATIC DISPLAY TEAM

Greetings from the Tours and Static Display Team. With 2019 wrapped up and 2020 just getting underway, I thought I would write a short blurb on what we have been up to over the past months. As you know, our team usually is the first face our visitors see when they visit the hangar. As such, we play a critical role in projecting the image of Vintage Wings to the public. How many visitors have we hosted? Well, quite a few, over 400 visitors, as individual tours, group tours, and tours by youth groups. One of our latest group tours generously donated about \$600 to Vintage Wings.

Our team also played a role in the very successful air show this past September. The three-day show was one of the best in years, with

VWC aircraft playing a prominent role in the flying display. Our team members 'slogged' it out on the ground assisting visitors to the hangar and to our static aircraft.

One very dedicated group from our team (*la famille Riffault*) organized cockpit tours in the Chipmunk to help raise money for the purchase of the Finch by the Foundation. Vintage Wings of Canada had the honour to host the Red Arrows in August 2019. The Tours and Static Display Team played a key role in the success of the one-day air show of the famous RAF aerobatic team.

As you know, we have a duty roster set up to handle walk-ins on Saturdays. Thanks to all who have signed up for this activity. We need more participants. If you can spare

one Saturday every five weeks or so, please consider signing up. The more members step forward, the longer the time between your Saturday commitment.

On 29 November, Vintage Wings hosted another Beer Call featuring the acclaimed author, Ted Barris. Mr. Barris was promoting his latest book, *Rush to Danger*, a chronical of the medical corps on the battle fields, from the Civil War in the US to Iraq. Mr. Barris was generous enough to stay and sign copies of his book at the end of the event.

We hope to see you at the hangar!

Michael Virr



NEWS FROM THE MARSHALING TEAM & THE TOW CREW

The Marshaling Team and Tow crew almost always work together. With this cross pollination, the two teams become one as once the aircraft is marshaled into place and shut down, often times it is required to be moved to the appropriate parking spot. At VWC we usually use the tug, but when we work at other flying events we usually “hand bomb” or push the aircraft to a particular spot. Occasionally we are lucky enough to have some sort of towing vehicle on hand when we are away from VWC. At the Drummondville Air Show a few years ago, our tow vehicle was a garden tractor. The team moved a number of airplanes with the tractor including a Sikorsky Sea King. The Marshaling Team is

always looking for new recruits and offers extensive safety training throughout the year.

Some of the events the Marshaling Team and Tow Crew attend each year are:

JANUARY: The Montebello Fly-In, where the Ottawa River serves as the runway and is hosted by The Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) and the beautiful Chateau Montebello.

FEBRUARY: Mo’s Fly-in, another Ottawa River based event in Luskville, QC with a 3,000 ft runway plowed on the ice. This is also a COPA event hosted by Maurice Prudhomme.

SPRING AND SUMMER:

Kars Fly-in: Kars, ON

Canada Day at the Canadian Air and Space Museum (CASM)

Girls Take Flight at CASM

Maniwaki Fly-in: Maniwaki, QC

“Pigs and Pie Flyin” at the Rideau Lakes Flying Club; Westport, ON

St-Cuthbert Fly-in:

St-Cuthbert, QC

St-Hubert Air Show:

Longueuil, QC

Volaria Aeronautics Festival:

Mirabel, QC

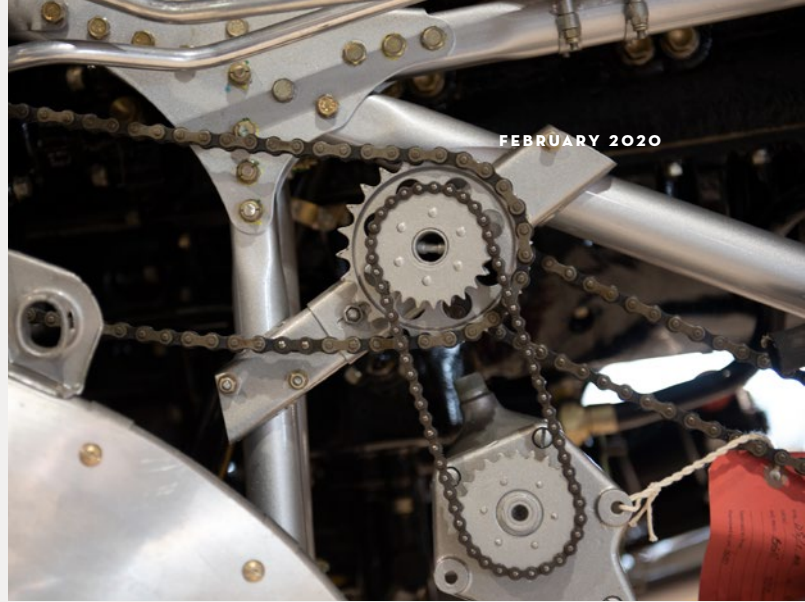
...and more... all of these events are open to everyone.

For more information on being a team member, please contact Dave McColl, Board Director.

EMAIL dmccoll@vintagewings.ca

David McColl





FEBRUARY 2020

MCKNIGHT HURRICANE:

Restoration Update

Vintage Wings of Canada and Vintech Aero are in the process of restoring a Hawker Hurricane MK XII. The Hurricane was a British-designed fighter and, although it did not get the same recognition as the Spitfire, it basically saved England during the Battle of Britain. Some 14,000 were built during the war and some 1,400 built right here in Canada by Canada Car and Foundry of Thunder Bay, Ontario under the management leadership of Elsie McGill—*The Queen of the Hurricanes*.

Our Hurricane serial number K5447 was built in September 1942. On its way to its Squadron in Bagotville, Quebec, it suffered an engine failure and crashed at Pourquis Airport near Iroquois Falls, Ontario. It underwent repairs and upgrade to a MK XII version (basically the Canadian version of the British MKII) in Amherst, Nova Scotia. It rejoined Eastern Air Command in July 1943 most likely back in Bagotville as part of the Operational Training Unit (OTU) based there. An OTU was the last part of training before a

pilot was assigned to an operational squadron. It continued to serve but was put in reserve on several occasions until it made its way out west in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, where its last mission was to hunt for and shoot down Japanese balloon bombs. It was deemed surplus equipment with over 300 hours on its airframe and sold to a farmer in Swift Current in the late 1940's. The farmer bought the plane to have access to the glycol that was in short supply after the war. He actually took the wings off to pull behind a tractor to flatten the land on his farm. He let his kids play with the rest of the fuselage. It was then purchased by another farmer who was hoping to sell it to a restorer, but it was pretty much a piece of scrap at that time. It was finally purchased for 1 dollar by Harry Whereatt of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, who was a well-known aircraft collector and restorer. Over the span of 28 years, Mr. Whereatt restored the Hurricane and flew it 3 times. Vintage Wings became interested in the aircraft and purchased it in 2008 where our mechanics began the more advanced

restoration process. This was put on hold when the Spitfire project was given priority, but we have been hard at work on it over the last two years and expect to fly it by 2020.

The Hurricane will be dedicated to a great Canadian fighter pilot who gave his life during the war. The Hurricane (LE-A) will have the marking of Willy McKnight of the famous 242 RAF all Canadians squadron that was led by none other than Douglas Bader. Willy McKnight was raised in Calgary and joined the RAF in 1937. He participated in three important campaigns during his short career. He was involved in the Battle of France, the evacuation of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. Known as an aggressive pilot with great shooting skills, in a short period of time he shot down some 17 enemy aircraft while earning a DFC with bar. Unfortunately, he was killed in January 1941 during a Rhubarb mission where he was jumped by a pair of ME-109. His plane and body were never found.

Claude Brunette



A Special Flight

At ninety-five, Ottawa resident John Tener still demonstrates the skilled touch of a lifelong pilot. John's aviation career began in WWII, when he and six high school friends joined the RCAF. Sadly, only John survived the war. One friend was lost in a training accident, the others during operations.

John flew several different aircraft over the course of the war. He accumulated 500 hours in Fairchild Cornells as an instructor at No. 13 Elementary Flying Training School, at St Eugene, Ontario. Interestingly, his students were from the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. John also

taught at No. 9 Observer School, St. Jean sur Richelieu.

With a little help from his friends at Vintage Wings of Canada – members Jim Luffman and Terry Peters – John climbed up into the Cornell. This as the first time John was to fly this aircraft since 1945.

Yellow Wings Pilot Jonathan Rotondo had the honour of flying with John. Outside of takeoff and landing, John took control, reacquainting himself with the sturdy and reliable Cornell. The pilots shared their experiences while taking in the spectacular weather and scenery over Gatineau.



At the end of the flight, pilots and spectators alike had ear to ear smiles. *"He flew very, very well. Remarkably precise,"* Jonathan said, who felt his flight with John ranks among the highlights of almost twenty years flying. *"It was a very moving experience."*

Despite a full morning of preflight checks and a sortie that took them over the Gatineau hills and across the river to Rockcliffe, John Tener still had enough energy to walk from the aircraft back through the hangar without his cane, talking and laughing the whole way.



WARBIRD U: *Update*

The latest installment in the series of Vintage Wings ground schools focused on an introduction to aerobatic flying. This departure from our standard Warbird U series, which typically focuses on an aircraft, was an attempt to keep things interesting and was more targeted towards people who are pilots or aspire to be pilots and wanted to gain a better understanding of what was involved with flying aerobatics in an aircraft. We were extremely fortunate to have three great instructors with plenty of experience. Vintage Wings pilot Peter Ashwood-Smith, along with renowned aerobatic pilot and long-time friend to Vintage Wings Rick Volker, instructed the topics related to flight manoeuvres, aircraft, and fitness, while Neil McGrath taught us all about proper use of parachutes. One of the class students,

a Mr. Michael Potter, even got to demonstrate the deployment of a parachute (on the ground!) to the class.

While this was a more specialized class which drew a smaller crowd, it was very interactive and very well received by those who attended. We will definitely be looking to cover similar types of topics in the future.

Speaking of the future, get ready for the 2020 season of Warbird U sessions. We are currently planning a Yellow Wings BCATP Warbird U event for February. Because of the great success of the CF-18 Warbird U event, we are also looking at getting another RCAF aircraft in for May (*not the Hornet again, but something really cool!*). We are also excited to revisit the Hawker Hurricane later this year as

soon as the current Mk XII Hurricane restoration taking place at the hangar completes. Dates will be announced soon. Keep watching the website and our Facebook page for details as soon as they are available.

Got an idea/suggestion?

Want to be a volunteer during these ground schools (and get to listen in for free)? We could ALWAYS use your help for setup and tear down.

A little bit of help goes a long way. Allen would like to build up a team for ground school events to do this on a regular basis about 4 times a year. A great opportunity to get even closer to the people and the aircraft.

EMAIL warbirdu@vintagewings.ca

A HIDDEN TREASURE AT THE VINTAGE WINGS HANGAR: THE LIBRARY

In 2007, two dedicated volunteers were given the daunting task of putting together what could be considered the hidden treasure of Vintage Wings of Canada: its library. Mainly comprised of donations, other books have been added over the years, thanks to generous donors. It was now time to get it organized.

Rich of its collection of more than 3,000 books, mainly on aviation and its history, the long and tedious project of rebuilding the catalog was undertaken with the aim of making the collection more accessible. Although the work is still in progress (several hundred books are still waiting to be added), it is now possible to view the Vintage Wings Library catalog online at <https://cloud.collectorz.com/vintagewings/books>. The books are divided into five major categories: Reference, Aircraft, Biographies, History, and Miscellaneous. For the time being, they are available for on-site consultation only.

Annie Carreau

HELP WANTED

We are still looking for someone who would take the lead of a team that would be in charge of the gardening around the hangar. This team would take care of the weeding and landscaping, as the grass is being mowed by a contractor. If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact Lucie Lacroix. **EMAIL** llacroix@vintagewings.ca.

OUTREACH

It is important to note that our website is updated regularly with upcoming events. We encourage you to visit the Foundation's website at www.vintagewings.ca as well as the members' site <https://foundation.vintagewings.ca/>. We encourage you to renew your membership and to invite others to be part of our Foundation. For further information, please follow this link: <https://foundation.vintagewings.ca/collections/memberships>, or contact Lucie Lacroix.

EMAIL llacroix@vintagewings.ca / 819-669-9603

VWC has renewed its memberships with Ottawa Tourism (www.ottawatourism.ca) and Tourisme Outaouais (www.tourismeoutaouais.com) again this year. These partners are important and provide an extra outreach to those visiting the National Capital Region.

The screenshot shows the website for the Vintage Wings of Canada Foundation. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Events, Calendar, Aircraft Flights, Shop, Membership, About us, and Contact us. A prominent banner advertises the 'Yellow Wings Ground School' event, which has been rescheduled to Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020. The banner features images of various vintage aircraft and includes a call to action for 'Information & Registration'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Purchase a Flight' with three options: 'DHC-1 Chipmunk Flight', 'Fairchild Cornell MKII Flight', and 'Fleet Finch II Flight'. Each flight option is accompanied by a small image of the aircraft and the 'Give the Gift of Flight' logo.

VWC TEAMS AND LEADS

Tours and Static Display	Michael Virr
Crowd Safety	Mike Clark
Aircraft Marshalling & Towing	Dave McColl
Safety & Security	Daniel Malépart & Alec Simpson
Aircraft Grooming	John Longair
Technical Ground Support	Jim Luffman
Communications & AERO G-O	Stephan King

Please do not hesitate to contact the leads about your interest in the teams. You can always lend your support to various groups and learn the operations of these wonderful aircraft.

IMPORTANT DATES *and* ACTIVITIES 2020

VWC MEMBERS AGM - 10:00	February 22
NEIGHBOURHOOD OF GHOSTS - <i>Dave O'Malley presentation</i>	March 6
TED BARRIS PRESENTATION	TBD
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE B-17 SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY	June TBD
END OF WORLD WAR II - FLY-IN BREAKFAST	August 15
AERO GATINEAU-OTTAWA	September 18-20

Recognition

VWC would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers again for their assistance in supporting our various activities. This is your Foundation, and it is your contribution that keeps this team together. VWC would also like to thank Peter Handley for the design of this issue of *The Roundel* and Richard Lacroix and Lucie Lacroix for their help in translating this newsletter, as well as translating and proofreading other published articles in the past months.

Spread the word...

The Vintage Wings of Canada Foundation has a unique opportunity to carry out the objectives of the Michael U. Potter Collection, which are to “Educate, Commemorate and Inspire”, by promoting access to this functional and operational collection. If you are an aviation or historical enthusiast, this is a great opportunity to participate and make a significant contribution to Canadian aviation. *Please pass this message on to others who may have an interest in this exciting venture.*

