

# VINTAGE WINGS NEWS

December 2022 Edition

## LANCASTER: ABOVE AND BEYOND SCREENING - FEB 3

We are excited to announce a very special screening of *Lancaster: Above and Beyond* on Friday, February 3, 2023 at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum. Produced by creators of *Spitfire - The Plane that Saved the World*, *Lancaster: Above and Beyond* tells the tale of the legendary Avro Lancaster and those who flew it during the Second World War.

The evening will include a catered reception with food and drink, a panel presentation and tours of the Avro Lancaster in the CASM collection.

For tickets visit our website!

As we close out 2022, and turn our hopes and dreams to 2023, it is time to take stock of a turbulent period for all during the recent Covid19 pandemic. We adjusted our lives as we had known, protected our family and friends, and worked together to move through a bleak period. Although many of the lessons we have learned are the result of a worldwide pandemic, we have begun the journey to normalcy with these lessons in mind.

This was very much the reality for the Vintage Wings of Canada Foundation. To ensure safety for all, we have had less activity since March 2020, but 2022 was the year in which we began to return to life as we have known it.

This newsletter will provide an update on past and present activities as an organization, our accomplishments, and how as a dedicated group of aviation enthusiasts, we continue to implement the mission of inspire, educate, and commemorate.

### 2023 and Beyond – A note from the Board

Vintage Wings of Canada operations continue to be in a period of transition. As you may be aware, the VWC aircraft collection includes those aircraft owned directly by the charitable foundation, the Michael U. Potter aircraft, owned by Mike Potter, and a number of other aircraft owned by individuals associated with the foundation. The associated aircraft collection is growing, with some very interesting additions, that we will see in the coming months.

With respect to the hangar at Gatineau, the major change is we will no longer be offering ad-hoc tours of the aircraft collection housed there. The hangar will not be opened to the public on Saturdays, like it has been in the past.

Mike Potter continues to be extremely supportive of Vintage Wings and wants his fighter collection to be accessible and seen. Tours of the Gatineau hangar going forward will be by prior arrangement, and generally focused on groups with a significant aviation interest.

VWC will continue to have aircraft based in the Gatineau and will carry out events from the hanger. Aircraft maintenance and much of our flight training activities will be carried out elsewhere. We will also be carrying out some of our fly days and other events from other locations, including Rockcliffe Airport and Arnprior Airport.

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*Check out the Vintage Wings website to keep up to date: [www.vintagewings.ca](http://www.vintagewings.ca)*

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SPECIAL EVENT AND SCREENING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2023

**THANKS TO OUR  
AMAZING  
VOLUNTEERS!**



## VWC TEAMS

They say that "**There is no I in Teams**", and this holds true for our volunteer teams at Vintage Wings. If you are an aviation buff, as most of us are, here is the opportunity to get involved with the operations of putting our kites in the air, and to participate in various events.

It is also a great opportunity to meet other likeminded colleagues who want to learn and pass on their knowledge. Everyone brings a different skill whether you are knowledgeable about planes or not.

The VWC Team Leaders are headed by veteran volunteers. If you are interested, here are the following teams:

### VWC Tour Guide Team

Led by Claude Brunette, who has been with VWC since 2010. He not only leads the Tour Guides but is a detailed researcher who brought to life the operational history of the newly restored Hawker Hurricane. Claude also assisted in the translation of the new website with other guides and volunteers, and produced virtual tours of various aircraft during the Covid lockdown.

The Tour Guide is an excellent way of learning about the operations and aircraft of VWC. Also, during events, you may also work with the Static aircraft on display at the annual Air Show. We are always looking for Tour Guides.

**If interested, please contact Claude at [cbrunette@vintagewings.ca](mailto:cbrunette@vintagewings.ca)**

### VWC Marshallers and Tow Crew Team

Have you ever sat on an aircraft at the airport and said *I would like to direct this aircraft away from the gate?* The VWC Marshalling Team is responsible for safely directing movement of aircraft when taxiing to and from the active runway, providing you the opportunity to be part of the active operations of aircraft. An experienced group that not only participates at VWC events, but because of their expertise and being well known in the industry, are requested to participate at air shows and events in Quebec and Ontario.

The Tow Crew is led by Dave McColl, a long-time volunteer and leader of the marshallers and tow crew.s an individual who greets all newcomers as if they have been there for years. Dave is one of the most dedicated members who has been on the VWC Board and has trained many team members over the years.

**If interested, please contact Dave at [davemccoll97@gmail.com](mailto:davemccoll97@gmail.com).**

**THANKS TO OUR  
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VOLUNTEERS!**



## VWC Aircraft Grooming Team / Library Team

Vintage Wings are noted by many visitors and aircraft lovers for the pristine appearance of the hangar and its aircraft. As with other teams, the aircraft grooming team provides an opportunity to know every rivet in the collection. These aircraft are not washed like commercial aircraft, they are polished with loving care by a dedicated group.

Led by Annie Carreau, another long-time VWC member, who can often be found at the Hangar every Saturday. Always with a smile and someone who makes you feel welcome, Annie knows every detail of the collection. If you wish to learn about a particular aircraft, Annie will be pleased to show you around.

One the first stops on a visit, is the VWC Boardroom including the large collection of aviation books which have been donated by members and the public.

Annie has been instrumental in cataloguing this collection for ease of use, and to establish a professional library for VWC. A very thankless task, but one which puts the library a key fixture of the Hangar to the benefit of aviation enthusiasts. This library is available for use by VWC members.

You can view this extensive collection at <https://cloud.collectorz.com/vintagewings/books>.

**If you are interested in the Aircraft Grooming Team or the Library, Annie can be contacted at [annie\\_carreau@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_carreau@hotmail.com).**

## VWC Safety and Security Team

Vintage Wings prides itself on providing safety and security to its members and the public. Operating in dangerous conditions, with running aircraft, the safety and security team provides the eyes and ears and knowledge to all involved.

As with all airports, Vintage Wings has the same operating conditions and must provide a safe and secure environment. This includes the education of personnel on Transport Canada rules and regulations that must be provided.

Led by Alec Simpson, a VWC volunteer since 2011, and retired from a 32-year career in safety and environment at Transport Canada, Alec likes to mentor those who can take on these important responsibilities. He was a Director on the VWC Board from 2017 - 2021, and the Safety and Security Director of 5 air shows and is always looking for new team members. You may also run into Alec on the Tour Guide Team and Marshalls and Tow Crew Team. If you want to learn about airport operations, aircraft emergency response, and safety and security, Alec will ensure you will not only learn, but have fun.

**If interested, please contact Alec at [asimpson@vintagewings.ca](mailto:asimpson@vintagewings.ca).**

## RESTORATIONS PROJECTS UNDERWAY



### VWC Special Events Team

As we grow our partnerships and realize new opportunities for fundraising and supporting other organizations, a Special Events team is being put together. Led by Linda Savasta, this team will be involved in organizing Beer and Pizza nights to larger fundraising events and everything in between.

**If you are interested in helping or have any ideas for events, please contact Linda at [Lsavasta@vintagewings.ca](mailto:Lsavasta@vintagewings.ca)**

### VWC Restorations Team

With the Fleet Canuck ready to take to the skies, our restoration team is now turning its attention to our other exciting projects. Work on the Hebard tug is progressing, with hopes to have it back and running this spring.

The newly acquired Tiger Moth will be getting underway this spring, starting with inventory and part sourcing. This project is anticipated to take a number of years to complete and will require all types of work from our volunteers.

The Restoration teams is looking for volunteers to help with all projects, and currently the various project leads are being determined.

**If you interested in helping out with these projects, for the time being please contact Kathryn Buchan at [kbuchan@vintagewings.ca](mailto:kbuchan@vintagewings.ca).**

### VWC Flight Operations Team

Ensuring that Vintage Wings flying operations are conducted safely is the top priority of the Flight Operations team. This team includes pilots and supporting team members tasked with carrying out the Vintage Wings rides program and the youth-focused Yellow Wings program, all within a robust training and proficiency regime. Vintage Wings' pilots are selected for their experience on tailwheel aircraft and must at a minimum possess a Commercial Pilot License.

**If you are interested in applying for the Flight Operations Team please contact Mike Ruddick at [mruddick@vintagewings.ca](mailto:mruddick@vintagewings.ca)**

### Join a Team today!

In closing, you only get out of what you put into something, so here are the opportunities to be a team member, learn a specialty, contribute to the operations, and to meet colleagues in a fun environment.

## VINTAGE WINGS GEAR UP STORE

Check out the Vintage Wings  
Gear Up store for all our unique  
merchandise!



## RECAP OF 2022

### Financial Situation over the Pandemic

It has been a very challenging time globally over the past 2 years. The Covid19 pandemic shuttered business as it was important to put health and safety first with such a contagious disease.

This was no exception for Vintage Wings. What started as an exciting year ahead in 2020, quickly came to an end in March of that year. It was not possible to have gatherings and crowds in closed spaces, thus it was important to keep the VWC Foundation functioning without events.

We are thankful to those members who kept in touch, continued to pay for their memberships despite no activity, and the Board to guide us through uncharted waters. We would also like to thank Michael Virr, Alec Simpson, and Sue Cronkwright for applying for Covid19 Emergency Support Funding under the Museum Assistance Program from Canada Heritage. This included the Museum Assistance Program 2020-21 - \$10,000.00 and the Re-opening Fund for Heritage Organizations 2021-2022 - \$10,000.00. VWC is also grateful to Canada Heritage for creating these funds for Museums. We would also like to thank John Longair and the Burton Charitable Foundation for a donation of \$1500.00.

These funds helped pay the bills during very difficult times. We now look forward to re-opening and resuming life as we knew it before the pandemic.

### VWC Website

The motto of Vintage Wings of Canada is to inspire, commemorate, and educate. It is something that VWC members are proud to share.

Vintage Wings has been fortunate to have a website that celebrates Canadian aviation history, and the contributions made towards world peace over time. This website was recently updated by long-time member and contributor Dave O'Malley and his daughter Merrill O'Malley with guidance from Stephan King. We are grateful to the valuable translation team of Annie Carreau, Claude Brunette, Pierre Lapprand, and Andre LaFrance.

We are most thankful for their painstakingly hard work that has produced a first-class communication tool to Canada and the world, highlighting our mission, aircraft, events, and the wonderful stories that Dave O'Malley has made famous over the years.

Please use this website to keep apprised of events, and as a learning tool. It can be viewed at [www.vintagewings.ca](http://www.vintagewings.ca).

## GIVE THE GIFT OF FLIGHT!

Purchase a ride for our 2023 flying season!



### Virtual Tours

Both Claude Brunette and Jacques Menard have also been busy producing bilingual virtual tour videos for training and presentations. These include the Spitfire, Harvard, Finch, Fox Moth, Lysander, Beaver, and the Hurricane. They are planning to produce videos on the Mustang, Cornell, and Chipmunk.

Due to the pandemic, but also taking advantage of virtual learning, online seminars have been provided both in 2021 and 2022 to Royal Canadian Air Cadets. These presentations highlight the VWC collection, Canada's role in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during World War 2, and the Yellow Wings Program. Thank you is extended to Claude Brunette, Michael Virr, and Michael Ruddick.

### 2022 Highlights

Fly Days 2022: May 28, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, October 29, 2022 - 100 flights conducted.

Fly-in Breakfast: June 18, 2022.

Aero Gatineau - Ottawa 2020: September 16-18, 2022.

Battle of the Atlantic, Gauntlet to Victory - An Evening with Author Ted Barris - October 28, 2022

### 2023 and Beyond

During the VWC Foundation Annual General Meeting, held December 10, 2022, a plan for the organization was presented to the members. It includes which future large events and special tours will be held at the VWC Hangar.

However, some aircraft storage, some rebuilds, Fly Days, and other special projects will be conducted at our Arnprior facility.

In addition, we are partnering with the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa on special events and activities.

Please stay tune as we roll out our calendar of events and activities.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL INVOLVED IN  
THE RESTORATION  
OF THIS AMAZING  
AIRCRAFT!**



## **LYSANDER WINS FIVE AWARDS AT EAA – AIRVENTURE**

Crowds surrounded the rare, unique 1942 Canadian-built Westland Lysander at Oshkosh this year. Being the only one flying in North America, and powered by the only Bristol Mercury XX engine operating in N. A., most spectators had never seen one before. The most frequent question directed to the Vintage Wings of Canada support crew was, “What is it?”

The Warbird Judge team certainly appreciated the aircraft, presenting it with the Phoenix Award (and Silver Wrench), Best Liaison Aircraft (and Silver Wrench), plus Judge’s Appreciation. This was an outstanding and remarkable recognition of the quality of the aircraft’s restoration, and the effort made to keep it in airworthy condition.

During the Warbirds In Review session, the stands were packed as people listened to pilot Dave Hadfield talk about the history of the type – landing by moonlight in Occupied France to drop off and pick up spies – and the quirks and capabilities of flying the unusual STOL aircraft.

<https://youtu.be/z5YP35HavbE>

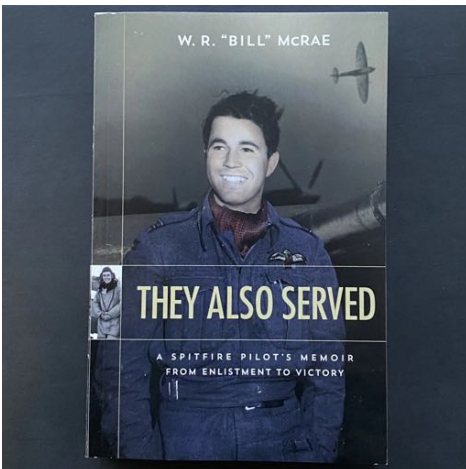
This Lysander was built in 1942 at Malton airport (Toronto) in the same facility that later built the Avro Arrow. Serving in Canada during WWII, it functioned as a Gunnery-Trainer, towing a target-drogue on a long line. After the war it was preserved by pilot-collector-farmer Harry Whereatt of Assiniboia Saskatchewan. Its restoration was completed by Mike Potter and the Vintage Wings of Canada team at Gatineau Quebec, and it flew in 2010. Later, in 2019, the aeroplane was purchased by ex-RCAF officer John Carswell of Toronto (of Lysander Fund and Canso Fund investments) and it now flies under the banner of Lysander Historical Aviation. The maintenance crew is Vintech Aero, of Gatineau, where the aircraft is based.

The 800 nm (each-way) journey was accomplished with 4 fuel stops to replenish the 95 imperial gallon fuel tank. There were no support aircraft alongside, and no Engineer in the back seat – which speaks very well of the tough old bird. The extremely rare Bristol Mercury XX supercharged and geared 850 hp engine burns about 40 imp/gal/hr – and more than a few quarts of oil.

Pilot Dave Hadfield is a 28,000-hour retired Air Canada Captain, owner of vintage aircraft, and Chief Pilot for Vintage Wings of Canada, as well as Lysander Historical Aviation. His wife Robin is President of the Ninety-Nines. The Hadfield family includes 8 licensed pilots including (ret’d) Astronaut Chris Hadfield.

## VINTAGE WINGS GEAR UP STORE

Check out the Vintage Wings Gear Up store for all our unique merchandise!



## YOUNG PRESIDENTS ORGANIZATION

On May 19, 2022, Vintage Wings of Canada hosted 45 members of the Young Presidents Organization. This group of young entrepreneurs flew in from Buttonville airport to spend an afternoon learning about Michael Potter's collection and Vintage Wings of Canada's aircraft, including its programs supporting education and commemoration of Canada's rich aviation heritage.

The keynote and special guest speaker was Royal Canadian Air Force Deputy Commander, Major General Colin Keiver, who provided a 45 minute overview of the current and future of Canada's Air Force. The subsequent question-and-answer session included candid, insightful responses to the challenges facing Canada and the world.

Many thanks to the Marshalling and Tour Guide Teams, as well as other volunteers who helped make this event such a success.

## HONOURING THE GREATEST GENERATION

A young American is on a mission to commemorate the "Greatest Generation."

Rishi Sharma, a 24-year-old young man from California, started what was a school project back in 2016 to interview World War 2 veterans and record their stories for posterity. He has interviewed over 1550 veterans in the US, the UK, Australia, and now Canada.

The video interviews are posted on his popular YouTube channel, "[Remember WWII](#)" Veterans are all given copies of the videos.

According to Rishi millions of people have watched these oral histories. Many schools and post-secondary institutions use them to educate the next generation of the sacrifices that were made for them in during World war 2.

Both the [CBC Story](#) and [CTV Story](#) have covered his story.

Vintage Wings of Canada has agreed to support Mr Sharma's efforts here in Canada. Look for a link on our website where you can donate to this worthy cause and receive a tax-deductible receipt.



## A FUN FEW DAYS ON SET!



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Vintage Wings of Canada hosted a film crew in July 2022 for a ‘rom com’ with an aviation flavour. A film crew of 40 from Fireside Productions descended on the hangar to shoot several scenes on the apron outside of the hangar. The director, Marita Grabiak, a veteran of the movie scene in Canada and the US, oversaw several scenes on day one, and sat in for the heroine of the movie, Nathalie Hall, on day two.

Nathalie, who plays a writer with writer’s block, gets involved with a young student pilot (Peter Mooney) who is enthralled when he sees the vintage hangar and its aircraft. Both live in a ‘no pets’ apartment. Both are owners of cherished pets, one a Macaw, and the other a Golden Retriever.

The Fleet Finch and the Fairchild Cornell featured prominently in the scenes and were used during the second day of flight scenes over the Gatineau Hills. Perfect weather allowed for two flights to capture the flight videos.

Our marshallers led by Dave McColl, Bob Boyer, and Bob Kidman were stand-ins for the ground scenes. Doing their usual ‘outstanding’ job of safely positioning the two aircraft, they worked with Vintech Aero staff to set up the De Havilland Finch for a series of simulated air shots. They also assisted in getting the two leads in and out of the Finch for the shots. Our thanks to the Vintech Aero staff led by Paul Tremblay for their invaluable help.

The movie, titled *Fly Away With Me* has been featured on the Hallmark channel this year.

This is not the first film that the Vintage Wings has participated on. In 2018, we assisted in the movie production of the 2019 version of “Midway”.

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

Vintage Wings News content and editing by:

Claude Brunette, Alec Simpson, Michael Virr and others

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Check out the Vintage Wings website to keep up to date:

[www.vintagewings.ca](http://www.vintagewings.ca)

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