

ATLANTIC CANADA AVIATION MUSEUM

FALL 2009 Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

As we again approach the end of another year we would remind all of our members to please renew your membership dues as early as you can in the New Year.

Our thanks go to all of you who sent in your membership dues during 2009. These revenues are important to our Museum and your payments are a real encouragement to all those who are actively involved in so many aspects of its work.

Your membership payments are acknowledged by mail with a current membership card.

Some acknowledgements may not have yet gone out for this year - for that we apologize - but we will do better in the new year.

Membership dues are \$25.00 single and \$30.00 family. You will find a convenient form at the end of the Newsletter for sending them in.

Finally - as the year draws to an end -

WE EXTEND OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“This summer has turned out to be more successful than we had initially expected. The new US passport regulations seem to have had less effect than we feared. I have the impression that we are more and more attracting travelers who are passing through the airport and have some time on their hands. This is a situation that needs to be explored and developed further.

With significant increases in donations and Gift Shop sales over previous years and with some valuable increases in artifacts and attractions. ACAM continues to grow in strength and beauty. We should always remember however, that we are enhancing a magnificent structure and assembly put in place by those who laboured before us. I feel that we are walking in the footsteps of giants.

I would again put out an appeal to anyone who may be interested in donating time to the improvement of the facility, especially over the winter months. We meet every Saturday and you will enjoy the work and the companionship. In addition anyone who might find the management side an interesting challenge will be very welcome.

I wish the best over the winter season to all members and their families and look forward to preparing for an even more successful year in 2010.”

Mike Garvey

GIFT SHOP REPORT

ACAM can clearly claim to have an outstanding gift shop which carries a wide range of aviation themed items. Clearly well worth a visit on its own merits.



Gift Shop with Manager Dave McMahon

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Well Stocked Aircraft Model Section

Dave's comments:

"We started out the season by stocking up a bit more than in previous years. We added many T-shirts and diecast aircraft models among other things. One type of stock that we have been buying more of is previously owned plastic model aircraft. By doing this we are able to offer a better selection of old and odd kits than any other store around. So with that said- if anyone reading this has a collection that they would like to liquidate let me know.

Our sales are up this year by over 20% and Museum admission donations are up by 15%. I hope this trend can continue in the future so as to gain more revenues for our various projects.

Once again, a big thanks to Michael White for staffing the Museum beyond the work term of our summer students. Without Michael we would likely not be able to remain open in September.

Don't forget to pick up all of your Christmas gifts at the Gift Shop, even if the person receiving the gift does not like planes, maybe they can just let you keep it!!"

Thanks again Dave for another great season

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2009

The year began with the event in February honouring the 100th anniversary of the flight of the Silver Dart and the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Golden Hawks.

As reported in our June Newsletter we were honoured to have so many distinguished guests at a reception and visit to the Museum.

Among these were Ex Snowbird lead Dan Dempsey and Astronaut Chris Hadfield – both pilots of the Vintage Wings Sabre "Hawk One - former Golden Hawk pilots Jim McCombe, Bill Stewart, and Ralph Annis, our MLA the Hon Percy Parish and so many others whose attendance we very much appreciated.

A great way to start another year!!

Other events were to follow as:

Halifax Antique Car Club

On Tuesday June 30th ACAM was visited by some 30 members and friends of the Halifax Antique Car Club with 15 fascinating antique cars.

From all reports the visit was enjoyed by all.

It was noted by the Club that Michael White has made presentations to them in the past that were very much appreciated by the members.

We have much in common with such groups and their visit was appreciated by all.

Open Cockpit day – Saturday July 4th

Visitors were obviously fascinated with the opportunity to see close up the cockpits of some of our historic aircraft.

To allow these close up visits to be fully enjoyed, and without danger to the aircraft or visitors,

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obviously takes close supervision.

In this case the hosts were former Golden Hawk pilot Jim McCombe with the F-86, Dr John Christie with the CF-5 and Michael White hosting the first visit to the Jet Star now under restoration.

It was a much enjoyed event and our thanks go to all involved for making it a success.

The “Centennial Collection “

The *Canadian Aviation Artists’ Association* undertook a traveling display of aviation art – in their words – “to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first manned, heavier than air, powered flight in Canada and the British Empire”.

We were pleased indeed to be included with other aviation Museums in having this extremely impressive collection on display.

Good use was made of the new wall constructed beside the ramp in the “Silver Dart Gallery” to present the paintings in a most effective manner.

They were on display in the Museum from late August until early September.

Obviously not possible to have photos of all the paintings here but two have been selected to give some idea of the quality of the works.

The painting of the Fleet Finch gives an understanding of the freezing cold that was experienced as pilots received their British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) training in our cold winter months.

At some point these wonderful little aircraft operated in winter on skis.



Fleet Finch at an Elementary Flight Training School – (EFTS) – such as Chatham NB or Stanley NS



Typical of the great paintings (photos – Michael White)
The “Ian Allen Aviation Tour”

On Monday, September 14th, we were very pleased to receive a visit by this very distinguished 14 day tour originating in the UK and traveling across our Country from Toronto to Newfoundland in the East.

The tour was organized as the “*Aeroplane Monthly*” Aviation Tour to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Canadian Aviation.

It was to visit two international air shows – including the Nova Scotia International Air Show in Yarmouth - and some 12 Aviation Museums including ACAM, Greenwood and Shearwater in Nova Scotia.

In their words they were to visit “the Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum which details the history of aviation in Halifax; with more than 25 aircraft in its collection, it

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is currently the largest civilian and military aviation Museum east of Ottawa.

To all reports the visit lived up to expectations and many complements were received.



A visit to the CF-5



Gift Shop well attended – Michael at work



The TBM attracts attention



A nice contrast – The Silver Dart and the '104 from the gallery



As did the Sabre



The wonderful Art Work of our own Paul Tuttle in the background



The 434 Squadron display draws attention

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The tour group
(Photos – Dr John Christie)

Helicopter Rides

Arrangements had been made, in co-operation with Visio Air services, to have helicopter rides held on Saturday October 10th. This would have been a very effective promotion for the Museum while offering an opportunity for many to enjoy the experience of a helicopter ride.

Unfortunately the weather did not co-operate and the event had to be cancelled.

The response to the event has been very encouraging and it is hoped that it can again be scheduled for next year.

Member BBQs

On every third Saturday through the summer season a member and guest BBQ was held at the Museum to show appreciation for the work being carried out.

This proved to be a successful effort.

MUSEUM PROJECT PROGRESS

While all of these events were underway much was also being accomplished by our dedicated Museum volunteers on the many projects underway.

To give them full justice they will be reported on, with photos, in the Winter edition of our Newsletter

Among these were:

- raising aircraft on jacks to unload tires
- continued restoration of the Cessna L-19
- Completion and delivery to the Museum of the Piper PA-38 Tomahawk as restored in Fredericton
- Continued restoration of the Jetstar interior
- A remote control aircraft model to demonstrate flying control actions
- Painting of the CF-101 Voodoo on external display
- Many incidental, but vital, improvements in Museum displays

MUSEUM PHOTOS

We were extremely pleased to have a virtually complete photo record of our many displays presented to the Museum. The photos were extremely professionally done thanks to the work of Jennifer McKinnon.

Jennifer is the cousin of Colin Wilmshurst who is the prime mover of our L-19 restoration project .



Jennifer trying out the cockpit of the Avenger
(Photo – Colin Wilmshurst)

It is planned that many of these photos will appear in the Museum

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Website and will appear in the Newsletters as various displays are discussed.

Jennifer – please accept our sincere thanks for a job so very well done.

Webmaster

Our Webmaster (and so many other things) Michael White, has approval from the Board to have our Website program updated to make it much more “user friendly”

Arrangements are being made to have this work carried out as soon as reasonably possible.

This should make updating and additions to the Museum Web a much easier process and allow a very effective part of our communications to continue its important role.

SILVER DART REPLICA

One of the many really interesting features of ACAM is its well displayed Silver Dart Replica.

In this 100th anniversary year of aviation in Canada the Silver Dart has been “front and center” in observances .

The replica flight carried out on February 22nd in Baddeck was covered in our June issue and we are delighted that the replica aircraft involved will eventually be placed on permanent display in Baddeck.

Certainly the first flight of the Silver Dart was made even more significant to Nova Scotians with the pilot being J A D McCurdy later to become Lt Governor of the Province.

In 1994 ACAM became the Custodian of the marvelous Silver Dart replica built many years ago by Mr Gordon Macrae and his highly skilled team of Baddeck in Cape Breton.

The replica on display at ACAM is accurate in virtually every detail and merits a very close examination by those who have a true interest in construction details of those early years.

It is understood that this aircraft was actually towed aloft with a truck drawn steel cable to briefly fly as a glider for a documentary film at the time.

On its arrival at the Museum it was reassembled in a lengthy, complicated and exacting process in an elevated display position.

The very difficult effort was accomplished by the late Doug Ordinal and by Don Hirtle, assisted by other Museum members including Bill Leeming, Dave McMahon and Gene Hamilton.

An adjacent balcony allows easy viewing of the Aircraft while its elevated position protects it from possible damage.

Among the amazing features of the replica is the detailed engine and auxiliaries – one can only marvel that these so realistic items have been achieved in wood even down to the detailed spark plugs.

It is also impressive to realize the amazing strides made in aircraft design in those days so long ago.

The Dart in 1909, having been built and flown earlier in the USA, was then a bit older in design and the event of that year was followed, some five months later, by Bleriot’s flight across the English Channel. A few short years later armed and highly maneuverable Aircraft were fighting high over the trenches of France

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By 1919 Alcock and Brown flew the Atlantic in a Vickers Vimy bomber.

The following photos, courtesy of Dave McMahon and Jennifer McKinnon, presented without captions, show the details of the Silver Dart very accurately as it existed in 1909.

Our continued appreciation goes to Gordon Macrae and his team for their wonderful efforts.



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**Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum
– Halifax International Airport
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Single \$25.00. Family \$30.00



MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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