



Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum Newsletter



February 2010 Newsletter

www.AtlanticCanadaAviationMuseum.com

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Thanks to our friend Brian Hicks (more of him later as we review the changes in our Website) we have a new Banner Heading for the Newsletter. This one shows our beautiful CF-101 Voodoo in its newly painted form. More on this later.

With this Newsletter we will be aiming to establish a schedule for issues covering Fall, Winter and Spring activities with an update issue during the summer. This should give good coverage of the activities at your Museum.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"I would like to start by thanking Frank for his hard work in producing the Newsletter. It is a most valuable means of keeping all of us informed of the progress that ACAM is continuously making and pointing out where we are and where, with hard work and good fortune, we intend to go.

After a successful year, a few of us (wish there were more) are planning and preparing for the coming season. Dr John Christie is preparing an exhibit that will commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain which will be the occasion for a grand opening ceremony. I hope that anyone that can make a contribution to that very worthwhile effort will come forward.

As you are all aware our relationship with the HRM Visitor Information Centre is vital to our summer visitor flow. HRM is currently conducting an analysis of the value of these centres. We are determined to do our utmost to retain a centre at the Museum. I anticipate some bumps along the road but we will persevere.

As you may have already noticed, our web site under the direction of Michael White has been upgraded considerably. This will be a major benefit in attracting visitors and, we hope, add to our membership.

Thanks to the efforts of some very dedicated members ACAM is going from strength to strength. I again appeal to anyone who may have some spare time to come forward. Your help is needed and it will be a worthwhile experience."

Mike Garvey

(Thanks Mike – I would like to thank all those who send me the information, and respond to my many questions, without which the Newsletter would not be useful or effective. - Frank)

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to those that have already sent in their membership dues for 2010. Those of

you who are planning to but haven't yet done so – please send it along.

Our thanks go to all of you – the revenues received are a great assistance in meeting the costs associated with our Newsletter and with web site development which keeps our members informed of Museum activities.

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.

GIFT SHOP REPORT

Dave McMahon, our Gift Shop Manager, reminds everyone that he always welcomes interesting items that can be sold at the Gift Shop.

For those of you with an interest in aircraft modeling you will be amazed at the choice of often unique older kits that can be found at the gift Shop and that are not available at regular shops.

WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND

One of ACAM's founding members, and a long time supporter, has passed away at the age of 66.



Alan H MacDonald was born in Ottawa but raised in Halifax attending Dalhousie University from which he obtained a BA degree followed by a BLS degree from the University of Toronto. He began his library work at Dalhousie University in 1964 going on

to an illustrious University and library career with the University of Calgary.

After retirement he pursued his lifelong passion for aviation and made many contributions to Museum libraries and continued his interest and support of ACAM. .

A gentleman and a lifelong friend of our much valued member Joe Macdonald, Q.C. – our sincere condolences to Joe and to Alan's family.

SOMETHING FROM THE PAST



Photo – Kevin Dorcas

This is the lineup of Avenger TBM Air Tankers at Forest Protection Limited's Fredericton headquarters in the spring of 1998. The six TBM's on the left would be those that had been prepared for the spring fire fighting season with the other six of the then fleet of 12 being aircraft being held in reserve.

Today the TBM fleet has been reduced to three aircraft as a fleet of modern Air Tractor 802's has been acquired by the Company.

The other nine TBM's have been sold to Warbird enthusiasts in the USA and Australia with one – Tanker 14 – now in the hands of Canadian Warplanes Heritage where it is being returned to flying status.

Note the tarp covered items to the right of the photo which are, in fact the very battered

fuselage and left wing of ACAM's now on display as "Tanker 24".

When we first had FPL's approval of our restoring the aircraft on their property we were given three conditions by the very direct and efficient General Manager of the Company Dave Davies.

"You will work only during normal company hours – You will keep the aircraft covered whenever you are not working on it – and you will mark it with a clear sign stating – Property of Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum"

We followed all the rules and the tarp and sign was eventually allowed to disappear as "Tanker 24" was brought back to life over the next eight years and no longer threatened the pristine appearance of FPL's property and aircraft.

In 2010 the wonderful sounds of the R-2600-20's will once again be heard in New Brunswick skies as these venerable aircraft continue their service in Atlantic Canada which followed WW II with the Navy and then from 1958 to today in the service of FPL.

This is an historic view of a fleet that, at one time, included some 25 TBMs,

PROGRESS REPORTS

We will cover here the work being carried out up to the end of 2010 and into the winter of 2010. Amazingly, ACAM's volunteers manage to complete a lot of additional work through the cold winter months with very minimal heating.

CF-101 Voodoo Painting

The most visible identifier of our Museum is the beautiful Voodoo displayed beside the Museum in full view of the much traveled Trans Canada Highway and just across from the Robert L Stanfield International Airport.

It is displayed in the squadron closing colours it wore when the Voodoo days were phased out at CFB Chatham.

The repainting has been underway for some time often delayed by weather conditions.

The very complicated markings had been applied by the Armed Forces to commemorate the phasing out of the Voodoo in Canadian Forces service. ACAM's Voodoo was on display at a 1988 Airshow at the former CFB Chatham on a day of heavy showers. Notice that the wings are providing welcome protection for some from a heavy shower.



Photo – Frank MacLoon

The repainting of ACAM's Voodoo had been underway for some time with progress often held up by weather conditions.

Gift Shop Manager Dave McMahon undertook, with the assistance of Joan Durling, the completion of the very difficult process of reproducing the very complicated patterns of the retirement colours.



Photo – Frank MacLoon

The repainted Voodoo

Brushes, rollers, and masking, were used in recovering the very complex markings with the small script traced and then free hand painted with a small brush. The roundels are vinyl.

Thanks for a nice job Dave and Joan – looks great.

Cessna L-19 Birddog

Much progress has been made on this impressive restoration project as lead, and largely carried out by, Crew Chief Colin Wilmshurst

While work has continued on the fuselage most of the concentration now shifts to painting.

During the Fall the fuselage was moved outside and prime painted as weather permitted.



Photo – John Christie

Here the L-19 painting process is underway by Colin with ACAM stalwart Don Hirtle keeping a watchful eye in background.



Photo – John Christie

A well equipped Colin at work

As the winter season came on Colin's efforts moved back inside the hangar where a small paint booth was built in which the small panels and window frames could be safely painted. The paint fumes were vented outside the hangar keeping any effects inside to a minimum.



Photo – Colin Wilmshurst

The L-19 will be a marvelous addition to ACAM's displays when completed. Although a number of smaller items are still being sought it is largely complete – If anyone has knowledge of items that might apply to an L-19 please contact Colin at crxcolin@hotmail.com

Missing items include brake discs, brake calipers, engine exhaust sections and lower rotating beacon.

Piper PA-38 Tomahawk

Some years ago the New Brunswick members acquired the components of a Piper PA-38 Tomahawk with the idea of having an example of a rather unique civilian training aircraft on display at the Museum. These were acquired from the Moncton Community College Aircraft Maintenance School and from the Moncton Flight College where it served out its training career.

The restoration work was carried out by Museum member Bill Leeming assisted by member Don Henry both much involved in the TBM Avenger Air Tanker restoration.

As with the TBM much assistance was provided by Jerry Wilcox and brothers Don and Robin Stickles in painting and by Debbie Bates in restoring aircraft markings. Needed landing gear components were fabricated by Don Painter.

The many people providing assistance in such restorations is typical of ACAM's volunteer structure.

Early in November 2009 the components were loaded on a trailer for delivery by a local trucker to the Museum.



Photo – Frank MacLoon

From left – Don Henry, Andy Henry, Bill Leeming, and trucker Matt Sturgeon



Photo – Bill Leeming

Adding the completed wings to the load – Matt Sturgeon and Frank ponder the process.

On arrival in Halifax the project was taken on by Gene Hamilton, Don Hirtle, and John Christie. The process is complicated by the issue of available space in what is a very "busy" Museum building.

It is the intention in future to include here features of the history and acquisition process, the restoration, and eventual display of a number of ACAM's aircraft.

The first will be the Tomahawk in our next Newsletter. A most interesting part of this will

be how the aircraft is finally assembled and then placed on effective display as always seems to be achieved. More on this to come.



Photo – John Christie
Assembly under way – Gene Hamilton on left,
Don Hirtle just visible on right and Barry
Rhodenhiser – A challenging process!

There is a US military unit that has a saying
“*The difficult we do – the impossible takes a
little longer*” That could be a nice motto for
ACAM!!

A Working Model Simulator

A project that is coming close to completion is
a working model of a Piper Cub will be both
entertaining and educational. With lighting
effects and remote control it will illustrate
aircraft components and control actions.

More on this in our next Newsletter as it is
added to ACAM’s display.



Photo – Colin Wilmshurst

Lockheed Jetstar Interior Refurbishing

One of the Museum’s longer term projects
has been to fully restore the interior of the
former Department of Transport Lockheed
Jetstar on display in its main hangar.

The aircraft was used by Canadian Prime
Ministers as personal transport and was
configured for 8 passengers with a relatively
luxurious interior.

Much has been accomplished with this work
and current efforts are focused on
replacement of interior carpeting. When this,
and other interior touch ups are completed,
the aircraft will be a great “walk in” display for
our visitors.

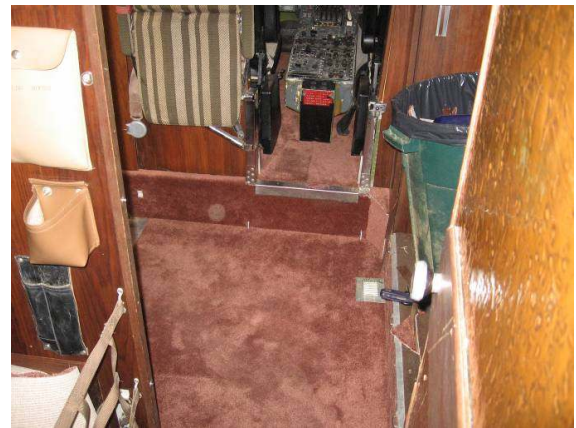


Photo – Gene Hamilton
New carpeting in the Jetstar

The carpeting replacement is being carried
out very professionally by Steve Cochrane
and Don Hirtle.

Aircraft Supports

ACAM has undertaken to have well designed
supports for its aircraft.

Gene Hamilton has undertaken the
fabrication of supports that are now being
installed. Along with this clamps are being
fabricated and placed on the oleo struts so
that the aircraft can be displayed in their
normal “sit” without load on tires and avoiding
the otherwise need of repeated topping off of
oleos.

“MUSEUM QUALITY”

ACAM has always prided itself not only for the extent of its collection but also for the very high quality standards it sets in its restorations and their maintenance. It sets that as a primary objective for its strictly volunteer organization.

In a photo submitted by Colin Wilmshurst showing one of the L-19 components prime painted the Museum’s North American Harvard II can be seen in the background serving very well to emphasize the success of that objective.



Photo – Gene Hamilton
Support for the TBM

Each application requires that the aircraft be carefully raised and lowered onto the supports – an effort that involves anyone available.



Photo – Colin Wilmshurst
North American Harvard II

The quality of the restoration of this historic aircraft, that trained so many World War II pilots in the art of wartime flying, is so very obvious. A result of the efforts of the late Doug Ordinal and of Bill Leeming– with the assistance of many other Museum members including Ron Cunningham and the late Colin Ainsworth – the Harvard continues as one of the Museum’s most impressive displays.

ACAM’S REVISED WEBSITE

A major development in ACAM’s efforts to provide its members and the public with the best possible sources of Museum information is the revision of its Website.



Photo – Gene Hamilton
The Jetstar nose wheel with support

The Museum has been fortunate in having had a very effective website that has served the Museum well.

Developed and maintained for many years by former President Rob MacIreith it was also used by him as a project providing experience to his Leslie Thomas Middle School students.

With Rob having moved on to other things the Site has been taken over by our Webmaster (and so many other things!) Michael White.

As with so many things Website programming has changed and can today be much more "user friendly" than when the Museum's was first set up.

At Michael's request an arrangement was entered into with our good friend Brian Hicks of "Coronis Solutions" with the objective of developing a much more "user friendly" structure in order to simplify its usage

This Brian has achieved so very successfully and today we have an excellent and fully up to date Website that can be readily maintained and updated.

We strongly suggest that the website be accessed by everyone with an interest in the Museum and its many exhibits and marvelous artifacts.

There are so many interesting features that one can only suggest that a search of the website is a must for anyone with an interest in the Museum and its exhibits, Aviation "Buffs", and aircraft modelers alike.

Such diverse items as histories of aircraft on display, past and current Newsletters, current Museum efforts, and many items of historical interest from such as registers of Canadian Military Aircraft and Bios of prominent aviation personalities, through to a complete history of the service of the long lived TBM Avengers in Atlantic Canada and the pilots that flew them.

As additional features are added to what offers ACAM a truly complete and effective Website they will be commented on in our Newsletters.

Is the Museum Newsletter reaching the public? – Michael's reply is a resounding yes and quotes very impressive 2010 "Google Analytics" reporting as follows:

Jan 8 – Feb 7 - for the UK at 27 visits

Jan 8 – Feb 7 – for the USA at 343 visits from 35 states

Jan 7 – Feb 6 – worldwide at 825 visits including countries as diverse as the UK , USA, France, Germany, India, Israel, Kuwait, Venezuela, Turkey and Ukraine.

"Average time on site" varied from 1.02 up to 2.10 minutes with "new" visits from 85 to 96% all of which is seen by those knowledgeable in such things as "very encouraging"

Go to atlanticcanadaaviationmuseum.com for an interesting and informative experience.

Our thanks go to Brian Hicks and Michael White for a truly great effort.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Membership Number: _____

Email: _____

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Do you prefer to receive your Newsletter as:

Email attachment () or Canada Post ()

Museum Website and Email Addresses

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<http://www.atlanticcanadaaviationmuseum.com>

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