

August 2013

Volume 4 Issue 1

# **CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED!!**



# Upcoming Museum Events

**September 21 2013** 

Foundation Banquet

**September 28 2013** 

Ad Astra Ceremony

November 9 2013

Foundation Bonspiel



Executive Director	page 2	Education	page 10
Curator's Cockpit	page 3	Ad Astra 2013	page 12
Aquisitions	page 4	Restoration	page 13
<b>Construction Photos</b>	pages 8 & 9	Foundation	page 14

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Chris Colton** 



Volunteers are the essential commodity that make our museum viable. Without them our doors could not open and bring to the public's attention the amazing 100 year story of Canada's Air Force. I thought that in this issue I would give everyone a sense of just what type of responsibilities they have on a daily basis.

The Concise Oxford dictionary describes a volunteer as "a person who spontaneously undertakes tasks".

Here at the museum our volunteer task list continues to grow as the museum matures. And now that the construction is finally completed after 11 years and \$7 million, there will be new and greater tasks and challenges ahead.

Already in just the last few weeks our tour guides have noticed an increased requirement to spend more time in the vast newly refreshed exhibit hall. With aircraft and displays now populating the mezzanine area their tasks now include a wider area to assist our visitors. And as more and more exhibits are introduced they will probably find themselves spending much more time patrolling the main floor area. The interface between the tour guide and the visitor is an extremely important aspect of what this museum delivers. It is this important face to face contact that continues to garner a wealth of positive comments every year.

In the same manner our Gift Shop volunteers will soon be faced with an increasing task list as their facility doubles in size as part of our next expansion project. While no firm date has been established for this renewal, they too will be asked to remain positive as they adapt to these changes. Their initial hello and welcome remains a key ingredient to a successful visitor experience.

The tremendous success of our AD ASTRA programme with 11,000 stones in the ground is a task handled by our "stone masons" every Friday morning. Through their volunteer efforts, this highly successful fundraising programme and the tasks that go along with each stone placement are the envy of many of our fellow museums. Without their high level of dedication, the programme would never have achieved the level of success that it has accomplished in just over 17 years.

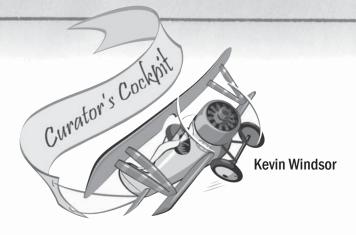
When we look around the Air Park and the many tasks that are handled by our volunteers, who daily cut the grass, trim the bushes, change the lights or tie down the aircraft, we realize how wide and varied their task list is. Yet this small group of museum volunteers can be justifiable proud of their efforts. It is this team effort that shows to the visiting public how much we take pride in this facility.

If you have had the opportunity to be in the museum recently when there has been a visit from a local school, watch the students expressions as they are entertained and educated by our small but growing group of volunteers involved in our education programme. The tasks associated with keeping a 10 year old mind attracted to the subject matter is indeed a challenge. Through the dedicated efforts of our volunteer "professors" each student comes away with a much better understanding of each subject and even the teachers have commented on the breadth of knowledge of the subject matter that is provided. This programme, where volunteers provide the vast majority of hours required has put the museum on the map. A continuous flow of positive assessments received to date from all the schools participating in the programme will ensure a bright future and a higher task level for the future.

And finally our restoration team of highly skilled and dedicated volunteers continue to work their magic on every aircraft restoration project that they have been given. I am always amazed at the level and skill that is evident from these volunteers on a daily basis. As another part of the museum team their work has drawn praise and respect from museums around the world. The "WOW" factor is always in evidence.

While I have tried to put into words the remarkable commitment to their tasks of our team of volunteers it is their daily efforts in every aspect of this museum operation that matter. Regardless of the fact that the phrase has been used before, I can justifiable state with out hesitation that we could not keep our doors open without their volunteer effort.

I invite everyone who is looking to join a volunteer organization to consider our museum. You will join a team of highly motivated and dedicated volunteers who make this museum the success it enjoys today and will enjoy in the future.



What a difference a year makes! I have been here for 13 months now and I can say with certainty that time does, indeed, fly! There have been so many changes that have happened in the last year that I have yet to experience the "normal" museum and I am pretty sure it will not happen in 2013.

If you have not been in the Main Exhibition Hall lately you will not believe your eyes, and as Al Jolson said, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" (My apologies to English teachers and Editors everywhere.)

Now that we have opened up the Main Exhibition Hall the work has started on moving exhibits from one side to the other. Soon there will be a new "Great Escape Exhibit" and "Royal Air Force Escaping Society" exhibit. We will tell the remarkable story of the Great Escape from STALAG Luft III, and the lesser known stories of evaders from the Pat O'Leary, Comet, Marie-Clare, and other lines. Thanks to a generous donation from the Royal Air Force Escaping Society, we will make sure their stories live on at the National Air Force Museum of Canada.

New to the Museum will be a large exhibit to the many people that made up the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. It was called "The Aerodrome of Democracy" and credited by Winston Churchill as, "the decisive factor" in winning the war. Few medals were awarded to the instructors and none we given the status of, "war hero" or "flying ace", but without the BCATP instructors the Commonwealth would have had 200,000 fewer pilots!

You will also notice that four of our air craft have been moved up to the second floor. The crew in the restoration department has gone above and beyond in lifting, moving, placing, and moving again.... many more things then they ever though they would, and for that I cannot say thank you enough! You guys really are miracle workers.

On the second floor level we also have a new simulator up and running. It really isn't new, but we didn't have much room for it before on the main floor. This simulator is a standard "off the shelf" video game, but placed in a specially made simulator. If you have ever wanted to fly a Halifax bomber here is your



Moving the aircraft from the ground floor to the mezzanine level took, ingenuity, talent, and plenty of patience.

chance. It has been fun to experiment with and it has definitely confirmed my status of ground pounder since I have managed to crash ever time I have flown.

The coming year will see new hands on exhibits, new multi-media, and more for families to do when they are here. There are many other exhibits that are being worked on right now and our hopes are to touch on every trade and every experience in the Air Force. We are trying to live up to the National in our name.

Stop by to check us out, or if you are too far away, you can experience us on Facebook by "liking" the National Air Force Museum of Canada.

# **NEW ACQUISITIONS**

### **Artefacts from Kandahar**

In September 2012, the curatorial staff accepted a very unique acoustic guitar into the NAFMC artefact collection. One glance at the dirt and signatures covering the case and anyone can tell that this guitar has a special story to tell.

### A Note for the Soul

### Cheryl MacLeod, Maple Leaf Magazine

The note on the case read, "Last man out please bring it home," - and that's exactly what Master Corporal Scott Lawrence did as he stowed the Epiphone AJ-200s acoustic guitar in his pack-up heading back to Canada.

"It was great for morale and a really good guitar," says MCpl Lawrence, a medical technician from 17 Field Ambulance, Winnipeg, who is currently attached-posted to 26 Field Artillery in Brandon, Man. "It sounded great and played great; that's what made it so nice, because it played so well. It was sweet!"

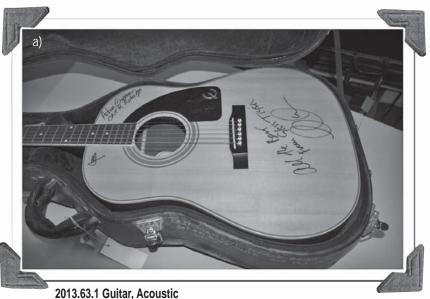
The guitar that ended up being more than a just piece of kit was a morale-builder, soothing many a soul at both Kandahar Airfield and Camp Nathan Smith in Afghanistan. But where did the note come from?

Sergeant (Retired) Graeme Hume, a Reservist from the Ontario Regiment of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, was responsible for donating the instrument and sending it to the troops. As an amateur musician, he knew what comfort music could offer.

"They [personnel from his unit] were having a rough time over there. And the last thing you can bring in your kit is a guitar. So I thought I'd send one, because it's good for the soul," Sgt Hume says.

So he went to Kevin Simpson, manager of the Long and Mc-Quade music store in Oshawa, Ont., and asked if he would donate an acoustic guitar for the Afghanistan cause. Mr. Simpson did, gladly.

Several months after sending the guitar, Sgt Hume received an email from soldiers in Afghanistan, thanking him for sending the instrument. The one that stands out was from a young soldier who, after a rough four days outside the wire, stumbled upon the guitar back at camp.



- a) The guitar was signed by Allen Frew of Glass Tiger when the band visited Afghanistan to play for the troops.
- b) The case is covered in signatures and afghan dust, a unique record of its travels.



"The soldier said they were getting hammered for four days, and were pulled back to resupply and rest, when he found the guitar," Sgt Hume says. "He wrote that, 'the two nights we were there [Camp Nathan Smith] we had a campfire and a little sing-along - and this was exactly what we needed to recharge and re-motivate to get back out to the hell. That was stunning to me, and proved that the guitar did more than I ever expected it to do." Another story Sgt Hume remembers is that of a soldier who lost four of his mates in one quick flash. "They gave him 10 days off to get his head back in the game. He asked to borrow the guitar and, for 10 days, it was his constant companion, no matter where he was or what he did. So, it's a million-dollar guitar in

MCpl Lawrence, who served in Afghanistan from October 2009 to April 2010, also came upon the guitar by accident while in the music club with a friend.

my opinion, when I hear about the lives it helped... just knowing

it touched these guys," Sgt Hume says, "It did its job."

"I was digging around in the instruments when I saw this case. And it had a note on it, 'Last man out please bring home,' and 'Sgt G.M. Hume' written on the side, so I thought 'this is interesting', and I opened it up. And there was this beautiful guitar," MCpl Lawrence says with a lift in his voice. "I played around with it; then, I signed the loan card and took it back to the shacks with me."

Also attached to the guitar was a note reading, "If you play it, sign it," but many of the soldiers didn't have the heart to sign a beautiful guitar, so they signed the case instead.

"I got moved from KAF to Camp Nathan Smith, so I took the guitar with me and played it the whole time," MCpl Lawrence sys. "It became a hit among the other musicians in camp, so we moved it around camp and everyone played it, then signed it."



Guitar donor Graeme Hume and Asst. Curator Hailey Johnston.



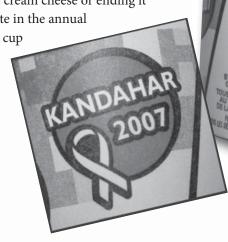
Sgt Hume's note, "Last man out please bring home." is clearly visible on the side of the case.

## **Tim Hortons Coffee Cup**

New to the collection is a small, truly Canadian artefact: a Tim Hortons coffee cup from Kandahar Air Field (KAF) in Afghanistan. Instead of the familiar brown of everyday Tim Hortons cups, this cup has a camouflage print and was one of the four million cups sold at the Kandahar Tim Hortons outlet from 2006 to 2011. The outlet opened on Canada Day in 2006, and served approximately 30,000 Canadian Forces members and personnel from 37 other countries. Approximately three million donuts were also sold, and half a million iced cappuccinos and bagels. Over 230 Canadians worked at the Kandahar Tim Hortons, which was operated by the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA). All proceeds benefitted military community and family support programs.

This Tim Hortons outlet was the first to be opened at a deployed mission. Having a taste of home available half a world away made a real impact on many who were deployed. Imagine spending six months in the desert, but being able to start your day with a fresh bagel & cream cheese or ending it with an Iced Capp! Troops could even participate in the annual "Roll Up the Rim To Win" contest. The museum's cup is from the 2007 contest, and the rim is intact.

Other artefacts recently added to our collection from "The Sandbox" include some CADPAT Arid pants, boots, photographs of Operation ATHENA ROTOS 1 through 10, and several signs, plaques and photographs in use at KAF.



2013.10.1 Coffee Cup

A taste of home, half a world away. With it's camouflage pattern and "Kandahar 2007" details, this is definitely not your standard Tim Hortons cup.

E REBORD POUR

Tim Hortons

# **Update on Collections Storage**

One of the ongoing challenges with the NAFMC collection is ensuring that all artefacts are stored in such a way that they will be preserved for future generations. Our collection is extremely diverse, with artefacts ranging in size from buttons to aircraft and their components (there are a lot of props in storage!) and made from a whole host of materials. For example, our wool uniforms have different preservation needs than our photographs, and both of these have different challenges from our silk parachutes and metal tools and equipment. Addressing the individual needs of each artefact is an important but time and resource consuming process.

Earlier this year with help from our high school co-op student John Waltz, our extensive photograph album and scrapbook collection received some much-needed TLC. As this collection has grown, the space available to hold them has decreased. Over the years, several albums have been stacked and

others were placed on shelves too small to hold them, for lack of available space. The albums were uncovered and exposed to light and dust. Accession numbers were not clearly visible, so the handling of these fragile items was increased. Some of these albums date to the First World War, and have become very brittle with age. Others that are newer were constructed with poor-quality materials that degrade a little more with each handling.

A total of 135 albums and scrapbooks were measured, then carefully wrapped and placed in clearly labeled archival boxes. A conservation materials grant from the Directorate of History and Heritage made it possible to purchase these supplies. Due to the limited space, some boxes are stacked, but the stress on the individual albums has decreased. An updated inventory and clearly labeled boxes make it possible to locate individual albums without disturbing the rest.

Also in our archival space are large-format Squadron albums. These albums average about 30" x 25" in size, with some as long as 40". Like the smaller albums, the pages within many of these giants are getting brittle with age. Previously, a lot of these albums were stacked as space to hold objects of this size is limited. Wrapping or boxing these albums is not currently possible, but we were able to erect more shelving to

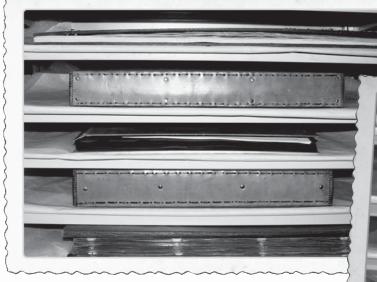
spread them out. The new shelving was covered with a layer of dense foam, which acts to minimize damaging vibrations. Here at 8 Wing, vibrations from aircraft movement are very common! The albums were then covered with archival tissue, clearly labeled with their numbers, and their shelf also labeled with this information. These are small steps that go a long way to improving preservation of these important items.



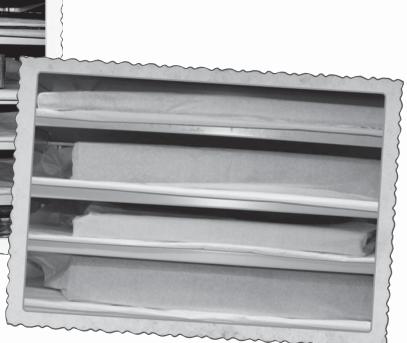
The oversized albums desperately needed to be spread out.



Shelves were covered with a layer of foam, then archival tissue.



Albums were placed onto the lined shelves ...



... and then covered with more tissue to keep dust off.



December 2012, protecting the flooring prior to construction beginning.



December 2012, painting the Museum was a big job.



December 2012, temporary mezzanine access.



January 2013, installing the first of the railings.





page 8



www.airforcemuseum.ca



February 2013, one of three emergency stairwells.



February 2013, new vestibule to the airpark.



March 2013, drop ceilings and new sounds systems being installed. April 2013, drop ceiling installation in the foyer,



March 2013, main stairway is well underway.





www.airforcemuseum.ca



# **EDUCATION**



### **The Ying-Yang Year**

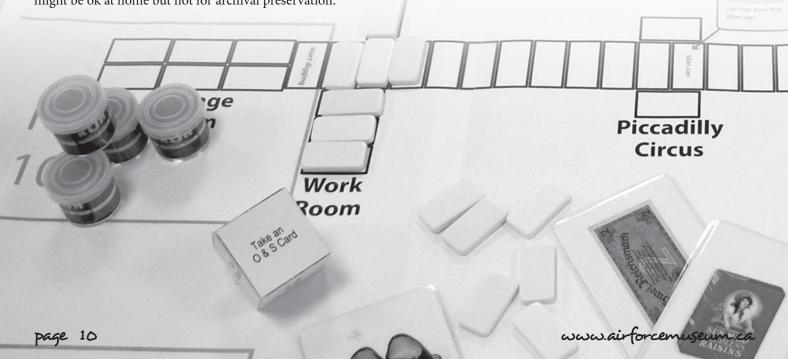
### Gina Heinbockel-Bolik

Last fall, when I reflected back on my first few months in the education portfolio, I was very excited about the interest we had received in our programs at the end of the school year. We also had a couple of summer camps from as far away as Oshawa who selected our Museum for one of their day trips. Much of that interest a came to a screeching halt when labour relations between both the elementary and the secondary teachers union and the provincial government began to break down. We certainly had our concerns how the Museum's renovations would affect the willingness of educators to come. The portable classroom in front of the Museum was one of those uncertainties and so was the temporary loss of our HERC and Voodoo cockpits as well as our Cessna as teaching tools. In the end, all that mattered little as museums all over the province felt the impact of no field trips.

As with everything in life it was not all gloom and so there were numerous exciting highlights throughout the year. The first was a visit from an elementary school in Peterborough back in October. This was the first time we had a school from that area, representing a market we hope to break into more in the future. It was also the first time I was approached about our grade 5 program, *Keeping History Alive*, which up to then had only existed on paper. To increase the amount of hands-on activities with in that program, our Curator Kevin Windsor jumped in with both hands and taught the kids how a museum repairs paper documents and photos and why scotch tape might be ok at home but not for archival preservation.

Around the same time, I received a phone call from a teacher who wanted to visit the base and have a recruiter talk to her grade 10 Civics and Careers class (a mandatory course under the Ontario curriculum). Since that was not quite so easy to arrange as she had thought, the Museum welcomed the students instead and put together a program showcasing different career options within the RCAF. Cpl Leslie Blair and Cpl Lynn-Ann Saunders from 424 Squadron had to answer numerous good questions about their specific jobs but also what it was like to work in jobs often still seen as non-traditional for women.

The most exciting school event however, was the inauguration of the previously announced *Tunnel to Freedom – The Great Escape*. Goodwin Learning Centre, a local private elementary school, had contacted the Museum about a program to observe Remembrance Day and the teachers were very excited about this new program. As a special feature for the launch of a new program of this kind, the Museum invited Hon. Col. Arthur Sherwin (426 Sqn), himself a participant of the Great Escape, to give a presentation. The students, ranging from about grade 4 – 8, had already learned about the Stalag Luft III activities and the escape itself in preparation for their visit and listened so attentively to every one of Hon. Col. Sherwin's word. They had so many questions and everyone wanted to have their picture taken with the man who truly represents a living piece of history.



The program itself was similarly successful. The students interpreted some of Les Kenyon's drawings on display, then worked on forging a document and covering up some buttons to help make uniforms look less military and finally they played the Museum designed board game "Tunnel to Freedom". The game's objective naturally is to finish the tunnel and to secure a spot in the exit order. Depending on the number you roll with your dice you may encounter obstacles (based on actual events) that may hinder your ability to help with the escape activities or you may gain items that are useful to have after you escaped from the camp. Once the tunnel is completed students get to pull a number out of a bag and then learn the name of the POW who had that number, and his fate; homerun, caught and returned or caught and executed.

In the days before the program launch, we had some doubts how the kids would react to the idea of a board game at a time when electronics have taken over. Likewise, the anticlimactic nature of the game was also something we were not quite sure about. As so often in the world of education, the kids surprised us. They asked if they could get a copy of the game for their school and many pointed to the game in their after visit letters as their favourite part of the activities. They felt the excitement of building the tunnel and then that void when finding out "their" fate. While we cannot truly comprehend what it

must have felt like for the POWs back in 1944, the game still gives a glimpse of that dichotomy of feeling pure excitement and then total devastation, and for some the mixed emotions of having survived.

Playing Tunnel to Freedom helps students gain a better understanding of the effort and risks involved in the Great Escape,

> our workshop area must be completed

Lester Square

First Wire

The relatively quite time over the winter months presented an opportunity to create some other activities and to revise our current slate of programs. One of these revisions was an overhaul of our grade 1 program My Neighbour Jumps out of Airplanes. This program is linked to the Social Sciences strand of the Ontario curriculum as students look at the different occupations people hold within our communities. With members of CFB Trenton being well represented in the communities around our Museum and amongst the visiting school children, the program focuses on the work of a SAR Tech. The story book that initially complemented the program had an interesting narrative about life as a military family but it had no connection to the RCAF and the main program idea. With no children's books available that fit, the simple answer was to write and together with public relations design a book just for our program titled, to nobody's surprise, My Neighbour Jumps out of Airplanes.

For the near future, the plan is to revise our grade 3 program and to work on some interactive activities visitors of all ages can try their hands on. In addition, the education department is preparing a new advertising brochure that will replace the rack cards printed at the start of the education programs.



# AD ASTRA STONE PROGRAM

### What is it?

The Ad Astra Stone Program offers you the opportunity to support the National Air Force Museum of Canada and provide a lasting and fitting memorial for yourself or a loved one. In return for your donation you receive a 6 inch by 10 inch granite stone engraved with the name, hometown, province and year of birth and death (added later) of the person you wish to honour. Stones are displayed edging the walkways throughout the airpark. Over 10 500 stones have been commissioned to date.



Flowers fade, stones are forever.

## Who is Eligible?

ANY PERSON who has served, or is now serving in Canada's Air Force - including the Air Reserves

ANY CANADIAN CITIZEN who has served or is now serving in an Allied Air Force.

THE SPOUSE of any person who is eligible for an "Ad Astra" Stone.

ANY PERSON who has completed a minimum four years of service in the Air Cadet League of Canada

ANY REGULAR MEMBER of the Air Force Association of Canada.

In recognition of a \$150.00 (CAD) donation to the National Air Force Museum of Canada, and upon confirmation of eligibility, an "Ad Astra", grey granite stone (6"x 10") will be engraved and placed in the Airpark. The Museum will issue a tax receipt.

For more information or to request an application please contact us at: adastra@airforcemuseum.ca or call 613-965-4645.

# 2013 AD ASTRA Dedication Ceremony

The annual Ad Astra Stone Dedication Ceremony will be held on the Saturday of September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. in the RCAF Memorial Airpark. At this time all new stones for the year are dedicated and those who already have stones in the park are remembered. Relatives, friends and the public are welcome!

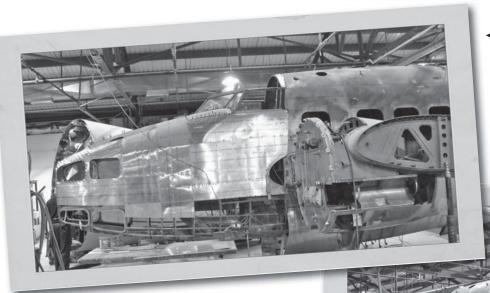


# RESTORATION

The volunteers at the Restoration Workshop have been very busy lately getting the Main Exhibit Hall back in shape and moving several aircraft from the main floor to the mezzanine level. In the workshop itself, we have taken out the overhead crane assembly by the Avro Anson, which is no longer required, to make more room to work.

The restoration work on the Avro Anson continues, and while a lot of the work on the Anson does not show, it is steadily getting closer to completion.

The Lockheed Hudson is making much more visible progress as the Hudson nose section that we acquired from Chino, California has now been fitted to the fuselage. The aft fuselage section of the Lockheed Lodestar is the next item on the list to be modified. The Lockheed Lodestar and the Hudson were both based on the same aircraft design, and this section, which in most respects is identical to the Hudson, will need to be modified to lower the horizontal stabilizer attachment points to the proper position for the Hudson.



Hudson nose section from Chino, California, being fitted to the fuselage.

Wing box section from the Lodestar is now fitted to the fuselage.



Wing box section from the Lodestar is now fitted to the fuselage.



# National Air Force Museum of Canada FOUNDATION

### Michael Muzzerall

A new year brings changes. As the new Chairperson of the Foundation, I am faced with new challenges. As the past Chair, Steve Gifford, noted in his last article in The Logbook, the Foundation board operates with "a few committed and dedicated trustees and their supportive friends and family." But this small group has a large task ahead of it and needs the help of people like you who are reading this edition of The Logbook.

We have fund raising plans for this calendar year that include the 10th Annual Golf Tournament to be held on 21 June 2013 at the Warkworth Golf Club, a gala banquet to be held in the Museum on 5 Oct. 2013 and—a new event—our 1st Annual Curling Bonspiel slated for 2 Nov. 2013 to be held at the Trenton Curling Club. As busy as this seems, the money raised by these traditional methods will no longer meet the museum's financial requirement. pIn past years the museum and the Foundation have been supported by membership, donations inspired by special projects (especially the HALIFAX), and some corporate sponsorship. Support in all these areas has declined. The recent construction used up the interest bearing funds that had been providing a good portion of the annual operational budget. As that money was spent, and well spent at that, we must make up for the interest income that is now gone.

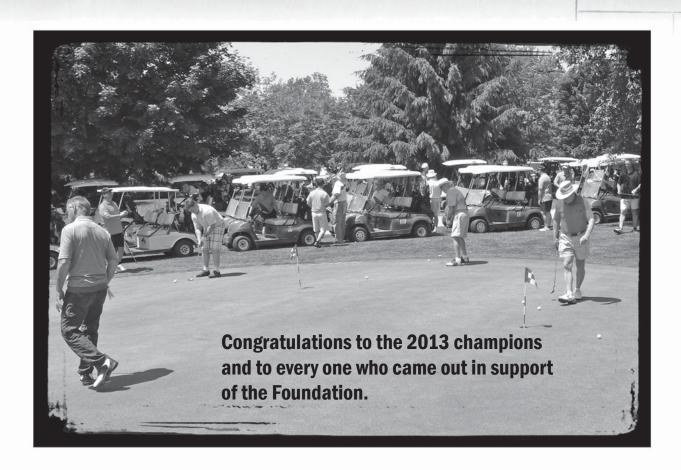
The Commander 8 WING has provided continued support to the museum as the host Base. While the Wing will continue to support the museum's physical structure, substantial and ongoing financial support from the Foundation will be necessary to allow daily operations, future improvements, new exhibits and maintenance of current exhibits. Membership renewals will help but we need to solicit substantial corporate and individual support if we are to secure an adequate long term financial base.

As this Foundation supports the NATIONAL Air Force Museum of Canada, we understand that the local base and civilian community, which both have other worthwhile projects and priorities, cannot be the sole basis for support.

Unfortunately, because there are many museums, Military Family Resource Centres, and other similar groups at RCAF bases across Canada all looking for funding for their individual worthwhile organizations, the Commander of the Air Force has declined our request that our museum be singled out for special consideration. It is therefore left to the Foundation to reach across Canada to the thousands of retired Air Force personnel, RCAF and CF, as well as to current serving members. We also need to assemble a new corporate support base. In my introduction I mentioned we need your help. So how can you help?

- Renew your membership or become a member—it does have benefits. Encourage others to do so.
- Make a donation—tax receipts will be issued.
- Promote the Foundation and the museum among your friends and family.
- Suggest corporate sponsors to the Foundation Trustees we do not know everyone!
- Visit the museum and bring a friend. Attendance levels indicate the perceived importance of the museum in preserving Canadian history and to the local community and therefore affect the funds that we can raise.

Finally, enjoy the summer of 2013. Make a visit to the museum and support to the Foundation part of your summertime plans.



# **Donate to the National Air Force Museum of Canada Foundation Today**

Name				
Address/Street				
City		Prov	Postal Code/Zip _	Country
Phone			email	
Gift Amount	OR	Monthly Pledge		
\$		\$		
RCAF Memorial Fou	ndation Mo	embership		
☐ Annual Membersh	ip - \$25	☐ Lifetime Membe	ership - \$250	
MONTHLY CREDIT CA	RD PLEDGE	PAYMENTS: (minimum	\$10/month) are processed on the	e first banking day of each month.
Payment Method				
Credit Card Payment	☐ Visa	☐ MasterCard	☐ American Express	
Card Number				Expiry Date
Signature				Date
☐ Cheque: payable to	the <b>Nation</b>	al Air Force Museum	n of Canada Foundation	
For more information	please call	the Foundation direct	tly at 613-965-7314.	
☐ Please DO NOT pu	ıblicize my	donation (Donor reco	ognition Wall, Annual newsle	etter, etc.)
☐ Yes, I would like to	leave a gift	in my will to the RCA	AF Memorial Foundation. Pl	ease send me information

