ROAR of the Harvard

Canada's grassroots organization devoted to keeping 'em flying!!!

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2018 off to a great start!!!

CTechO **Shane Clayton** is sporting a broad smile as he reports the following…

The 2018 flying season is rapidly approaching, and we're working our behinds off in maintenance to get the aircraft ready to go!

The biggest news so far this year was the arrival of the newly overhauled engine for AJ583/HWX in early February (pictured at right). It was supposed to be here in mid-December but the Christmas breaks and numerous delays set it back a bit. Hopefully the engine will be hung by the time you are reading this.

Once the engine is installed it'll be full steam ahead to get the rest of the airframe ready for spring flying.

We have been working on Harvard 20242/WPK since late November, and we should be getting her annual completed within the next week or so. We are lucky to have a good working relationship with FliteLine Services in Kitchener, and Aircraft Maintenance Organization (AMO) who are doing the maintenance work on our aircraft that are being operated under the Transport Canada exemption. Once WPK is ready to fly, we will get 20321/UFZ (aka Bessy) in the hangar to get her annual inspection completed as well. I didn't want to leave us without an airworthy Harvard over the winter in case of a last-minute flyover request or something of that nature, so that is why we are waiting until WPK is airworthy again before taking UFZ offline.

As mentioned in the December ROAR, the Tiger Moth has spent the winter in fellow airport tenant **Greg Harvey's** hangar alongside his beautiful Stearman (thanks again, Greg!). She will be brought back over in early April to start her annual inspection as well.

On the restoration front, we have been making steady progress on 20304/BZT. The windscreen assembly was recently installed, hose material has arrived to make up new hose assemblies, and the engine accessories are about to go out for overhaul. Unfortunately we had a bit of a setback this past week as the main windscreen glass inexplicably cracked over the course of the previous week, and that particular glass assembly (made from two pieces curved 1/4" safety laminated together) is what I like to call 'unobtainium', as it is very hard to find a replacement, and is quite expensive if you do. We have the replacement windscreen that was earmarked for 20436/WLH that will most likely be used to replace the cracked one on BZT, leaving us without one for WLH.

On a brighter note, we are planning to start the fabric covering process on the control surfaces, when we get warmer temperatures in the coming months. Once that is completed, the only major jobs left on BZT are instrument and avionics

installation, completing the engine installation, paint/stenciling, and all the little odds and ends that pop up at the last minute. I've heard this stage called '90% done, 90% to go', and is not that far off the mark!

(At left, we await the arrival of the engine from Covington while another is packaged up and ready to go!)

Also mentioned in the December ROAR was the need to fill some volunteer positions to take some of the burden off myself. I'm happy to report that three of those positions have been filled, with a fourth possible once the flying season starts. **Mel Rolph** has offered to take on the Maintenance Crew Chief position, **Dave Baird** had taken on the position of Service Crew Supply Inventory Controller, and **Jim Swalm** & **Bill Wright** have stepped up for the Aircraft Parts Supply Manager position.

We still have vacancies for the following positions:
Restoration Crew Chief
Hangar Maintenance Officer
'Sign Bessy' Fundraising Campaign Chairman

If anyone is interested in stepping into any of these positions or if you are curious as to what each position entails, please feel free to talk to me in person at the airport or email at s_clayton@harvards.com. Remember, many hands make light work.

Keep Calm and Harvard On!

P.S. See the last page of this ROAR for pictures of our first flight of 2018!

(Below, another engine departs Tillsonburg bound for Covington. Plus, the maintenance team prepares to replace the American penny in the prop hub with a 1941 Canadian version!)

CHAA Board and Committee Chairs

Position	Incumbent	Phone	Email
Director – President/Chairman	Bjarni Tryggvason	(519) 851-7881	b_tryggvason@harvards.com
Director - Vice-President	Michael Lawrence	(519) 873-0343	mlawrence4457@hotmail.com
Director - Treasurer	Poul Hansen	(647) 932-3483	hansenp@hotmail.com
Director – Secretary	Terry Scott	(905) 220-4012	t_scott@harvards.com
Director - C Ops O	Allan Paige	(416) 626-3107	apaige@sympatico.ca
Director - C Tech O	Shane Clayton	(519) 320-1854	s_clayton@harvards.com
Director/Bookkeeper	Mel Blundell	(519) 512-2082	mel-aviator@hotmail.com
Director	**Jim Swalm***	**(613) 296-1073**	**jhswa50@gmail.com**
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Flight Experience Coordinators	William McDowell Stephen Smith	(289) 441-6757 (519) 536-1633	mcdowellmd@gmail.com stephensmith1996@hotmail.com
Public Relations	Terry Scott	(905) 220-4012	t_scott@harvards.com
Chief Pilot	Scott McMaster	(905) 865-0331	scott@mcmaster.ca
Aircraft Recovery Team	Walther Irie	(519) 425-4449	walt@chaa-recovery.ca
Finance Committee	Torben Haarbye	(519) 679-1733	torbenhaarbye@gmail.com
Service Crew Chief	Shawn Wylie	(519) 702-9055	s_wylie@harvards.com
Fundraising	**Francis Faucher***	**(519) 536-1102**	**faucher1@execulink.com**
Stores	Pat Hanna	(519) 212-6021	p_hanna@harvards.com
Annual Fundraising Banquet	Pat Hanna	(519) 212-6021	p_hanna@harvards.com
Harvard Hawks	Vacant		
Membership	Patti Smith	(226) 228-0351	membership@harvards.com
Restorations	Vacant		

(* New information)

CHAA CALENDAR – Important upcoming dates

(* below Denotes TENTATIVE at time of publication)

Mar. 17 @ 10 am CHAA Annual Business Meeting
Apr. 21 @ 4 pm Annual Awards and Fundraising Banquet
May 19 @ 10 am Member's Briefing
***May 26 – Fly Day**
June 16 – Member's Briefing
***June 30 – Fly Day**
July 21 @ 10 am – Member's Briefing
***July 21 – Fly Day**
Aug. 18 @ 10 am – Member's Briefing
***Aug. 18 – Fly Day**
Sept. 8 – Wings and Wheels
***Sept. 15 – Member's Briefing**
Sept. 29 – Volunteer BBQ

The ROAR of the Harvard is published quarterly and is a benefit of membership in the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association. Submissions are welcome. Please send them to Terry Scott at t_scott@harvards.com or mail them to CHAA. The next issue will be published June 1, 2018.

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CHAA Member's Briefing – December 16, 2017

Past President **Pat Hanna** called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He asked if there were any first timers in the room. **Clara Salamon**, sister of **Angela**, identified herself and was welcomed.
Secretary **Terry Scott** reviewed the minutes of the Nov. 18, 2017 Member's Briefing. **Diane Lawrence** moved and **John Brown** seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Carried.
Pat recognized **Angela Salamon** as a contributing writer to the most recent ROAR and encouraged her to provide further contributions from a youth perspective.
Pat mentioned that **Fred Grootarz**, President of the Recreational Aircraft Association, Toronto chapter, will be the guest speaker at the February meeting. He will deliver a presentation on the most dangerous part of flight – base to final turn in the landing phase. It will be geared towards pilots but Fred will make it interesting for all. Pat will invite local pilots to join us for this presentation.
CTechO **Shane Clayton** was fulfilling his calendar orders and said that all the profits would be donated to the engine fund.
Pat mentioned that he and **Ray Whittemore** had recently wired more than $70,000 to Covington for the new engine for HWX.
Francis Faucher announced that as of this morning $12,750 had been raised in the engine fund. Hopefully another 5 to 10 thousand will be added in the next month or so.
Pat had some new all-weather vinyl window stickers made up and thanked the Salamon sisters for helping to cut them off the rolls this morning.
Shane said work on HWX is proceeding. Arrangements have not been made yet to ship the engine here from Covington. Cosmetic work is being done on WPK and Shane will talk to FlightLine to see if they can come to CHAA to do the annual. The Tiger Moth is now in **Greg Harvey's** hangar for the winter which means no planes will be outside this winter. On BZT, engine hoses are being made up connecting the firewall to the engine. Shane said a few maintenance-related positions are still vacant. **Dave Baird** has agreed to take on Service Crew Supply Inventory. A couple of other people have asked about Maintenance Parts Inventory. The biggest hole to fill is Hangar Maintenance Officer. On that note, Shane said they will be replacing the cables on the bifold doors on Hangar One today. **Bill Wright** got the cables donated by a company in Kitchener.
Ray Whittemore asked about shipping the engine from Covington. The company quoted $700 for one-way transportation. HWX accessories are in southern Texas at a company called S&T Aero Accessories. These include generator, starter and hydraulic pump.
Carl Clayton asked about the 100 year goal which has been mentioned by President Bjarni. Shane said let's fly them as long as we can.
Walther Irie of the CHAA Aircraft Recovery team said 12 to 15 items have been recovered from the current project – Harvard 2963 - and they have been dropped off at the Dunnville Museum. The team is in the process of writing a paper for the provincial government. Next year they hope to recover the wheel oleo and the engine. In May, Walt is heading to Phoenix, Arizona for an aviation archeology conference, and on August 11 and 12 another archeology course will be conducted. Walt said they have 2 boats now – a 21 foot aluminum boat and a 21 foot pontoon boat to launch ROV's. Pat expressed CHAA's condolences to Walt and his family on the recent passing of his father.
Membership Chair **Patti Smith** said anyone who wants to renew or upgrade their membership can do so today.
Francis Faucher reported VP **Mike Lawrence** had sent an email advising that CHAA member **Phil Nantais** of FreshAuto in Ingersoll is on board as a supporter of CHAA's vehicle donation program and will be promoting the Donate-A-Car program at his dealership. Mike is looking for a chairperson for the Fundraising Committee. Francis said the engine fund has increased to $14,000 since the start of the meeting.
Pat said CHAA will be at the NECAS meeting in Niagara Falls, NY at the end of January. He heard earlier that the St. Thomas airshow had been cancelled but it is definitely a go for 2018 along with the airshow in London.
Pat said Stores was open with CF-18 Canada 150 t-shirts going for only $10. Plus, new fleece hoodies are available for $50 including tax.
Gord McNulty was recently at the Canadian Aviation Historical Society scholarship presentation. He was encouraged to see the diversity at the event and said air cadets is one of our key avenues to make headway with growing CHAA.
The 50-50 winner was **Jim Swalm** who donated his share - $63.12 – back to CHAA.
Pat reminded all of the annual fundraising and awards banquet on April 21, 2018 at the Tillsonburg Legion. The guest speaker will be **Leon Evans** of CWH. Tickets are $35 and donations for the auction are greatly appreciated.
Pat wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked those who brought food/treats for the meeting.
Stan Hedl moved and **Shawn Wylie** seconded a motion to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

*(Editor's note: Following the meeting, all enjoyed a wonderful lunch and Christmas goodies as per the photo below supplied by **Diane Lawrence.** Thanks to all who made this possible!)*

*At left, the Christmas Potluck Lunch for the hard working Restoration Crew on December 19th. **Shane Clayton** reports they were feeling festive and invited the guys from the maintenance hangar to join the fun!*

CHAA Member's Briefing Jan. 20, 2018

Past President **Pat Hanna** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He welcomed everyone and asked if there were any first-timers present. No one stepped forward.

Secretary **Terry Scott** reviewed the minutes from the Dec. 16, 2017 Member's Briefing. ***Tom Szoldatits moved, Marg Hollister seconded, a motion to accept the minutes. Carried.***

Pat reminded folks of the April 21st annual fundraising and awards banquet. The board will have to decide if we hold our regular Member's Briefing that day. Pat said he spoke to the Salamon sisters this morning and they are willing to help **Jeannette Rooke** and **Linda Brimson** with the auction this year. He encouraged all that if they have any items to be donated for the auction to get in touch with him. In the past, the auction has generated 5 to 6 thousand dollars. **Jeannette Rooke** is looking after tickets and they will go on sale in February.

Ron Avey spoke of an impressive YouTube video featuring a Harvard 2B simulation. It has an interesting Tillsonburg connection. Check it out at: https://youtu.be/fsXa0Z-tz40 .

New Fundraising Chair **Francis Faucher** reported that the engine fund now stands at $21,165. That includes $1600 that was generated through Shane's calendar sales.

CTechO **Shane Clayton** reported we have one Harvard currently online. Bessy flew two weeks ago for a back seat ride. WPK is still torn apart in the hangar. We will probably run her up this afternoon to check the engine. Flite Line Services is coming down Tuesday to look things over and will do the annual later. WPK should be done within 4 weeks and then Bessy in early March. HWX should be flying by April. The engine is still in Oklahoma and he is working on arranging transport to Tillsonburg. The Tiger Moth annual will be in April. Shane said work continues on BZT and will likely complete the windscreen next week. Shane said he sold 135 calendars and has orders for 2 more.
Vice President **Mike Lawrence** introduced **Jim Swalm** as the newest board member. Jim said he will try to contribute in the best way that he can.
Pat said he spoke to **Bill Lamon** in Oregon this week. He sends his greetings and looks forward to returning to visit CHAA in the future.
Pat said the annual NECAS conference is next weekend. He will be attending along with President Bjarni. CHAA will promote our 33 year history, flight experiences, and air displays. He will offer a full report at the next meeting. Pat said we want to push to get CHAA into London and St. Thomas this year.
Bookkeeper M**el Blundell** reported the following financials:
Current account $30,000
Stores $10,000
Savings/final flight $2600 which comes from our aluminum and glass beverage container recycling program.
Francis Faucher mentioned fundraising is at $21,000. The total in the engine fund is $54,590. Mel said if anyone has any fundraising ideas they should get in touch with Francis.
Pat said he and **Ray Whittemore** signed documents this morning officially signing off as signing authorities for CHAA. Mel will take the documents to the bank so that new signing officers can be installed.
Linda Brimson updated all on her CHAA history book. She encouraged anyone with little remembrances or thoughts on special people to get them to her asap. She recently had the Big 3 plaque redone. Linda is looking for pictures of **Jack Stephens** and **Lou Hill**. Pat said he will look for decent images in his archives. Sandra Sparkes said if any members want something in the book, it is their responsibility to get the info to Linda. Linda mentioned she is looking for a contribution on **Tom Hawkins**. Terry will check previous ROARS for a contribution.
Mike said the board will discuss Fly Days for the year at its February meeting. He said **Keith Burr** has established a new Instagram account for CHAA which already has 50 to 60 followers. Mike also thanked Francis, Sandra, Jeannette and the Salamon sisters for help with the mail out fundraiser. About 450 letters were sent. He said **Phil Nantais** of FreshAuto in Ingersoll is a CHAA member and has agreed to promote the Donate-A-Car program at his upscale used car dealership. **Greg Steele** asked about posters that he could distribute for the program at car parts outlets. Mike has some and will get them to Greg.
Mike reminded all that the 2018 increase in membership fees will take a bit of the pressure off the annual fundraiser. He also indicated we are still looking for female representation on the board of directors.
Pat said CHAA has acquired an 8-foot high display banner stand donated by **William McDowell**. Pat and **Tom Armbruster** of Uni-Twin Merchandising in Waterloo have created a new banner which will be used at NECAS and future CHAA events.
Linda asked about possible interest in a bus trip to Goderich to tour an exhibit of BCATP training bases at the Huron County Museum compiled by Gene McGee. The trip could also include a tour of the old historic jail.
Pat played an audio tape that **Ray Whittemore** acquired from the 40th anniversary of the BCATP in Winnipeg in approximately 1980. It featured **Douglas Bader, Adolf Galland** and **Johnny Johnson**. Ray said the tape came from Johnson's son in Vancouver**.**
Len Fallowfield announced the winning 50-50 ticket number. **Jim Swalm** had the winning ticket worth $72 which he donated back to CHAA. Len mentioned that he saw **Bill Shepard** when he was home from Dallas this week and he says HI to his CHAA friends.
Tom Szoldatits moved and Terry Scott seconded a motion to adjourn. Carried. The meeting ended at 11:59 a.m.

CHAA Member's Briefing – February 17, 2018

Past President **Pat Hanna** opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m. He welcomed all including those attending for the first time. **Ron Laing** and his son **Hudson** identified themselves as first timers, along with **Anita Harrington** of Girl Guides in Tillsonburg.
Secretary **Terry Scott** reviewed the minutes of the January 20, 2018 Member's Briefing. ***Catherine Cowan moved and John Brown seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Carried.***
Pat spoke about the recent NECAS conference that he attended with President Bjarni and he thanked **Terry Scott** for producing the CHAA promo video and being the first to submit it to the NECAS organizers. He pointed out the new CHAA

banner that has been created and was featured front and center at the NECAS conference. There were 21 performers and 20 airshows at the annual gathering. Among other things, the conference discussed: air show demographics and how the most popular age of attendees is over 60; virtual reality at airshows; the fact airshows are the cheapest entertainment venue in North America; Thunder Over Michigan is the most successful airshow next to Oshkosh; selling advance tickets always makes for a successful show. Pat will present a full report to the Board for its consideration.

Pat said it was great to reconnect with **Frank Schaufler** from Geneseo who is back on the airshow committee. Geneseo is a possibility this year for CHAA along with the Eastern Townships Airshow in Bromont, Quebec. St. Thomas, London, Wasaga Beach and the CNE Toronto shows are others that expressed some interest in CHAA's participation. Borden is looking at a show two years down the road and we should get a proposal into them very soon. Pat mentioned **Rick Volker** has sold his Harvard to a party in Long Beach, California and is back to flying his Sukhoi in an aerobatic routine.

CTechO **Shane Clayton** reported that we currently have one Harvard online, UFZ Bessy. Most of the annual is done on WPK – the biggest challenge was changing the number one cylinder jug. Once WPK is done, Bessy will undergo her annual. HWX's shiny new engine arrived a week ago yesterday. BZT's windscreen has been installed and some new hoses have arrived. They need to be cut to length and have fittings put on them.

Pat reminded all of our annual business meeting next month along with the fundraising dinner & auction in April. He also mentioned that **Gerry Younger** of Guelph has donated two parachutes to CHAA which should be serviceable.

Francis Faucher reported the engine fundraising campaign, with the latest contributions, is now as $22,200. He said the committee is looking for new ideas on fundraising ventures.

Membership Chair **Patti Smith** reminded all that new memberships or renewals can be done today.

Leonard Fallowfield managed the 50-50 draw. The winner was **Wayne Fraser** who donated his share of the $156 back to CHAA.

Diane Lawrence moved and Francis Faucher seconded a motion to adjourn. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m. Pat introduced guest speaker **Fred Grootarz** after the meeting was adjourned.

Annual Banquet and Fund Raising Auction – Saturday, April 21, 2018

@ Tillsonburg Legion, 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm Tickets - $35.00 each

Special Guest Speaker: **Leon Evans** *(pictured at right)*, Chief Pilot for CWH and Lancaster Pilot for the amazing tour of England in 2014.

Tickets are on sale and available online via the CHAA website and from **Jeannette Rooke**. See her at the March 17th meeting or email jerooke@msn.com or phone (519) 539-2762 .

Remember -- Auction items are always welcome!

For further information please contact **Pat Hanna**, Banquet Chairman

Email: p_hanna@harvards.com

Phone: 519-212-6021

NOTE: If you are attending the banquet and intend to purchase raffle tickets, please bring CASH for that purchase. We will not have a payment machine at the raffle ticket table.

Credit/debit cards can be used to pay for silent auction and live auction items.

CHAA Harvard Ground School – March 24 & 25, 2018

Mark your calendars and get in touch with us!

CHAA's annual Harvard Ground School is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25. Chief Pilot Scott McMaster says the schedule will be 0900 to 1700 hrs on Saturday and 0900 to 1200 hrs on Sunday with an optional hangar tour.

If you are a qualified pilot interested in pursuing your Harvard ticket, or just someone who wants to learn much more about the ins and outs of the Harvard, this is your golden opportunity to be trained to RCAF standards.

If you have any questions or want to sign up, get in touch with Scott at scott@mcmaster.ca

Flight Ops Report – *Allan Paige, COpsO*

Preparations are underway for the 2018 flying season. We will start the year with two Harvards, WPK and UFZ, flyable and hope to have HWX and the Tiger Moth flying in April or May. Our annual Harvard ground school is set for March 24 – 25. Please contact our Chief Pilot, Scott McMaster, if you're interested in learning to fly our airplanes. The pilot annual refresher course is planned for April 7. This training is now a mandatory requirement for our operation under the Transport Canada exemption which allows us to carry paying passengers.

St Thomas is hosting the Great Lakes International Air Show on June 16 – 17 and we are hoping to participate this year as we did two years ago. We have also provided a quote to the organizers of the National Warplane Museum of Geneseo Air Show, scheduled for July 13 - 15. We used to attend this air show every year and are looking forward to a return to this venue. Other than these two air shows, we will continue to support the events and flypasts throughout southern Ontario that we do every year. We are always on the lookout for events to attend to display and demonstrate the Harvard, so if you hear of anything new please let us know.

Old editions of The ROAR available online!

For those who wish to reminisce or simply learn more about CHAA, past editions of The ROAR are available here:

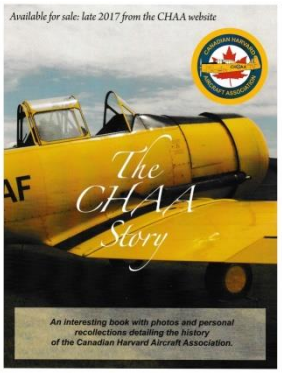
December 2017	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/DECEMBER-2017-ROAR.pdf
September 2017	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SEPT-2017-ROAR.pdf
June 2017	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/JUNE-2017-ROAR.pdf
March 2017	http://www.harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/March-2017-ROAR.pdf
December 2016	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/December-2016-ROAR.pdf
September 2016	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ROAR-Sept-2016.pdf
June 2016	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ROAR-June-2016-1.pdf
March 2016	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/ROAR-March-2016.pdf
December 2015	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/ROAR-December-2015.pdf
September 2015	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-Sept-2015.pdf
June 2015	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-June-2015.pdf
March 2015	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Roar-March-2015.pdf
December 2014	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-Dec-2014-issue.pdf
September 2014	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-Sept-2014-issue.pdf
June 2014	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-June-2014.pdf
March 2014	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-March-2014.pdf
December 2013	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-Dec-2013.pdf
September 2013	https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ROAR-of-the-Harvard-Sept-2013.pdf

Plus, the audio interview with Bob Hewitt and Len Fallowfield at the 30th anniversary celebrations of CHAA in 2015:
https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Bob-Hewitt-Len-Fallowfield-CHAA-30.mp3

Reminder of 2018 Annual Business Meeting

This will serve as a reminder that the Annual Business Meeting of the members of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association will be held at Tillsonburg, Ontario on March 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to, among other things:
Confirm acts of the Directors and Officers
Receive the Annual Report of the Association including the financial statements
Receive reports of committee chairs
Appoint auditors for the upcoming fiscal year
Elect Directors
Members will also be voting to adopt the new **Strategic Plan** as approved by the Board of Directors on February 17, 2018. Here is a link to the plan for your perusal:
https://harvards.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CANADIAN-HARVARD-AIRCRAFT-ASSOCIATION-STRATEGIC-PLAN-2018.pdf

CHAA Book Update



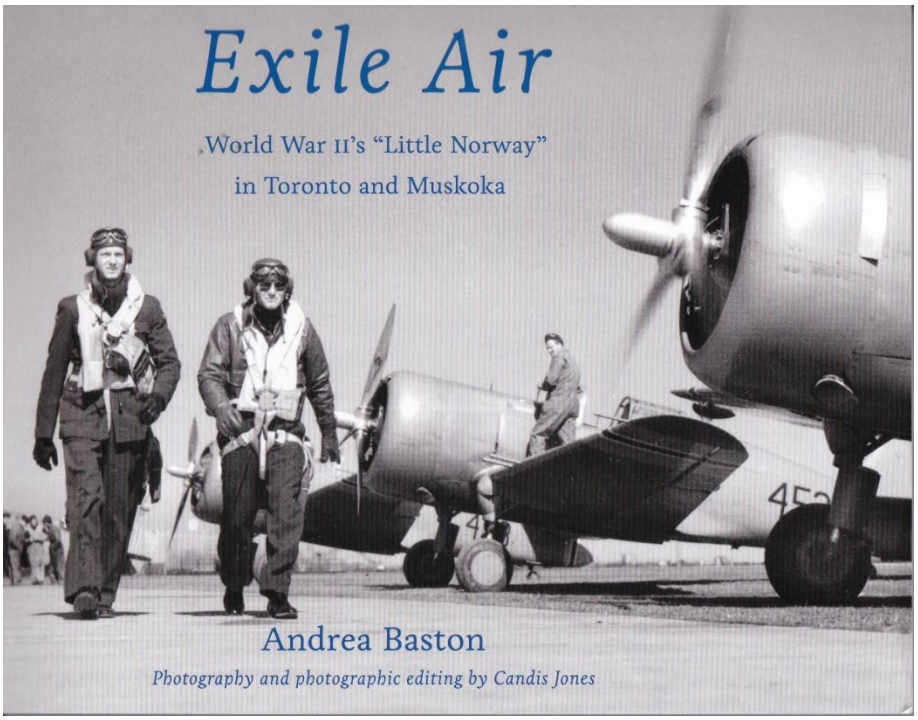
A tip of the Harvard cap to member Linda Brimson who continues to eke out some time in her hectic professional and personal life to work on The CHAA Story – her book about the history of our amazing association and how we got to where we are today!

The actual completion date has not been determined and Linda may opt for providing copies on an "as ordered" basis. She hopes to keep the cost at approximately $35.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this labour of love!

"Exile Air" tells inspiring story of World War II "Little Norway" in Canada

Book review by Gord McNulty



The contributions of the young Norwegian airmen who trained in Canada during the Second World War, first in Toronto and then in Muskoka, are described in an excellent new book. Author Andrea Baston provides a comprehensive overview of the fascinating story of "Little Norway" in her well written and well-illustrated volume, Exile Air.

Canada, home of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, quickly proved to be an ideal refuge for Norwegian airmen after Nazi Germany invaded Norway in 1940. The Royal Norwegian Air Force initially built a training camp at the Island Airport in Toronto. Recruits came from everywhere to join and many risked their lives just to get from Norway to Toronto.

Soon, Fairchild Cornell trainers and other aircraft arrived at Little Norway and were flying over the city. Torontonians welcomed the Norwegians with open arms and friendships blossomed. Little Norway's airmen found ways to help the Norwegian government in exile, pledging a portion of their pay for a Spirit of Little Norway Fund used to purchase three Cornells.

It was a demanding and hectic period. The Island Airport became crowded and training fatalities occurred. The most serious accident occurred in June 1941, when a RNAF Northrop Nomad seaplane struck the upper level of a passenger ferry,

the Sam McBride, sailing across Toronto Harbour. Both RNAF pilots died. Luckily, no one on the ferry was hurt. The frequency of accidents was a major issue at an inquest.

Relocation of Little Norway to Muskoka Airport, a safer airfield that didn't have much air traffic, became a necessity. The Norwegians received a rousing ovation from a crowd of 2,000 people at opening ceremonies in May 1942. RCAF and RNAF flags were raised and Cornells flew overhead.

The relationship between Gravenhurst citizens and Little Norway was superb. Andrea Baston, a lawyer who grew up in Gravenhurst, describes living conditions in depth, with colourful details exemplified by at least three orphaned bear cubs raised by the RNAF. A black bear cub named "Funny" wrestled with the men in the evenings and loved to drink beer and Coca-Cola!

Before the Norwegians prepared to return to Norway after its liberation, they held a special ceremony to say farewell to Canada. On Feb. 17, 1945, more than 1,000 guests gathered at the Little Norway hangar. There was relief the war was coming to an end, but the day was tinged with sadness at the departure of the Norwegians.

LCol Ole Reistad, Commanding Officer of Little Norway, told the crowd Canadians would "forever occupy a special place" in Norwegians' hearts for "the care and support that was given their flying sons on foreign soil in a dark hour." He spoke of the friendship between the two countries that would grow stronger. At sunset, the RCAF and RNAF flags were lowered.

During the war, 3,323 personnel trained at Little Norway, nearly 2000 of whom went overseas to fight the enemy. Flying in Norwegian squadrons of Britain's Royal Air Force, they hunted enemy submarines off Iceland, battled Nazi fighter planes, flew bombers over Germany, and dropped secret agents behind enemy lines. Some 309 RNAF members died. A total of 213 Norwegians married during their time in Canada, and 93 children were born to RNAF personnel.

Today, the RNAF training camps in Canada are fittingly commemorated in a granite monument at Little Norway Park in Toronto's waterfront and at a memorial at the Muskoka Airport terminal. Andrea Baston deserves full credit for further enriching a story that remains a significant, respected part of the history of both Norway and Canada.

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First Flight of 2018

On January 6th, **Percy Contractor** was at the controls as Bessy made the first CHAA flight of the New Year!
Thanks to **Shane Clayton, William McDowell, Mel Rolph, Jim Swalm, Francis Faucher, Jack MacKenzie** and, of course, pilot **Percy Contractor** for making it all come together. Check out Shane's pictures below along with video of Bessy taxiing: https://www.facebook.com/shane.t.clayton/videos/10159785931615503/