

KINGSTON FLIGHT LOG

Newsletter of the Kingston Chapter of the
Canadian Aviation Historical Society

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 20th, 2008, at 7:30pm (doors open 7:00pm)
Ongwanada Resource Centre, 191 Portsmouth Ave.
Behind the Health Unit. Plenty of parking.

Speaker for the Evening: James Moffat

Topic: World War Two Adventure

James Moffat will recount his adventurous wartime career in the RCAF. A native of Timmins, Ontario, he is one of a family of eight children and he grew up to work in the nearby gold mines prior to joining the RCAF in 1942 at the age of 21. He was trained as an air gunner, graduating in 1943 as a Pilot Officer from No. 3 Bombing and Gunnery School located in Macdonald, Manitoba.

After further conversion training in England, Jim was assigned to 427 (Lion Squadron), RCAF. Following a number of near misses on operations, his Halifax aircraft was in a mid-air collision with a Lancaster Bomber over Belgium while returning from the notorious raid on Nuremberg on March 30th, 1944. He parachuted to safety, the only survivor of his crew, and then spent six months fighting with the Belgian Underground and the French Forces of the Interior. He was liberated by the United States Army in September of 1944 and returned to Britain. Later he returned to Canada and volunteered to serve in the Pacific War, but was discharged in March, 1945.

Jim subsequently joined Household Finance Corporation, retiring thirty-eight years later as Qualification Manager. During this period he maintained strong connections as an active member and officer of a number of service-related and charitable organizations. Jim Moffat is author of a book in which he recounts many of the highlights of his experiences. Copies will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Past Meeting

Our speaker at the last meeting was Claude Burrell. Claude worked for many years at both deHavilland Canada and Avro Canada; he presented anecdotes about his time there, revealing a few little known, and some unknown, information (at least to his audience).

Claude started with deHavilland in 1942, and was soon working on plant maintenance and inspecting Mosquitoes. Here he met John McCurdy and heard him speak. Claude started with Avro Canada in 1946, and worked on checking the Jetliner designs, with emphasis on stress design. He also worked on the CF-100, planning structural tests.

The CF-100 was used in Canada from 1950 to 1981, with over 700 built. Claude also worked on the air intakes for the engines of the fabled Avro Arrow. He stated that the Arrow would still be a world class aircraft, especially with the Orenda engine; however, at \$2.8 million per aircraft in the late 1950's, it was simply too costly.

It was a treat to hear stories from that wonderful period in Canada's aviation history from a person who was there.

Chapter Initiatives

Ian Watson, who has been **Membership and Communications Director** for several years, regretfully advises that he must leave his post for medical reasons. This job consists of:

- Maintaining the CAHS–YGK membership and contact data base currently on Microsoft Access.
- Preparing the Kingston Flight Log with input from the Executive and general members. The Log is distributed by email and post to the full data base prior to meetings.
- Notifying the local media and the CAHS National of upcoming meetings.

Please contact any Executive member if you would consider assuming these responsibilities, in whole or in part.

Ian states it has been a privilege to serve on the CAHS-YGK Executive and to share his love of aviation with all of you.

As indicated previously, **membership dues** for the year May 2008-April 2009 were due May 1st. Please contact Bruce McLachlan, our Treasurer.

Here and There

The 45th Annual **Canadian Aviation Historical Society Convention** and Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Ottawa Chapter June 4th-8th at the Chimo Hotel in Ottawa. A high point of the Convention will be scheduled visits to the Canada Aviation Museum and, for many, a first chance to take part in an Open Hangar Day at Vintage Wings of Canada at nearby Gatineau, Quebec. As part of the Convention, the CAHS Annual General Meeting will be held. A number of controversial by-laws are up for discussion and a good attendance is anticipated.

Edward Soye, a graduate student at Royal Military College of Canada, is preparing a thesis on **German airplanes allocated to Canada after World War One**. His current research relates to the allocation of several former German aircraft to the Kingston area. In particular, he is seeking information on a Fokker D.V11 operated in the past by Bishop-Barker Airplanes Limited.

Your Executive:

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