

**TORONTO CHAPTER OF
THE CANADIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
YEAR END ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2016**

January 31, 2017

The Toronto Chapter completed another successful year in 2016. Membership renewals were received from 85 members for their 2016 Chapter membership fees and their generous donations. The paid membership is down from 95 in 2015.

Our Program Director and web site caretaker, Robert Winson, has selected some top rate speakers that were both interesting and informative for our monthly meetings. Geoff Pyne is our new greeter at the front desk. Special thanks are due to all of the members of the Chapter's Executive with special thanks to Paul Hayes (Treasurer), Neil McGavock (Secretary, Historian and meeting photographer), Gord McNulty (Reporter of Members' meetings) and John Bertram (2nd V/P and in charge of audio/video magic) and my assistant George Toppie (1st V-P).

The following is a list of the dates of the members' meetings, speaker's name including the title of the presentation and the attendance figures for the meetings. All meetings were held at the Canadian Forces College, Toronto. The presentations were made in the Lt. Gen. Guy Simonds Auditorium with the social hour following in the Officers' Mess. The Chapter is truly grateful for CFC to host our meetings.

February 6, 2016 - Our speaker was Earl Smith, President of the Great War Flying Museum, Brampton – “World War I Air War” and a video presentation “A Fight for the Skies”. (31)

March 5, 2016 – Tim Speed, Volunteer Tour Guide, Speaker and Educator at CWHM - “The Battle of Britain”. (34)

April 2, 2016 – Martin Keenan, X-Plane Historian and CAHS member - “The X-15”. (30)

May 1, 2016 – Annual Dinner Meeting: Special Guest Presenters - Jack Ford, WWII RCAF Photographer and Don Connolly, renowned Canadian Aviation Artist. Jack showed many rare photos that he took near the end of WWII and Don described some of his famous aircraft paintings. (49)

October 1, 2016 – Chris Hargreaves, Retired High School Teacher and active amateur historian - “Earl Hand, Toronto's Forgotten Aviation Pioneer”. (20)

November 5, 2016 – Ted Lowrey, Retired School Teacher and Principal and writer of articles for the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum’s newsletter “*Flightlines*” - “Prisoner of War Interviews”. (24)

December 3, 2016 – Helen Comat, “Competition Aerobatics”. (34)

The Toronto Chapter ended 2016 with 83 paid members. Members George Neal, Earl Barr and Lorne Bride folded their wings.

We issued a \$500 cheque to the Georgian College in favour of **Gary Suha** who won the Don Rogers Memorial Scholarship in 2016.

A donation of \$500 was made to the Great War Flying Museum, Brampton (aka Ontario Aviation Historical Society) to assist with the maintenance of their WWI “birds”. Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame was given \$500 in honour of the late George A. Neal and a similar amount was donated to Heritage Toronto to assist with the design, construction and erection of the Trethewey Airfield plaque in Weston (the north western part of Toronto). The airfield was the take-off point of the first flight over downtown Toronto in 1910 by Count de Lesseps. It was also the airfield where DeHavilland first began assembling Moth aircraft in Toronto. The RCAF’s present 400 Squadron “City of Toronto” began flight operations from this field as 10 (Army Co-operation) Squadron in 1934.

The Toronto Aviation History website now has 88 “Flypast” Newsletters produced by the Toronto Chapter CAHS and posted for the public to view.

For a copy of the full Chapter Statement of Financial Activities please contact the Chapter President, Mr. Sheldon Benner, at cahsnatmem67@sympatico.ca

Sheldon Benner
President, Toronto Chapter
Canadian Aviation Historical Society