

**TORONTO CHAPTER
THE CANADIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
YEAR END ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2019**

The Toronto Chapter completed another successful year in 2019. After servicing all of our obligations we ended the year in the black as you will hear from our Treasurer and this includes the payments from 88 members for their 2019 Chapter membership fees and the generous donations. The paid membership is up slightly from 86 in 2018.

I would like to thank Bob Winson, web site care taker and “Flypast” co-ordinator and Geoff Pyne, 2nd V/P as the new greeter at the front desk as well as being in charge of the Chapter’s Facebook web site and administers the sale of used aviation books and magazines at the meetings. He has been the Acting Secretary while Neil McGavock recovers from his car accident. Special thanks are due to the other members of the Chapter’s Executive especially Paul Hayes (Treasurer), Neil McGavock (recuperating Secretary, Chapter Historian and designated meeting photographer), Gord McNulty (Reporter of Members’ meetings) and John Bertram (1st V/P and in charge of audio/video magic and now Program Chairman). Our new Director Eric Roscoe heads the Welcoming Committee and the coming arrangements for the Annual Dinner Meeting. Ken Swartz provides promotion for the Chapter’s activities.

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 Armour Heights Officers’ Mess. The Chapter is truly grateful for CFC to host our meetings and we now pay a small fee for the use of the auditorium.

Meeting Dates, Speakers and (Signed in Attendance Numbers)

February 22, 2019: John Bertram, Military Historian, 1st V/P of CAHS Toronto Chapter, presented a talk on “Plane Spotting & Aircraft Identification”. (27)

March 2, 2019: Martin Keenan, Historian and Chapter member, made a presentation on the “The de Havilland Comet –The Canadian Story. History and service with the RCAF and Canadian Pacific Airlines”. (33)

April 6, 2019: Jack Hurst, Avro Photographic Dept., Rtd. His topic was “The Arrow: Test Flights and Test Models”. (47)

May 5, 2019: 11th Annual Dinner Meeting: Special Guest Speaker – Ted Barris, Author and Chapter member. His topic was “Dam Busters, Canadian Airman and the Secret Raid Against Nazi Germany”. (45)

October 5, 2019: Marc-Andre Valiquette, Author on the history of the Avro Arrow. His topic was the “Supersonic Sentinel: Arrow Reflections Sixty Years Later”. (31)

November 2, 2019: John (Jock) Williams. His topic was “My adventures as a Tank Commander, Fighter and Tactical Helicopter Pilot and Military Historian”. Due to the gremlins with the auditorium’s audio/visual equipment, Mr. Williams was unable to deliver his talk and has offered to present it later. (27)

December 7, 2019: Geoff Pyne, Former Flight Test Engineer and now Chapter Director and who performs many tasks for the Chapter. His topic was “R. H. Fowler – Forgotten or Famous”. Bob Fowler was a DHC test pilot. (39)

Members who folded their wings in 2019 were George Topple (3269) and Walter Norris (2778). We received 16 new members for 2019 including the Calgary Aviation Museum and one new member for 2020.

Other activities that Chapter members attended in 2019 was the 56th CAHS National Convention and AGM held in Sainte-Anne-de-Belleville, Quebec. Also appearances were made to several events hosted by Centennial College in Toronto. The first function was the official opening of Centennial College’s Downsview campus (housed in the upgraded and modernized former DHC plant and office complex), dedication of the Wall of Donors to honour the Donors to the Downsview campus of the College and the presentation of CAHS National’s Douglas MacRitchie Award to the winning student in the Aircraft Maintenance course at the annual graduation exercises.

The Toronto Aviation History website <<https://torontoaviationhistory.com>> now has 126 “Flypast” Newsletters: Volume 28 (1993) and Volumes 37 to 51 incl. (2002 to 2017) produced by the Toronto Chapter CAHS and posted for the public to view.

CHAPTER DONATIONS TO REGISTERED CHARITIES

We issued a \$500 donation cheque to the Georgian College, Barrie in favour of a student who the College would select as the winner of the Don Rogers Memorial Scholarship in 2020.

A donation of \$200 was made to the National Air Force Museum of Canada (Trenton) to assist in the restoration of the Avro Lancaster bomber.

A donation of \$100 was made to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum to keep their Avro Lancaster bomber in flying condition.

A donation of \$100 was made to the Ontario Aviation Historical Society operating as the Great War Flying Museum to assist with the maintenance and operation of their unique collection of WW1 aircraft.

Sheldon Benner
President, Toronto Chapter CAHS

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