

The Tribute

Winter 2022

Chairman's update

By John Argue, Chair AFMSA

As 2022 quickly draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the AFMSA board of directors to wish all of our AFMSA members and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2023. Additionally, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer with AFMSA, whether it is through your work on the board of directors, in our galleries, or helping with the numerous special projects which are often hidden from the public eye. As the cornerstone of our operations, our stalwart volunteers have always met each and every challenge with enthusiasm, optimism, self-sacrifice in continued service to the RCAF cause that is without equal. Of special note, is the growing list of new volunteers that joined our ranks this year and with the expectation of several more in the pipeline to bring into our cadre. The new voices and often old experiences, (or tall tales, lol) help to keep all of us fresh and invigorated. We thank you for joining us and welcome all of you to the team.

2022 has been a very interesting year for the world and the AFMSA, with both witnessing numerous steps forward, but also some steps sideways. And yet, we have much to be grateful for and we can look forward to our continued recovery, growth and a positive outlook for 2023.

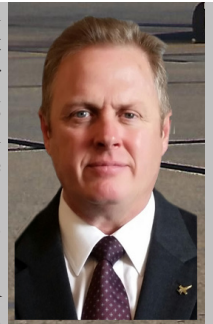
The pandemic has abated to a large degree, and we are all still learning to cope with its lingering effects. For the AFMSA, our facilities have been physically open without interruption for over a year. We have risen from, once limited operating hours, mask mandates, social distancing rules, reduced occupancy limits and vaccine passports, returning to our pre-pandemic state of operations. This has always been the primary goal for our organization during these last two years. Our public patrons have slowly and increasingly returned to our air force facilities. However, most encouraging, is the return of all the educational groups of students and cadets. This all bodes well for our future and the continued delivery of our RCAF history & heritage message.

Unfortunately, the world is experiencing new turmoil with war in central Europe and near-peer superpowers all partaking in a level of sabre rattling that has not been witnessed since the mid to late 1980's. Interestingly, anyone under the age of forty grew up without worry of the plausible threat of nuclear war (and weekly, if not daily, media discussion of possible main body military combat operations which could include employment of tactical nuclear weapons). Today, the thought of a hot war, or even another cold war has brought our public back to the Cold War Exhibit (CWE) to try and make sense of all the current events we now face. Through our, albeit defined, but very precise specialised history and experiences, we have the opportunity to share the story of the Cold War from a Canadian and RCAF perspective. Our AFMSA relevance, through

the CWE, may be more important today than ever. Hopefully we, in our own small, but important way, can demonstrate the need for peace through deterrence, while encouraging our leaders to engage our competitors with open honest dialogue and diplomacy. Is there really any other realistic way but PEACE?

At the local level, our CWE expansion is now at the top of our priority list for 2024. Bob Wade, our deputy chairman for AFMSA and the CWE expansion project lead, has been working tirelessly to champion this worthwhile venture and we continue to see movement in all the right directions. The CWE expansion land use agreement (LUA) and the formal land development plans are, frankly, progressing slowly through bureaucratic channels between AFMSA and DND. A continued back and forth dialogue has been going on for over a year now while the smallest of details get worked on. Much of this significant, required weight of effort is to be expected, yet, we would ideally like to see this process happen more quickly. As they say, "if it were easy, everyone would do it." Unfortunately, this somewhat hampers our ability to fund raise in earnest and secure major exhibits for the expansion. However, even with some of these aforementioned LUA hurdles, Ed McGillivray, our project fund raising team lead, has continued to successfully pursue project donations. Gord Todd and his team of volunteers recently relocated a CT-133 "T-Bird" and a Nene 10 jet engine from Cold Lake to the CWE and, as a result, we now have a wealth of knowledge on the logistics of moving aircraft. Furthermore, initial but serious negotiations for a CF-100 "Canuck" and a CF-101 "Voodoo" are taking place as of this Tribute edition. With any luck, we hopefully can have these assets on site at some point in 2023. Additionally, Bob Wade has also placed a bid with RCAF H&H for two CT-114 "Tutor" aircraft when they become surplus. Lastly, we were able to secure a CF-100 simulator from Wayne and Jackie Scott who are private donors residing in Ft. Erie, Ontario. This simulator features two fully instrumented cockpits, is in amazing condition and is currently on display in the CWE (side note: John "JMac" MacNeil actually admits that he may have trained in this simulator in North Bay some many, many, many years ago). As you can tell from all the aforementioned, progress is slow, but all our determined volunteers are pursuing every chance to move the goal posts on the CWE expansion. Thank you to all!

In mid-September, AFMSA carried out our annual general meeting (AGM). Unfortunately, I was called away for a family emergency and could not chair this very important event. However,



The Directors & Staff (<https://www.rcaf.museum/>)

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Marty Doyle, Manager (facilities)

Jim Powell, Honourary Director

Chairman's update contd.

Bob Wade, along with numerous board members, our curator Alison and admin assistant Claire managed the event brilliantly. I am pleased to note that AFMSA is in a strong position financially, the board was re-elected as presented and our current AFMSA direction was found suitable to all the membership.

On several personal notes, I would like to share with all of you that Gerry Morrison has received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers earlier this year. This medal is presented annually by Canada's Governor General to deserving living Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. Congratulations Gerry and well deserved.

Although it is unfortunate for AFMSA, Gerry Morrison, an original founding member of AFMSA and with over a decade of service on our board and to the museum, has decided it is time to step down. Gerry was nominated at the AGM to become an honorary board member and naturally the membership approved this overwhelmingly. Gerry, at his leisure, can now stay involved as he sees fit and continue to share his wealth of corporate knowledge. Again, congratulations Gerry on a job masterfully handled over these very many years and thank you for all your contributions.

Replacing Gerry in the directors chairs is no easy feat. However, a former RCAF CF-18 pilot, AETE test pilot and senior executive within the US/Canada aviation sectors, Mr. Lee Obst, was approached by our board of directors and subsequently nominated

to the director position. Lee graciously accepted our nomination and was elected unanimously by the membership at the most recent AGM. Both Lee and his wife Miriam have recently retired into the Calgary area, and our organization is blessed to have someone of Lee's ability to help guide us over the next several years. Welcome Lee and Miriam and also, thank you for joining the AFMSA team.

I have recently been informed, and am proud to advise all of you that our AFMSA unsung hero, Mr. Marty Doyle, has just recently been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. This medal recognizes citizens of Alberta who have made a significant contribution to Canada, Alberta, or to a particular Alberta region or community. Well done and congratulations to Marty (and Lorraine), you never cease to amaze.

In closing, I hope to have the opportunity to see as many of our volunteers and their spouses at our annual volunteer appreciation "Welcome to 2023" bowling event at the Glencoe Club, Saturday, 07 January 2023 commencing at 1700 hrs until 2000 hrs. Please make sure you contact Claire Dickson our Admin Assistant airforce.museum.ab@gmail.com or clairedickson4@gmail.com. Additionally, in early 2023, we will be sharing our AFMSA contributions to the RCAF 2024 (100 year centenary celebration of the RCAF) and we will be seeking volunteers who wish to participate and/or assist in any of these planned initiatives. Please stay tuned.

Have a safe and happy holidays and we hope to see all of you in the New Year.

Exhibits

By Bob Wade

The Air Force Museum of Alberta has been busy over the summer and fall renovating office space and adding to the artifacts on display in both the Air Force Gallery and Cold War Exhibit (CWE). The office renovations allow for a much improved use of the space available. A wall mounted television gives us the capability to present documents and briefings during meetings with comfortable seating for four to six members in attendance. New computers and a printer/scanner allow for greater flexibility in running programs, producing documents and completing the considerable required staff work to support museum operations.

On the 7th of September a T-33 Silver Star aircraft arrived on a large tractor trailer truck and was unloaded to be put on display outside the west CWE hangar. This aircraft was previously on display at the Cold Lake Military Museum and will become part

of the expanded Cold War Exhibit along with a CF100 Cannuck and CF101 Voodoo aircraft when the new expansion project is completed.

A very rare CF100 simulator donated by Wayne Scott of Fort Erie, Ontario arrived at the CWE on the 25th of October. This simulator is an actual flight simulator from the 1950's, fully complete and functional, but requires experienced fighter pilots to interpret the 50's technology when operating the systems.

Continued growth and expansion of displays are being planned for the Air Force Gallery and CWE. April 1st, 2024 will mark the 100th anniversary of the RCAF and the Air Force Museum of Alberta volunteers are working hard towards making that a significant and memorable celebration.

AFMSA receives CF-100 simulator

Photos and story by Dave Lowery

The Air Force Museum Society of Alberta (AFMSA) received a Canadair CF-100 (Clunk) simulator on Thursday, 27 September at 0900.

Avro Canada designed the interceptor/fighter aircraft in response to an RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) request for a new aircraft suitable for all-weather and long distance operations. The result, in 1946, was the CF-100 Canuck, also known as the Clunk and in 1952 began mass production as the only Canadian designed fighter. The simulator was also produced by Avro Canada and was a vital tool to train pilots to command the 639 different variant CF-100s in the RCAF. Although projected to have a life span of only 2000 flight hours, it was discovered during operations that the airframe was good for over 20,000 hours leading to a full withdrawal from service in 1981.



Additional Cold War jet displayed at the AFMSA

By Dave Lowery

As part of its planned expansion to add three more cold war jet aircraft to its collection, the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta (AFMSA) received a Canadair CT-133 Silver Star (T-Bird or T-33) on early Wednesday, 7 September 2022 following its trip from Cold Lake on a Rangeland Trucking commercial vehicle.

The Canadair CT-133 Silver Star (company model number CL-30) is the Canadian license-built version of the Lockheed T-33 jet trainer aircraft, in service from the 1950s to 2005. It was the result of a 1951 contract to build T-33 Shooting Star trainers for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and went into production in Canada on 13 Sept 1951. The aircraft (a/c) has been employed as an advanced jet trainer, ground attack aircraft, combat support and test a/c. The T-33 retired as one of the most versatile, successful and respected jet aircraft ever produced. As of March 31, 2005 the Silver Star had flown in RCAF and Canadian Forces (CF) service for 54 years (the longest service aircraft in the history of the CF and RCAF) and logged nearly 2.4 million flight hours!

This aircraft has had the engine removed, all fluids drained and has been on display at the Cold Lake museum for approximately 10 years and was ready for public viewing shortly after arrival, as only the tip tanks needed to be reinstalled. Additionally, the CT-133 Nene 10 engine with display mount is a new exhibit inside our current Cold War Exhibit (CWE) facilities.

The T-33 coming to Calgary is one of the final Canadair Silver Star Mk. 3s and was retired from the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada, where it was used as an ejection seat testbed after 46 years of service. It had the aft cockpit removed to make room for a unique ejection-seat rail system that can accommodate nearly any model of ejection seat for testing.

General characteristics

- Crew: one–two
- Length: 11.48 m (37 ft 8 in)
- Wingspan: 12.93 m (42 ft 5 in)
- Height: 3.55 m (11 ft 8 in)
- Empty weight: 3,830 kg (8,444 lb)
- Max takeoff weight: 7,630 kg (16,800 lb)
- Powerplant: 1 × Rolls-Royce Nene 10 turbojet, 22 kN (5,000 lbf) thrust

Performance

- Maximum speed: 920 km/h (570 mph, 500 kn)
- Service ceiling: 14,000 m (46,000 ft)

DND photo



Gerry Morrison receives Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

By Mike Ricketts and Dave Lowery

Our own Colonel (Ret'd) Gerry Morrison was presented with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers on November 10, 2022 by the honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in partnership with, and on behalf of, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, the Governor General of Canada and Chancellor of National Honours.

Major (Ret'd) Michael Ricketts initially nominated Gerry for a meritorious service decoration (civil division) based on his outstanding leadership and the initiative he displayed while implementing three disparate projects that collectively reinvigorated the local air force veteran community while also raising public awareness and pride among Calgarians, Albertans and Canadians for their air force heritage.

Though the medal was formally applied for in June, 2019, the award was the culmination of Ricketts' work to recognize Morrison which began 12 years ago! As part of the process, Brig General (Ret'd) Ed McGillivray, Colonel (Ret'd) Don Mathews and Maj Gen (Ret'd) Skip Armstrong all supported the nomination and received phone calls during the due diligence process.

Specifically, Morrison was to be recognized for his work with:

1. The Air Force Museum of Alberta (AFMA) 2001-2009. Gerry was involved from conceptualization of the AFMA until its official opening on May 7th, 2009 as an integral part of the Military Museums (TMM) of Calgary, Canada's second largest tri-service museum. The AFMA, in a relatively short period, met its objective showcasing military aviation history in Canada with a focus on the contribution made in Alberta by service members from, or stationed, here. Gerry served as chairman of the Air Force Museum Society of Alberta (AFMSA) throughout this period.
2. The Ken and Roma Lett Cold War Exhibit (CWE) 2012-2015. Gerry was involved with early planning until its opening on September 25th, 2015. In an amazingly short two and a half years, the CWE realized its objective to tell Canada's air force cold war story, a national first. As well as being past chairman of AFMSA, Gerry also served as exhibit chairman throughout this period. He remained unrelenting in his dedication despite being hampered by health issues related to a strained back and knee replacement surgery. (An inspiring example of an octogenarian unwilling to let his team down!)
3. Calgary's traditional Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) mess dinner 1997-2000. Annually bringing together serving members, veterans, guest speakers and dignitaries from across Canada to celebrate Canada's air force history. It is held on a date chosen to commemorate the formation of the RCAF on April 1, 1924. Gerry participated in planning the first mess dinner which was held in 1998. However, it was his singular unrelenting dedication to "make it happen" that ensured the dinner's success with close to 250 attendees including over 100 WWII veterans. His commitment was unwavering over the next couple of years and by the third dinner he had embedded a model that is still followed. Gerry continued as chairman of the mess dinner until 2010. The most recent of these highly successful annual events was held on March 25, 2022.

Gerry retired in the Calgary area after serving Canada for 36 years in the regular forces (1955-1985) and the air reserves (1985-1991). He was totally immersed in contributing to the local military aviation-related community.

His volunteer experience allowed him to undertake the above projects with a comprehensive understanding of the local aviation community from the perspectives of the Department of National Defence, current members of the RCAF (both active and reserve), veterans, cadet instructors, members of the RCAF association, individuals working in the museum world (both locally and nationally), and supportive corporate organizations and foundations. Equally important, because of his engaging personality, he brought to the table a wealth of personal contacts in each of these areas.

Each of the three projects benefited immensely from Gerry's total commitment, vision, planning, focus, selfless leadership, guidance, ability to recruit and motivate others to pull together under even the most adverse of conditions, organizational skills, business awareness, fundraising and, in the best traditions of the RCAF, a doggedly effective scrounging acumen.

The legacy of these three projects is best reflected in the awareness and pride they have instilled in Canadian airmen and airwomen both serving and retired.

In May 2021, The Chancellery of Honours determined that Gerry's achievements would be best considered for recognition through the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers and transferred his file from the MSD to the SMV program. This decision was based on the important breadth and scope of his sustained volunteer achievements in many different projects over a number of years since his retirement from the CAF.

In February 22, the SMV advisory committee recommended that Gerry Morrison would be awarded the medal if he accepted to receive the honour. It was based on his volunteer work with the Alberta Air Cadet gliding and flying program; as a director of the Aero Space Museum of Calgary, as chairman of The Air Force Museum Society of Alberta and on the board of The Friends of the Colonel Belcher Veterans Hospital Society.

