



THE ROYAL AVIATION MUSEUM OF WESTERN CANADA
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MISSION

We preserve and promote the stories of aviation in western and northern Canada while educating, entertaining, and inspiring.

VISION

We will be an inspirational, world-class destination that tells the story of bush flying, Canadian aerospace, and aviation.

VALUES

Inclusivity, excellence, honesty, teamwork, respect, empowerment, accountability, collaboration.

The Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada seeks to honour and commemorate the history of Indigenous Peoples and aviation in Western Canada while engaging with the complex history of travel, trade, and relationships in this place. We are committed to facilitating a safe space for reconciliation to occur.

The home of the RAMWC is located on Treaty 1 territory, the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Lakota, and Dene Peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



STEM CON



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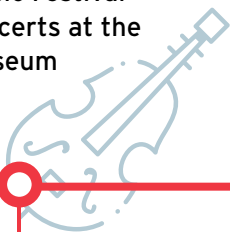
- 33 Special events
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YEAR AT A GLANCE



JANUARY

- Winnipeg New Music Festival concerts at the museum



MARCH

- Spring break 'Passport to fun' programming



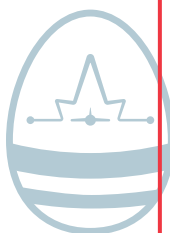
MAY

- F86 Sabre arrives/ disassembly starts
- May the Fourth: science fiction event
- 1st anniversary at Wellington!
- Trans Canada Brewery & RAMWC beer launch: The Ghost of Charron Lake pale ale



FEBRUARY

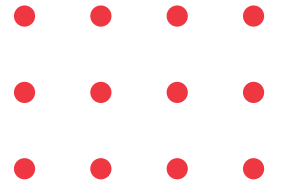
- National Aviation Day event and photo contest



APRIL

- Easter egg hunt
- Winnipeg School Division x RAMWC 'Discovery Days'
- RAMWC aviation conference





JULY

- Visiting aircraft: Chrono Aviation 737-800 cargo plane
- Bristol Freighter arrives



SEPTEMBER

- New STEM programs launch
- Visiting aircraft: Fairchild Cornell and de Havilland Tiger Moth (courtesy of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum)



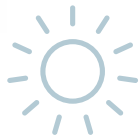
NOVEMBER

- Mini 500 helicopter donated to museum
- Extra 330SC arrives for display over winter
- Sabre campaign launch



JUNE

- Pedal plane launch
- 2nd annual Wings & Wheels Father's Day event

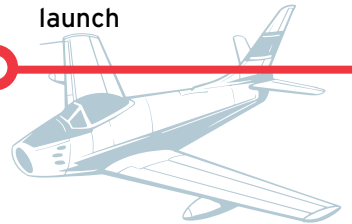


AUGUST

- Visiting aircraft: 802F Air Tractor (Aviation & Ag event)

OCTOBER

- Visiting aircraft: Babcock Water Bomber (CL-215)
- Inaugural Preservation Ball
- Halloween with Hobbs family event



AERIAL VIEW



COLLECTIONS

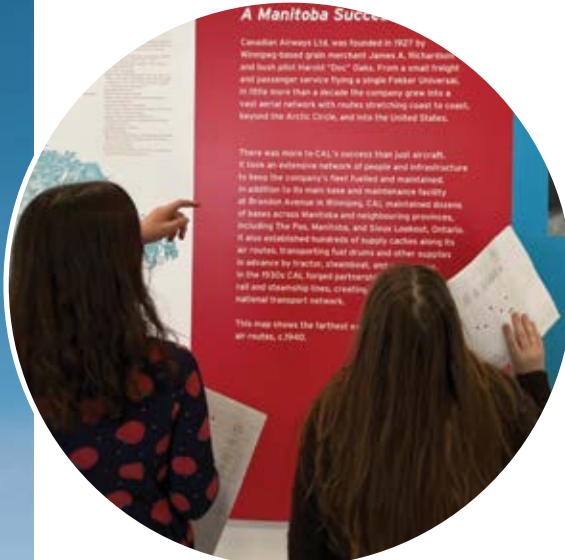
1 NEW AIRCRAFT
(MINI 500)

2 RESTORATIONS
COMPLETED
(WIND TEE &
MERLIN ENGINE)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

634
ANNUAL PASS HOLDERS

63,851
TICKETS SOLD



EDUCATION

8,790 STUDENTS

160 SCHOOLS





EVENTS

108 EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

8,464 EVENT ATTENDEES



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

58 MEDIA HITS

22% SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE GROWTH

2,925,507 SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

1,227 NEW EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

171,581 WEBSITE SESSIONS



VOLUNTEERS

18,000 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

157 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

65 NEW VOLUNTEERS



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

As I look back on our first full year of operations, there are a few key milestones that stand out.

Early in the year, we wrapped up our *Climb Aboard! Capital Campaign*. The seeds for this campaign were planted in 2012 when our board embarked on a bold journey to build a new, state-of-the-art museum on the Richardson International Airport campus.

Thanks to the dedication of our campaign co-chairs Blain King and Ross Robinson, our cabinet, honorary co-chairs Hartley Richardson and Dr. Arthur V. Mauro, and the overwhelming generosity of our community, we reached our ambitious \$48m goal.

It was a winning year for us in another way as the museum was honoured with several awards in 2023. In May, the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce named us Business of the Year at their Business Excellence Awards. We also received this recognition at the Manitoba Tourism Awards in October.

That same month, we were recognized as the Outstanding Science Organization of 2023 by the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba.

It wasn't just our industry partners who took note. In August, Trip Advisor notified us that we were a 2023 Traveller's Choice Winner, putting us in the top 10% of attractions worldwide!

Our new building received some accolades when KGS Group received the Award of Excellence for building engineering and the Keystone Award at the 2023 Association of Consulting Engineering Companies (ACEC-MB) Awards.

I'm also proud of the significant strides we made with regards to our STEM programming this past year.

Our province is facing a skills shortage in the aviation and aerospace sectors which we're addressing with our established STEM programming, designed to inspire and educate the next generation. However, access to these programs can be a challenge for many schools due to location and underfunding.

Manitoba has the highest child poverty rate in Canada and many students cannot afford the programming we offer. Thankfully, through the generosity of donors, we didn't have to turn any students away in 2023.

To further increase access, this year we launched virtual school programming. This allowed us to reach underserved schools in remote northern communities who would never be able to visit the museum in person, giving even more students the chance to explore and dream of careers in aviation and aerospace.

It was a rewarding and eventful year, but of course, none of this would have been possible without our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

As we head into our 50th year, we know we would not be where we are without our volunteers, now numbering over 150. Their vision, dedication, endless talents and tireless efforts have been key to our growth and success and will be integral as we move into the future.

Speaking of our 50th anniversary, you won't want to miss what we have planned in 2024.

We have four exciting visiting aircraft events already planned that include an Avro Lancaster and a P51 Mustang. Later in the year, we'll be opening a Snoopy and the Red Baron exhibit in our Hastings Family temporary gallery.

In closing, my deepest gratitude goes out to our board of directors, volunteers, staff, donors, partners, and visitors for their continued support as we seek to reach new heights.

Terry Slobodian
President & CEO



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada continues its journey to inspire, educate, and entertain our community and the many visitors who come to our beautiful province. Founded in our mission statement, inspiring the next generation of aviation enthusiasts not only secures the future of the RAMWC, but is purposefully intended to create interest in the aviation sector and careers in aviation for many years to come.

Our focus on early education programs is in coordination with school boards across Manitoba, and last year included over 160 schools, inspiring and educating over 8,790 students. The RAMWC has focused access to these educational programs on remote and under-privileged schools, reflecting our commitment to reconciliation and to all the communities we serve.

The RAMWC is doing all of this while providing an entertaining venue for visitors of all ages. The museum is a favoured location for all types of events, from weddings and galas to business meetings and conventions. The RAMWC hosted over 108 events in the past year and is quickly becoming a top destination for event planners.

The RAMWC continues to evolve from a group of aviation enthusiasts and collectors to a team of educators, entertainers and innovative leaders that are inspiring our community to become part of Western Canada's and Manitoba's rich aviation industry.

Key to our ability to deliver on our mission to inspire, educate and entertain, are our many volunteers, who have committed over 18,000 hours to the RAMWC this past year. Volunteers help keep the collection in tip-top shape. They tour our many visitors through the museum, educating and inspiring them with stories of bravery, dedication, patriotism and fortitude that helped open up northern

Canada, defend it in times of conflict, and develop it through industrial innovation. Our volunteers help curate our collection of artefacts and archives. They assist in hosting events and work at our reception desk and gift shop. We simply would not exist without their tireless dedication. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our sincere thanks to the over 150 volunteers that make our museum possible.

The Board of Directors has continued to evolve alongside the RAMWC. New Directors have joined the Board from the sectors of education, arts, and business, and those new Directors also reflect a more diverse cultural representation. These new Board members more closely reflect the diversity of our community. This new diverse team helps set the strategic direction of the museum, ensures the wellbeing and safety of museum visitors, and of our many valued volunteers and staff.

Finally, the Board of Directors would like to thank the many donors who contribute to the museum on a regular basis. While we are thrilled with the number of visitors the museum hosts, the revenues do not cover all of the costs of our programming. The RAMWC would simply not be possible without the generosity of our community who see the value of educating and inspiring those many visitors with the very best programming possible.

Sincerely,

Ron Jonkman
Chair, Board of Directors



OUR ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair

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First Vice-Chair

Barry Bembridge,
Second Vice-Chair

John Davidson,
Third Vice-Chair

Kacie Olbrecht,
Treasurer

Andrew Stewart,
Secretary

Gary Bell,
Board Member

Marti Ford,
Board Member

Patti Gair,
Board Member

Peggy May,
Board Member

Bill Medd,
Board Member

Major Gillian Monteiro

James Neirinck,
Board Member

BOARD COMMITTEES

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John Davidson

Patti Gair

James Neirinck

Terry Slobodian, *Ex Officio*

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John Davidson

Patti Gair

Ron Jonkman

Bill Mead

Terry Slobodian, *Ex Officio*

Dennis Deng, *Ex Officio*

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Marti Ford

Bill Medd

Kacie Olbrecht

Terry Slobodian, *Ex Officio*

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Ron Jonkman

Rennie Zegalski

Bill Mead

James Neirinck

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COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Peggy May

Gillian Monteiro

Marsh Pettitt

Gerry Norberg

Keith Olson

Terry Slobodian

Joel Nelson

OUR TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Dennis Deng,
Executive Vice President

Vanessa Desorcy,
Marketing Specialist

Candace Kostna,
Museum Educator

James Mitchell,
*Graphic Designer, Illustrator
& Branding Specialist*

Marc Neufeld,
Museum Educator

Ana Ritchot,
*Visitor Experience
& Giftshop Manager*

Terry Slobodian,
President and CEO

Leslie Stewart,
Volunteer & HR Coordinator

Kristen Trenchard,
Museum Educator

Brianne Vielfaure,
Education Administrator

Adam Waud, *Facility Rentals
& Events Specialist*

VISITOR EXPERIENCE TEAM

Brandon Dreger

Charlene Gajudo

Dechen Gensapa

Michelle Kannwischer,
VE Team Lead

Eriq Lambert

Jennifer Maclino

Tallia Penner,
VE Supervisor

Rosemary Young

EVENT STAFF

Daria Bezzoubov

Angelo Castillo

Bobbie-Kaye Makoski

Davis Waud

Emma Waud

VOLUNTEERS

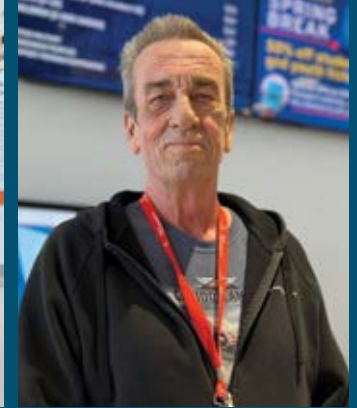
Abdallah AbdelAziz
Wayne Adams
Robert Arnold
Dave Atkinson
Hedley Auld
Jonathan Barrett
Mark Bingham
Les Bloomfield
Wayne Borodenko
Gilbert Borsa
Katherine Braun
Bill Brereton
Don Buie
Keith Burrows
Chase Crockett
Gordon Crossley
Don Currie
Sam Daylami
Willy De Hoog-Bramwell
Jack Decorby
John DeLuca
Mark Dewart
Ramneet Kaur Dhillon
Alyssa Ding
Tatjana Draskovic
Rick Duerksen
Kelly Duke
Gerry Dupasquier
Colette Durand
Carol Eliasson
Dave Emberley
Gord Emberley
Sasha Emric
Pat English
Henry Enns
Hedie Epp
Jim Fedorowich
Bob Frey

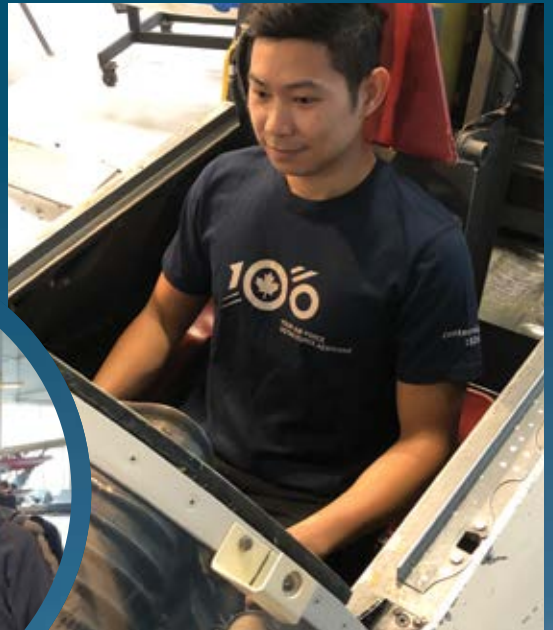
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Dennis Giguere
Robert Giguere
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Don Grimsley
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Eric Gyselman
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Bev Harbour
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Hayato Hirota
Werner Hohler
Harold Homuth
Gary Hook
Michelle Isaac
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Donna Schulz
Anass Sebbahi
Daniel Serwyn Esteves
Simon Shapiro
Safna Sharafudeen
Norman Shaw
Steven Sigurdson
Wanda Slobodian
Laura Smith
Garry Specht
Lynda Specht
Leigh Stephensen
Hunter Stephenson
Chris Stevens
Keith Stone
Gerry Suski
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Dennis Wright
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Youyi Zhou
Bill Zuk

WE OUR VOLUNTEERS!







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Richardson Foundation

\$1 MILLION+

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The North West Company

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\$500,000-\$999,999

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from his family

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Tom and Moya Lindstrom
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Winnipeg Flying Club

STEM EDUCATION DONORS

\$50,000+

*Anonymous Donor
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Tannis Richardson

\$10,000+

Blain King
Charlie Spiring
Cori D. Simms
Steve Kroft
The Paterson Foundation

\$1,000+

Carl Eisbrenner
Dean Alfonso
The Gail Asper Family Foundation
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Wyatt Family

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Alex Gomez
Assiniboine Credit Union
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John Alexander
Sherrett Insurance
Winnifred Steinkopf Hall

\$250+

Ashley Leibl
(Reliable Tire Recycling)

MONTHLY

Scott Wiens
Stewart Heaton
Violeta Avalos



PRESERVATION BALL

THE 2023 PRESERVATION BALL

The days and hours leading up to our inaugural Preservation Ball were a flurry of vendors, volunteers, and event staff, all beautifully choreographed by our planning and décor committees. Crews worked tirelessly for 24 straight hours to transform our museum into a glamorous, 1920s-themed gala space.

For many years, the museum's annual fundraising event went by the name 'The Out of the Blue Gala'. This signature event was originally spearheaded by Tannis Richardson and was always a highlight of Winnipeg's social calendar. Ms. Richardson served as this year's Honorary

Patron in recognition of her many years of dedication to, and passion for, the museum.

With the opening of our new building, we felt it was a good time to rebrand the fundraiser. We came up with 'Preservation Ball' to align with our mission to preserve and protect Canada's rich aviation history.

The evening was a huge success, netting more than \$325,000 for our award-winning STEM education department!

This year's featured preservation project was Fokker Universal G-CAJD, The Ghost of Charron Lake, flown by James Armstrong Richardson's Western Canada

Airways. During the evening's program, guests were treated to a video interview with Tannis Richardson, hosted by Peter Mansbridge. In it, Ms. Richardson recalled the extensive, decades-long search for The Ghost and the excitement of finally discovering it in 2005.

Guests also enjoyed delicious cuisine, bid on an array of exciting prizes in our silent and live auctions, and later, danced the night away.

We're so grateful to everyone who made the event a success including our sponsors, guests, and volunteers.

Our 2024 Preservation Ball will take place on November 9.



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Carl Eisbrenner, Susan Eisbrenner, Natalie Richardson, Thor Richardson, Heather Richardson, Dean Alfonso FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pat Madden, Tannis Richardson, Hartley Richardson.



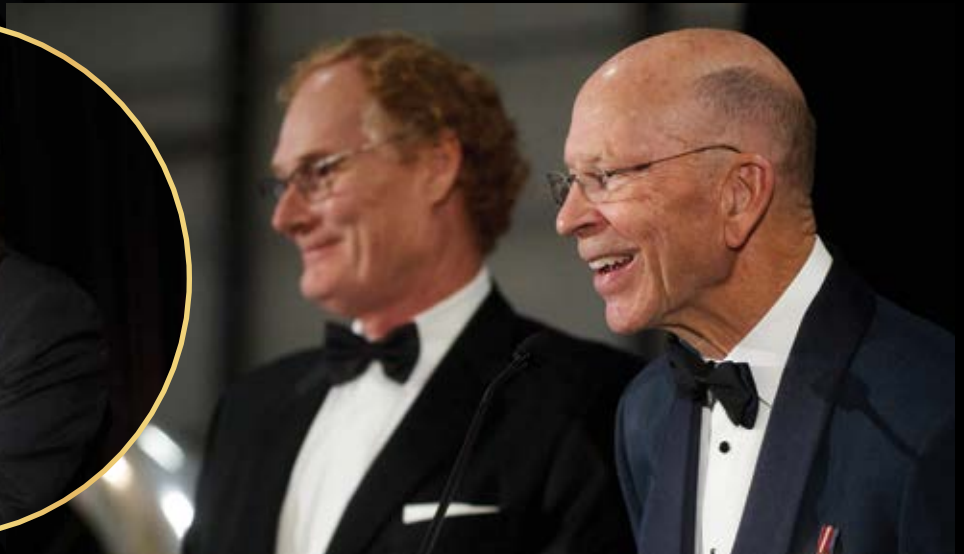
Some of our guests even dressed to match the nights' theme!



The 1920s theme was executed to perfection thanks to the keen eye of designer Wanda Slobodian



Mayor Scott Gillingham



Blain King, Ross Robinson
(Gala Co-Chairs)



SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: Amara Amath, Andrew Stewart, Marla Gillingham, Scott Gillingham, Terry Slobodian (CEO), Wanda Slobodian (Chair, Planning Committee).
STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Williams, Heather Williams, John Sauder (Emcee), Kim Sauder



LEFT TO RIGHT: Brad Miles, Nannette Miles, Martin Willett, Debbie Willett, Ryan Mayberry, Elise Mayberry, Kriss Major, Ron Jonkman (Board Chair)



Ron Paley and the Big City All Star Band



Preservation Ball Staff and Volunteers

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor:

James Richardson & Sons, Ltd

Grand Prize Sponsor:

Air Canada

Technology Sponsor:

Raymond & Lynne-Anne McFeetors

Entertainment Sponsor:

Ross & Alanna Robinson

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OPENLANE

Signature Cocktail Sponsor:

Calm Air

Wine Sponsor:

Liquor Mart

Art Keepsake Sponsor:

PCL Construction

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Northern Lights Petroleum

Silent Auction Sponsor:

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StaffMax Staffing & Recruiting

Stone HR Strategies

SABRE

SQUADRON

The summer of 2024 marks the centennial of the RCAF and the 50th anniversary of the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. To commemorate these momentous occasions, our restoration volunteers are hard at work restoring our Canadair F-86 Sabre Mk. 6.

To engage grassroots donors and build excitement around the campaign, in late 2023 we launched our first aircraft restoration campaign: Join the Sabre Squadron.



Potential donors are invited to “join the squad” and be part of aviation history. Donations over \$50 include a custom Sabre Squadron iron-on patch while larger donations are eligible for tours of our restoration facility and VIP invites to the unveiling of the completed Sabre.

WHY THE F-86 SABRE?

This aircraft launched Canada into the jet age. Built under license from North American, the Canadair Mk. 6 was the only Sabre variant made entirely in Canada.

Rendering of the F86 Sabre with new livery



The Mk. 6 had a two-stage, Canadian-made Orenda 14 engine with a 7,275 lb thrust rating—nearly 40% more than the original GE engine—and its wing leading slats gave it superb combat manoeuvring. With this combination of engine and aerodynamics, the Mk. 6 was widely regarded as the best “dog-fighter” of its era.

Sabre aircraft were a mainstay of the RCAF and NATO forces during the early years of the Cold War. They were also flown by air forces around the world and during the 50s and early 60s were considered the top fighter jets in the world.

In 1959, the Golden Hawks aerobatic team was formed to mark the 35th anniversary of the RCAF and the 50th anniversary of flight in Canada. The Golden Hawks used Sabres painted in an eye-catching gold and yellow colour scheme and put on an electrifying show for spectators.

This particular aircraft, #1815, was the last Sabre ever produced by Canadair.

In homage to the Sabres flown by the RCAF, it will be painted with the livery of No. 441 Squadron once restoration is complete.



Sabre Squadron donors enjoy a tour led by head of restoration, Marsh Pettitt

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO JOINED THE SABRE SQUADRON IN 2023

\$5,000 - \$9,999

William Pratt

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Bob Williams

Raymond McFeetors

\$500 - \$999

Farrell Krahn

George Hamilton Shand

Gordon Crossley

John Ross

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Christopher Evetts

Cliff Friesen

Daniel Verreault

David Christianson

David Hardin

Dennis Chyborak

Douglas Bowen

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James Palmer

Joel Will

John Childs

John Teillet

John Burgess

Kathleen Anderson

Kevin Harder

Lois Mauthe

Marie-Alice Grassick

Mark Dewart

Melissa Raynard

Michael Basford

Noah Jeffers

Ostap Hawaleshka

Patricia Osadchuk

Paul Laporte

Paul Human

Randy Hull

Rick Driskell

Stephen Dudar

EDUCATE



NEW STEM PROGRAMS

In September 2023, we added three new STEM-focused courses to our *Explore Flight* and *Take Flight!* educational programs: Hoops & Gliders, Orion Touchdown and Rocketry - Fins & Distance.

The Hoops & Gliders course introduces students to basic flight dynamics and provides the opportunity to design and test their own hoop glider.

The Orion Touchdown course encourages students to explore how the Orion capsule will protect the Artemis 2 astronaut crew in returning to Earth. In engineering teams, students design, construct and test their own model capsule using scientific inquiry and the design process.

In the Rocketry - Fins and Distance course, students explore the evolution of rocket design and how fins play a role in how rockets fly. Using the design process, student engineering teams design, construct and test a rocket to learn how drag affects acceleration and distance.

Each of these new courses have connections to the Manitoba Science curriculum outcomes being taught at school. The hands-on activity provides students with the opportunity to learn through scientific inquiry and the design process as an engineering team.

It is exciting to see how the students get engaged and inspired by their learning!



STEM WINS BIG

RAMWC received news in early October our educators had been awarded the Outstanding Science Organization of 2023 award by the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba. On Friday, October 21, our educators attended a ceremony at Garden City Collegiate to accept the award from STAM President John Wren.

Our curriculum-based STEM programs have been hugely popular since launching in September of 2022. These programs explore aviation and aerospace themes such as flight dynamics, engineering principles, alternative fuels, space travel, and more.

A key element of all the education programs at the RAMWC is the engaging of underrepresented groups, in particular Indigenous students and female students who have not traditionally had exposure to the aviation



Kristin Trenchard and Candace Kostna (RAMWC Educators), Maria Nickel (STEM-program developer), and Joel Ramos (RAMWC Educator) accept the Outstanding Science Organization Award from STAM President John Wren.



industry and related careers. The ability to be in a safe space learning new concepts and ideas can genuinely help these students to see a new pathway to a career.

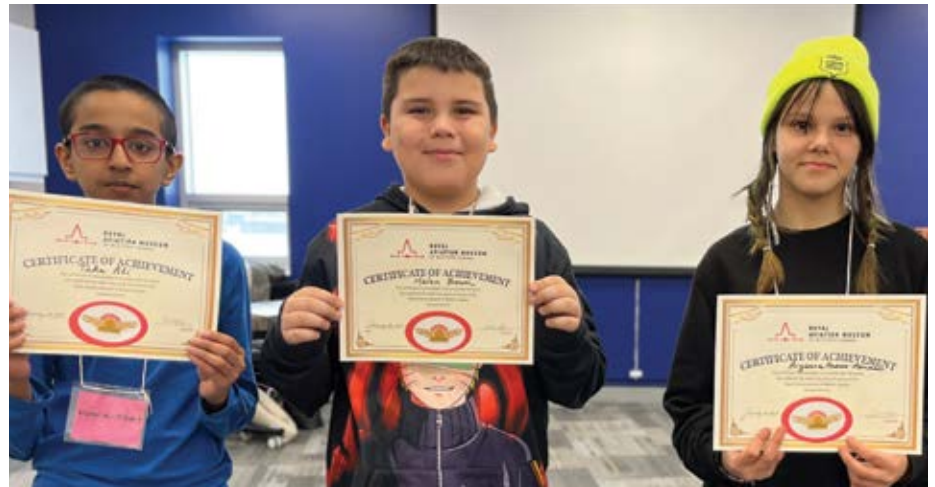
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

In November of 2022, the Canadian Council for Aviation & Aerospace (CCAA) estimated their sector will need an additional 58,000 workers “in key skilled occupations” by 2028.

Luckily, our new museum puts us in a position to address this problem. Our interactive exhibits, two dedicated classrooms, and established programming are ideal for inspiring the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals.

In 2023, we joined forces with a number of partners on initiatives targeted at engaging students in aviation-related careers.

In January, the Winnipeg School Division (WSD) held a series of immersive, one-week “camps” at our museum. In addition to the lessons each teacher had prepared that incorporated various aspects of the museum, our educators did a number of STEM-based lessons with the classes.



WSD students display their STEM camp certificates

A few weeks later, Frontier School Division held their annual science fair at our museum!

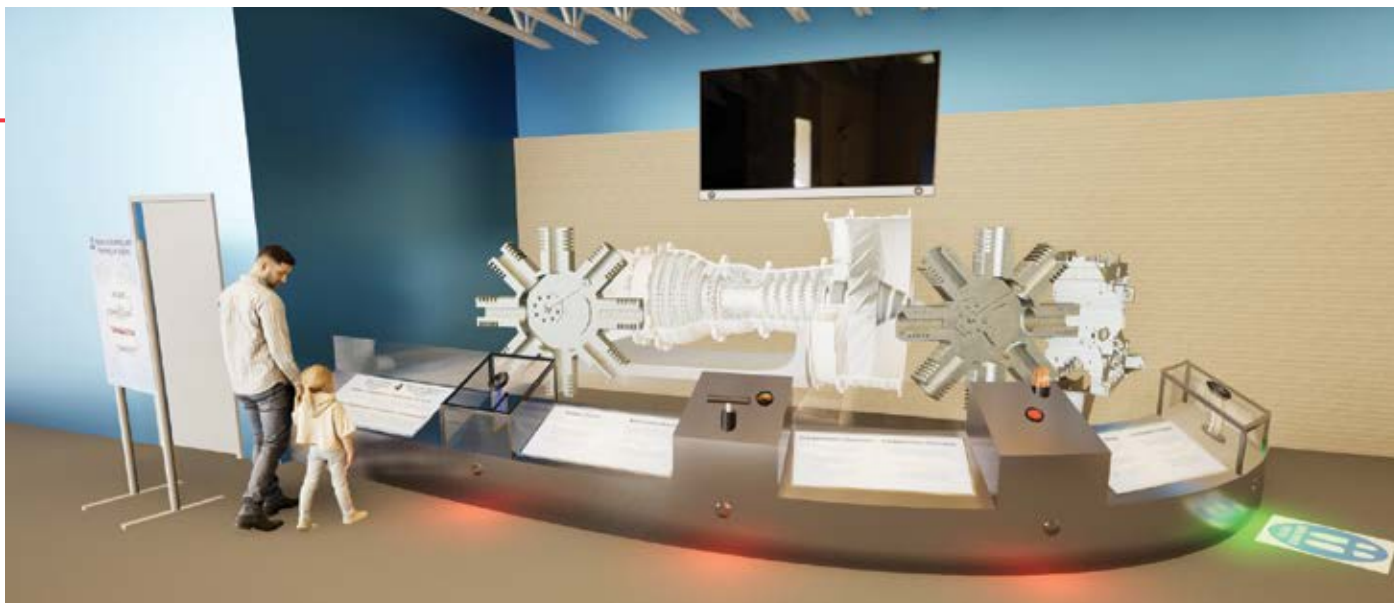
100 students from grades four through 12, representing 17 different schools in the division, presented a total of 70 different projects.

Projects covered topics such as Indigenous culture, health and wellness, technology, accessibility, green initiatives and STEM topics.

In April, we again partnered with WSD to promote career pathways in aviation and aerospace to students.



Frontier School Division science fair

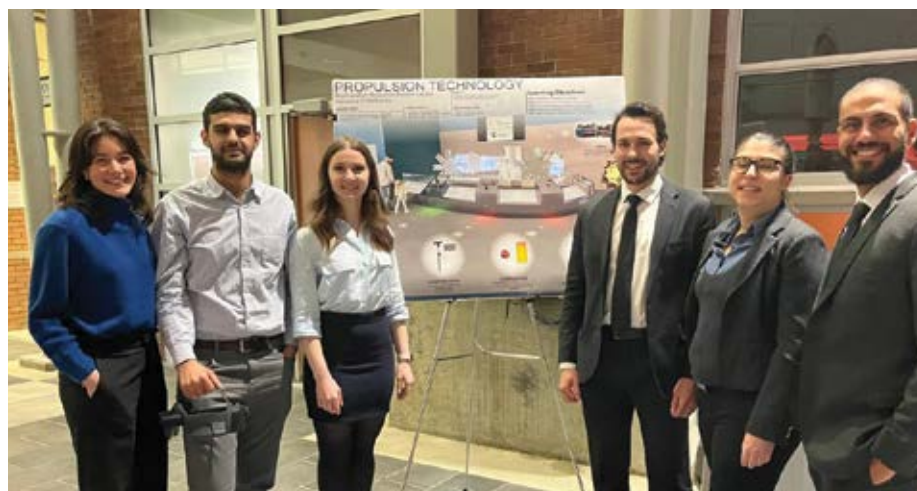


Rendering of new propulsion exhibit designed by UM mechanical engineering students

For two days, high school students from across the division had the opportunity to attend workshops and engage with industry professionals through hands-on STEM activities and demonstrations.

The event also featured inspiring guest speakers. Luke Penner, Canada's top-ranked aerobatic pilot shared his story and Kimberly Ballantyne spoke of her 20-year journey to becoming the first female Indigenous pilot from Opaskwayak Cree Nation.

While all this was happening, there were a couple other exciting projects brewing behind the scenes.



Propulsion exhibit design team

RAMWC President and CEO, Terry Slobodian, along with a team of volunteer advisors, was working with the University of Manitoba's IDEA program to develop a new, hands-on exhibit for the museum.

The UM Innovative Design for Engineering Applications (UMIDEA) program is an initiative to involve the local engineering industry with the education and training of engineering students. Program participants work collaboratively with local organizations to develop capstone design projects for UM engineering students to complete during their final year.

Five engineering students and one architecture student were assigned to create an engaging and informative experience for the museum to align with the Manitoba Grade 6 science



MITT wind tunnel in development

curriculum and the RAMWC educational programs. The students settled on a propulsion exhibit featuring four interactive stations representing the stages of a combustion engine cycle: intake, compression, combustion, and exhaust.

The final plans and design were unveiled in December of 2023. Production and installation will take place in 2024.

Another partnership highlight in 2023 was our collaboration with Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT). This project centred around the development of an interactive wind tunnel that will teach students about dynamic pressure and airflow. Installation is scheduled for early 2024.

INSPIRE



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

ARTEFACTS

Rolls-Royce Merlin Engine

The Rolls-Royce Merlin is one of the most famous aero engines in history. It powered many WWII aircraft including the Hawker Hurricane, Supermarine Spitfire, North American P-51 Mustang, and Avro Lancaster.

This artefact was acquired from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, Ontario.

WWII G-suit

G-suits were designed to prevent pilots from blacking out during extreme maneuvers. This was one of the earliest suits, designed by Dr. Wilbur Franks, and used water-filled bladders to compress the lower body and force blood up to the brain. Modern suits are much lighter, using air-inflated bladders.

This G-suit is on longterm loan from the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame.

Tundra Tire

Bush planes often take off and land on rocky or sandy runways and this type of terrain necessitates a special tire. In 1958, "Weldy" Phipps of Spartan Air Services in Ottawa designed an oversized, low-pressure, "balloon" tire able to roll over boulders and boggy ground. This invention allowed pilots to reach previously inaccessible areas.

Wind Tee

This wind indicator was built in 1941 and used at the Second World War British Commonwealth Air Training Plan station in Dauphin, Manitoba until 1944 when the RCAF abandoned the base.

Our restoration team spent the spring and summer of 2023 repairing, repainting, and rewiring this wind tee for display. It now has a permanent home at our museum.



Fun fact: the social media post we made when the wind tee arrived at our museum after restoration is one of our most popular posts ever!

AIRCRAFT

Bristol Freighter

The 170 Mk 31 Freighter was designed and built in England in the mid-1940s as a military transport. The first flight of the prototype took place on December 2, 1945. Bristol built 214 and supplied them to the Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Royal New Zealand Air Force, as well as various civil operators throughout the world.

Our Bristol, CF-WAE, was built in 1955 for the RCAF. It carried F-86 Sabre fighter jets and helicopters from bases in France and Germany to overhead facilities in the U.K.

It was purchased in 1967 by Wardair to carry freight around northern Canada, mainly to the DEW Line of radar stations and sold to Saskatchewan-based Norcanair where it operated until 1983. Norcanair then flew it to Winnipeg and donated it to the museum.

The Bristol Freighter went into storage when our museum on Ferry Road closed in 2018. This past summer, it was towed into Aviation Plaza and will undergo restoration after our F-86 Sabre project is completed.



Mini 500

The Mini 500 was designed as a light helicopter that resembles a scaled-down Hughes 500, powered by a two-stroke engine. C-GEBJ was used as Canadian demonstrator for Revolutions Helicopters up until the fall of 2000, performed in the Winnipeg Airshow until 2004, and was involved with aerial photography from 2000 to 2006.

Built in the 1990s, this latest addition to the museum's collection highlights how far homebuilt helicopters have come since the Froebe helicopter in 1937. This aircraft has a permanent home in our Science of Flight zone and will be used as a teaching tool.

The Mini 500 was donated to the museum by Derek Wrigley of Kleefeld, Manitoba.

THE RAMWC AVIATION CONFERENCE

April 14-15, 2023

In April, we hosted our first aviation conference featuring speakers from around the world.

The theme was centred around the development of aviation in Canada after the First World War, between 1918 and 1924.

This period was key to the development of civil, commercial, and military aviation in Canada. Speakers presented on topics such as early aerial photography, the birth of the RCAF, and the genesis of the Curtiss HS-2L flying boat.

We also celebrated a key figure in Canada's aviation history, Basil Deacon Hobbs.

Hobbs served as a naval pilot in WWI, was decorated three times, then became Manitoba's first commander of the Canadian Air Force in 1923 and of the RCAF upon its formation in 1924. He also made great contributions to Canadian aviation during peacetime, including the first long-range flying operations across Canada and in northern Manitoba.

As it was the 100th anniversary of flights made by Hobbs in a Curtiss H-16 flying boat, we were pleased to welcome a significant new artefact into our collection.

In 2020, Winnipegger Stan Michalak began building an intricate scale model of the Curtiss H-16, the first and only aircraft of this type registered and flown in Canada. On the eve of our conference, we held a reception at the museum to unveil the model. Along with speakers and conference attendees, members of Basil Hobbs' family were in attendance.

The model is the first artefact in our Heroes Collection, a collection designed to showcase some of Canada's aviation pioneers and heroes.

The two-day conference was an inspiring reminder that while it's exciting to look toward the future of aviation, we also need to remember the heroes and innovators who blazed the trail for us.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Hedley Auld and John Orr for their extensive efforts in putting together the conference program and lining up speakers, and to our conference sponsors and partners.



SPONSORS

opening reception sponsor



print sponsor



Hotel partners



JUST PLANE FUN

The newest additions to our fleet are permanently grounded—and we couldn't be happier.

In the summer of 2023, we welcomed a set of custom ride-on pedal and push planes to our Aviation Plaza thanks to Dave Mork and Shawn Romas, two of our talented volunteers. Together, they've built nearly 20 ride-on planes for our young visitors.

Dave has volunteered with RAMWC for more than 40 years. For the past 20, he's been part of our photo archive team. To date, this team has digitized and catalogued 40,000 of the photos in our collection. Dave's expertise is identifying people and planes from black and white photos donated to our collection.

Growing up in the remote community of Red Lake in Northern Ontario, Dave learned to be resourceful and has always kept busy with projects. Inspired by the bush planes of his youth, he earned his private pilot's license at age 48 and flew for 20 years.

Dave also supports our museum by building wooden ride-on planes, perfect for children aged two through four. These push planes are designed after the Starfighter, Mustang, Tutor, F-18, and the Space Shuttle.



Shawn, a CPR trained sheet metal fabricator has been putting his skills to good use since retiring. Over the course of a year, he contributed 1,000 hours building the fleet of ten pedal planes from wood and metal.

The yellow pedal planes, ideal for pilots under three feet tall, are impressive miniatures of the RCAF Tiger Moth suspended at the entrance of our museum. You really have to see these planes up close to appreciate Shawn's attention to detail. He even went so far as to create a call sign for each plane in honour of RAMWC volunteers who have passed away:

CF-GEB: Gary E. Boggs

CF-THB: Thomas H. Baldwin

CF-BBJ: Bert B. Jolly

CF-REK: Roy E. (Ed) Kubar

CF-WWK: Wilfred W. Keith

CF-BMC: Bob McCreedy

CF-ALN: Alan L. Nelson

CF-RDM: Robert (Bob) D. Moore

CF-JZL: Heinz Lampe

CF-AFM: Antonio (Tony) F. Morien

These planes provide countless hours of fun for our young visitors and we greatly appreciate the time and passion Dave and Shawn invested in this project. Thank you, too, to our ground crew of staff and volunteers who managed and oversaw the program all summer long.

Lastly, our heartfelt thanks also extend to the Carolyn Sifton Foundation for allowing us to create a safe and inviting space in Aviation Plaza where kids can use these planes.





RESTORATION OF THE CANADAIR F-86 SABRE

On May 3, 2023, our Canadair F-86 Sabre arrived in Aviation Plaza after being stored by our partners at Keewatin Air since 2018.

To safely transport it to our restoration facility, volunteers decided to partially disassemble the aircraft. As work got underway, word spread among the aviation enthusiasts in Winnipeg and within a few hours, spectators showed up to watch as things progressed.

Over the next couple of weeks, restoration volunteers removed the aircraft's

wings and stabilizers and detached the fuselage from the tail. Finally, it was ready to be loaded onto a trailer and hauled over to the warehouse.

Once there, the team did an assessment and quickly realized the task ahead of them would be a daunting one.

Previous owners had employed some very unconventional techniques for maintaining the aircraft including extensive use of Bondo, an automotive repair compound. Volunteers found this substance had been used

to secure fasteners in place, making it extremely hard to remove panels that needed to be repaired. There was also extensive corrosion on the airframe, requiring sections to be cut out and replaced.

Head of restoration, Marsh Pettitt, has been overheard several times stating, "This aircraft is putting up a fight."

Thankfully, he and his team have the skills and patience to restore this aircraft to its former glory. We're grateful to them and can't wait to see the results of their hard work.

Members of our restoration team pose in front of the Sabre's fuselage





Volunteer Matt Halpin scrubs away dirt and debris from the Sabre's cockpit



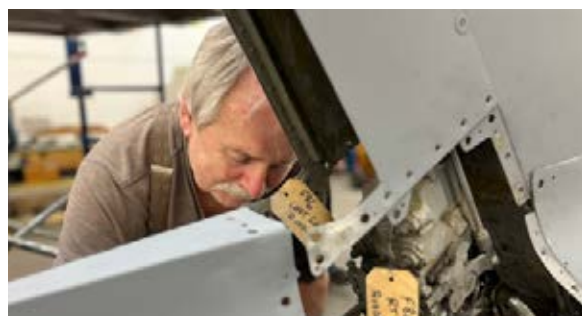
Gene Manchur and Sanni Lapitan affix a replacement section to the aircraft's tail



ABOVE: Eric Groth and Steve Pajot work on one of the Sabre's wings



INSET: Roger Whitaker, Al Mulholland and Gerry Norberg work to remove the horizontal stabilizer from the aircraft



Henry Enns takes measurements to fabricate a new piece for the Sabre



Gerry Norberg works on removing the Sabre's right wing



FUN FACT: The Sabre was the RCAF's last fighter armed with guns alone. Shown here; an F-86 Sabre has its guns harmonized at RCAF Station Uplands in 1953, ensuring that all six machine-guns are aimed properly

ENTERTAIN



SPECIAL EVENTS

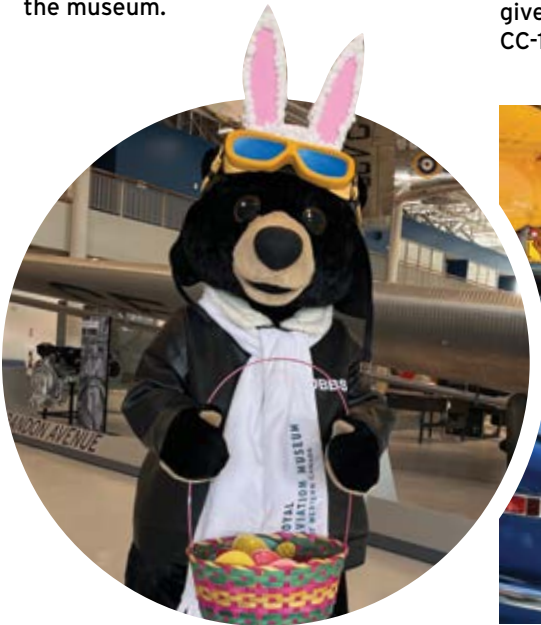
OPEN COCKPIT DAY

On February 26, we hosted an Open Cockpit Day at the museum. Visitors were thrilled to have access to our Vickers Viscount and Lockheed Electra.



EASTER

The Easter egg hunt was always a popular event at our Ferry Road museum and in 2023, we held our first one at 2088 Wellington. Children had the chance to decorate a basket before heading down to the hangar floor to hunt for egg tokens which they could redeem for chocolate and prizes. Winnipeegers must have missed the event because over the course of four time slots throughout the day, more than 1,300 tickets visitors went through the museum.



MAY 4

May 4th at the Royal Aviation Museum was out of this world! We hosted our first Star Wars-themed event featuring light saber demonstrations, a science fiction-themed tour and cosplayers from local enthusiast groups.

1ST ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the first anniversary in our new building, we held a fun public event on May 20. Our friends at Trans Canada Brewing even brewed us a signature beer named after our Fokker Universal, The Ghost, to mark the occasion. We also had food trucks, giveaways, and we opened up our CC-115 Buffalo for visitors to tour.

WINGS & WHEELS

For the second year in a row, we held a Wings & Wheels event for Father's Day. The wheels were supplied by the British Car Club of Manitoba who showed up with about 50 vehicles. This popular event saw nearly 1,000 visitors over the course of the day.

HALLOWEEN WITH HOBBS

Trick-or-treating, activity stations, and a costume contest brought 700 visitors to our museum on October 29 for our annual Halloween event. Thanks to our event sponsor, Birdsall Wealth Management, we were able to provide some great treats and prizes to attendees.





VISITING AIRCRAFT

Next to our family-friendly events like Easter, Halloween, and Father's Day, our visiting aircraft days are the most popular. In 2023, we were fortunate to welcome a number of visiting aircraft.

July: It was a tight squeeze, but we managed to fit a Boeing 737-800, courtesy of Chrono Aviation, into our Plaza for a couple days in July.

August: On August 12, we partnered with Rivers Air Spray to host their 802F Air Tractor. Pilot John, alongside his daughters who serve as his ground crew, spoke to visitors about the impact of aviation on agriculture and answered questions about the aircraft.

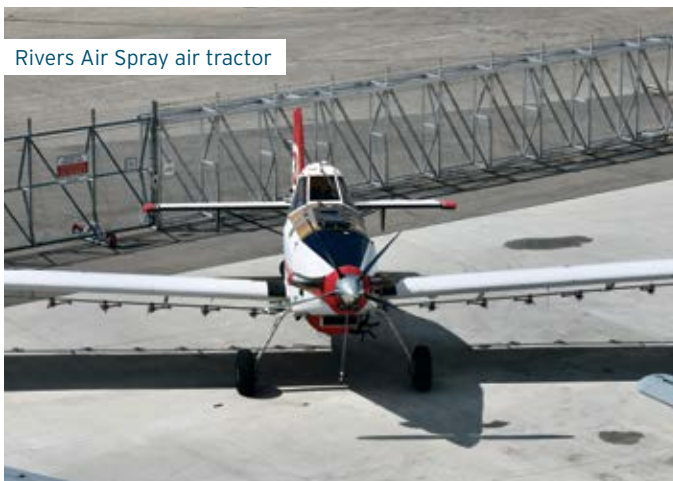


Chrono Aviation 737

September: To celebrate the Battle of Britain, our friends from the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum in Brandon flew in two of their aircraft—a DHC Tiger Moth and Fairchild Cornell—on September 17. Visitors were able to chat with the pilots and take a peek inside the cockpits!

October: Before storing it for the winter, Babcock Canada brought over one of their CL-215 water bombers. The aircraft was parked in our Aviation Plaza for a few days, but on October 7, engineers from Babcock joined us for the day and allowed visitors to tour the inside of the plane.

Rivers Air Spray air tractor



Air tractor pilot John Lepp with daughters Cassandra and Stefanie

The CATPM's Tiger Moth



Visitors speak with the CATPM's Fairchild Cornell pilot



CATPM President John McNarry speaks to visitors about the Tiger Moth



Inside the water bomber!



Babcock's CL-215 water bomber

PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT

Our first event of the year took place on National Aviation Day, February 23. We re-opened after hours for a photography event and nearly 100 keen photographers showed up. Special lighting effects allowed visitors to capture our aircraft in a whole new light. After the event, attendees were invited to enter our photo contest and we received a lot of great entries. Top prize went to Nik Rave for his stunning portrait of our CF-104 Starfighter.

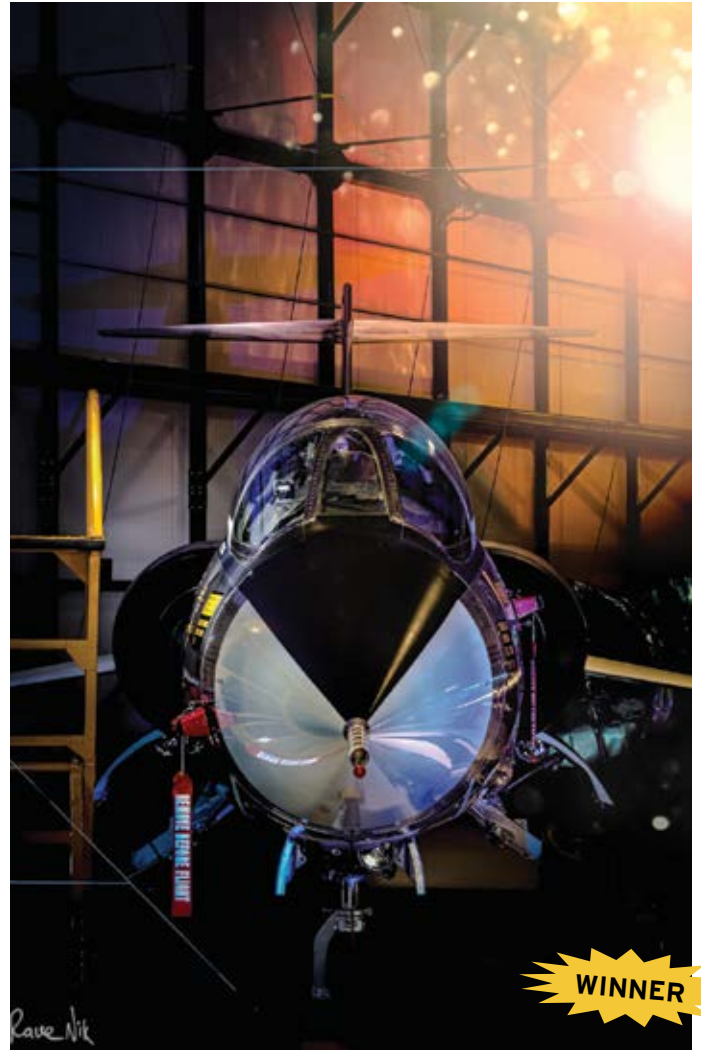




PHOTO CREDITS

Cover image: Joey Senft

Inside front cover: David Lipnowski

Pg 4-5 (b&w photos, clockwise): James Mitchell, Dave Brandt, Vanessa Desorcy, Dave Brandt, Robert Arnold, Vanessa Desorcy, Brent Phillips

Pg 6-7 (all): Vanessa Desorcy (excluding pg 7 middle)

Pg 12-13 (L to R, top to bottom): Leslie Stewart, Vanessa Desorcy, Leslie Stewart, unknown, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, unknown, Vanessa Desorcy, James Mitchell, Leslie Stewart, unknown, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 16-19: all photos by Ian McCausland

Pg 21: Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 22 (clockwise): unknown, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Jordan Hinchey, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 23 (top to bottom): James Mitchell, unknown

Pg 24: Vanessa Desorcy, supplied image - Frontier School Division

Pg 25: Vanessa Desorcy, James Mitchell

Pg 26 (clockwise): Vanessa Desorcy, Jocelyne Nicolas, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Dave Brandt

Pg 27 (top to bottom): James Mitchell, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 28: Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 29 (top to bottom): Maddy Reico, Rachel Morgan

Pg 30: both photos by Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 31 (clockwise): Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Robert Arnold, Vanessa Desorcy, RAMWC archives, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 32 (clockwise): Brent Phillips, Dave Brandt, Vanessa Desorcy, Joel Nelson, James Mitchell, Brent Phillips

Pg 33 (clockwise): Vanessa Desorcy, James Mitchell, Dave Brandt, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 34: James Mitchell (top and middle), Dave Brandt (bottom)

Pg 35 (clockwise): Dave Brandt, Dave Brandt, Brent Phillips, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy, Vanessa Desorcy

Pg 36 (L to R, top to bottom): Michelle Marion, Nik Rave, Rod Delisle, Steve Sasaki

Pg 37 (clockwise): Garry Stewart, Merlin Braun, Merlin Braun, Jessica Losorata

Inside back cover: Riddhi Jhala





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