

# The Torch

## Topics of Interest:

- ⇒ [Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, p.1](#)
- ⇒ [Memory Project Speakers Bureau, p.4](#)
- ⇒ [Book Review—Catch 22, p.5](#)
- ⇒ [North to Nunavut, p. 7](#)

## Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame by Howard Mansfield

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame



Pantheon de l'Aviation du Canada

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame honours the men and women who have made outstanding contributions to Canadian aviation and, by so doing, have contributed to Canada's development as a nation. Aviation has long been relied upon to bring the distant regions of the country together to participate in our social and economic progress, and the Hall honours those who have participated in the development of a unique Canadian aviation industry: connecting isolated communities; developing mineral resources in northern latitudes; navigating the inhospitable mountain ranges and immense forested territory; and initiating coast-to-coast air routes.

Incorporated in August 1973 in Edmonton, Alberta, the Hall moved to the newly-opened Reynolds-Alberta Museum's aviation hangar at Wetaskiwin, Alberta in 1992 where it combined and merged its exhibits with that museum's extensive aviation collection.

The original 79 members included all recipients of the Victoria Cross in aerial combat, and Alexander Graham Bell, Casey Baldwin and John McCurdy who designed the Silver Dart - the first powered heavier-than-air machine to fly in Canada. In more modern times, Al Lilly, the first in Canada to exceed the speed of sound, and

astronauts Marc Garneau and Chris Hadfield have been inducted.

Between those aviation milestones, the following randomly-selected examples from the now over 200 members of the Hall reflect the great variety of Canadian aviation achievements.

Fundamental methods of mountain helicopter operation were developed by Carl Agar; while Phil Garratt; and Donald Rogers brought Short Take-off and Landing (STOL) innovations into being. Techniques for water-bombing forest fires were begun by Jack Austen and Joe Lucas; and Weldy Phipps perfected the use of super-balloon tires to allow aircraft to land and operate on tundra, snow and rock-strewn ground. (Accompanying him on a flight in 1971 his wife Jan became the first woman to land on the North Pole). Women commercial airline Captains Rosella Bjornson and Molly Reilly pioneered women's role in aviation as did WW II Ferry Pilot Helen Bristol.



Max Ward created Canada's largest international air charter carrier; Grant McConachie and Bob Randall pioneered polar flights; (Continued on p.3)

**Friends of The Canadian War Museum**  
**Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre**



## The Friends of the Canadian War Museum

1 Vimy Place  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8  
Tel: 819.776-8618  
Fax: 819.776-8623  
www.friends-amis.org  
E-mail: fcwm-amcg@magma.ca

### Patron

His Excellency the Right Honourable  
David Johnston  
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Governor General of Canada

### Honorary Director

Gen (Ret'd) Ramsey Withers

### President

Douglas Rowland

### Vice-President

BGen (Ret'd) Linda Colwell

### Secretary

Mr. Gordon Parker

### Treasurer

David Parr

### Directors

Dr. Marvin Blauer, Mr. Larry M. Capstick, BGen (Ret'd) Linda Colwell, Maj. (Ret'd) Walter Conrad, Maj. (Ret'd) Thomas Dent, M. Paul Fortin, Mr. Charles Gruchy, Col (Ret'd) Jarrott W. Holtzhauer, M. André Levesque, Mr. Peter Mills, M. Gilles Morin, M. Jean M. Morin, Maj. (Ret'd) Jim Muckle, Mr. Mark O'Neill, Mr. Gordon Parker, Mr. David Parr, Mr. Douglas Rowland, Maj. (Ret'd) William H. Smith, WO (Ret'd) Edward Storey, Marie-Josée Tremblay, Mr. James Whitham, and LCol (Ret'd) Brad White.

### The Torch (ISSN 1207-7690)

**Editor / Layout:** Mike Braham

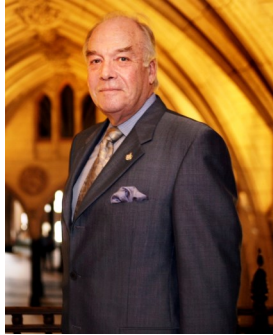
**Photographer:** Dennis Feldman

**Mailing Team:** Pamela Brunt, Tina Creber, Helen Ott, Huguette Thériault

**Printed by:** SLAN Printing, 440 Prescott St., Ottawa, ON, K1S 4N6

*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible en-Français*

## President's Message - Douglas Rowland



The AGM in June elected three new members to the Board and the subsequent Board meeting assigned them duties. They and their offices are: Gordon

Parker (returning after an absence), Secretary; Larry Capstick, Chair, Events Committee; and, Jean Morin, Research Co-ordinator. The meeting also expressed its thanks to those members stepping down: Mike Bedford, Terry Christopher and Megan Seto.

Following the successful AGM, my wife and I visited family in British Columbia. One of our stops was in the city of Chilliwack, former site of Canadian Forces Base, Chilliwack, once "Home of the Royal Canadian Engineers/Canadian Military Engineers", now decommissioned. The city has two substantial military Museums. That which I was able to visit was conceived and operated by the Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack Historical Society. The Museum is reached through a side door and down a flight of stairs in the Masonic Lodge. Its presence is advertised by a sandwich board placed adjacent to the side-walk. The Society's President, Jim Harris, made me welcome and invited me to browse through the extensive collection of artefacts and memorabilia on display in a surprisingly large space. In addition to the photographs, uniforms, badges weapons and tools, one would hope to find, the Museum has also provided a

home for a collection of large models of First and Second World War aircraft fashioned out of strips of balsa wood (not kits) by a talented hobbyist. On his death, the Museum made sure the original works would be accessible to the public. The Society's website is <http://cfbchs.pastperfect-online.com>.

The CWM is continuing to engage Friends in the events it sponsors and hosts. Senator Romeo Dallaire previewed his documentary "Fight Like Soldiers, Die Like Children" in the Barney Danson Theatre in early May. A number of Friends were in attendance and much moved by this expose of the widespread use of child soldiers in Africa and elsewhere. The Friends were also well represented at the opening of the new special exhibit, "Peace" on May 30<sup>th</sup> and in the allied Human Library event: "Peace Stories".

In addition, it is intended that Friends resident in the vicinity of the Transformation: A.Y. Jackson—Otto Dix exhibit opening in Calgary on 7 Sep 13 and the 1812 exhibit opening in Saint John on the same date will be given the opportunity to participate in the events.

Finally, we are on track to launch our new and improved website this fall. Those of you who make regular use of the computer will, I'm sure, have noticed the substantial improvement already made to our existing site in terms of content, timeliness, and bilingualism as well as our presence on Facebook. If you haven't, check them out at [http://friends-amis.org/fcwmindex\\_e.html](http://friends-amis.org/fcwmindex_e.html).

## Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (Continued from Page 1)

and, in 1936, Punch Dickins completed an historic 16,000 kilometre air survey flight of northern Canada. Murton Seymour, and Wop May were developers of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which Jock Palmer later commanded; and Ernest Boffa and Tommy Fox contributed to the development of the DEW Line.

In aviation science Bill Leach conceived the commercial airline drop-down oxygen system; and Wilbur Franks invented the human centri-

fuge and the Franks Flying Suit. Wallace Turnbull perfected the variable-pitch propellor; High Arctic navigation systems were developed by Tommy Siers, Jack Showler, Rex Terpening and Keith Greenaway; and Plastic Surgeon "Wingco" Ross Tilley's skin-grafting techniques restored countless wartime burn victims.

Their stories and those of all members of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame are described in the Hall on four by eight foot panels with por-

traits, citations, logbooks, uniforms, insignia, medals, trophies and awards, documents, scrapbooks and photographs.

Situated at Wetaskiwin, an hour's drive south of Edmonton, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame is a wonderful repository of the stories of the great men and women of Canada's aviation heritage.

Per ardua ad astra.

## The New FCWM Website and You by Victor Vaivads

Work continues apace on the Friend's new website. Guided by a core group of volunteers who have been specifically brought together for this project, we are well on our way to being able to provide a modern, interactive site to the public, and more importantly, to you, our membership.

The new website will have a completely different look and feel from the existing one, providing a clean, mobile-device-friendly experience. Just as importantly, we are bringing in the ability to manage your membership with just a few clicks of your mouse.

In our member login area, you will be able to easily update membership details, such as your mailing address and email. You will also be able to pay your annual dues on the spot by credit card, as

well as make donations at any time the same way. A tax receipt will be automatically created for you to print out - no waiting on the mails to deliver one. You will no longer need to write us a cheque, it can all be conveniently done through your credit card.

Another advantage of having this web interface is that it allows us to 'instantly' sign up new members online. Know anyone who is interested in joining the Friends? No need to dig up a form, give it to them to fill in, and then they forget to mail it. Now you can simply send them a link to our website. Easy.

This does not mean that we are forcing everyone into using this system. It is there as a convenience for you. There will be some who are not interested in chang-

ing, and will want to renew and donate by cheque through the mail as they have always done. This aspect will not change. We will be happy to continue to serve you, our members in a manner that is more convenient and comfortable for you.

We do encourage you to switch over to renewals and donations through our new website. It will be quick and easy, help ease our paper burden enormously, and let the Membership Chair sleep at nights during the annual renewal period. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We can be contacted at [member-fcwm-amcg@magma.ca](mailto:member-fcwm-amcg@magma.ca), or send us a note.

## The Memory Project Speakers Bureau



*Share your military experiences, connect with your community*

*“Remember. Honour. Connect.”* This motto of The Memory Project Speakers Bureau really says it all. The programme brings veterans and active Canadian Forces members to classrooms and community groups across the country to share their stories of military service. Our 1,500 speakers represent a range of military experiences, from the Second World War, to UN Peacekeeping, to Afghanistan, and everything in between. Since 2001, our speakers have educated 1.4 million Canadians about our rich military history.

Doug Meredith, volunteer interpreter at the Canadian War Museum, is also a long-time volunteer speaker with the Memory Project. As a veteran who served with the navy during the Second World War and the Korean War, he feels compelled to connect with younger generations of Canadians. He explains,

“I feel that the veterans owe the youth of the country a personal perspective on why we went to war and why we joined up and what Canada became as a result of participating in the wars.”

Mr. Meredith is proud of the fact that Canada is “a single nation made up of people from all over,” and truly enjoys sharing his story with Canadians who immigrated here from other parts of the world. “I enjoy knowing that I have conveyed a picture of Canada to these kids from other parts of the world which are not as fortunate as this country,” he says. “I ask them to appreciate their lifestyle here in Canada, the fact that they’re quite free to say what they think and to participate in their communities.”

In addition to being recounted in classrooms around Ottawa, Doug Meredith’s story is part of the permanent legacy of the Memory Project Archive, which brings over 2,600 veteran testimonies from the Second World War and Korean War. This ambitious project is always seeking new participants to bear witness to their Second World War and/or Korean War experiences.

Doug Meredith is just one example of the dedication and integrity of the Memory Project community. Do you

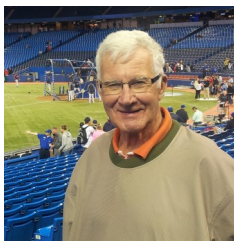
have a story of military service to share? Your fellow Canadians want to hear it. **Join the Memory Project Speakers Bureau today!**

Visit [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com) or call 1-866-701-1867.



**Ordinary Seaman Douglas Meredith** a few days after being called to active service. *Photo courtesy of The Memory Project.*

## FCWM 2013 Volunteer of the Year—Mike Braham



Mike Braham became a Friend and a Volunteer at the Canadian War Museum after almost 50 years with the Department of National Defence. He

served for 27 years in the Royal Canadian Navy/Canadian Forces and retired as a naval Captain in 1987. He then spent thirteen years as a Director in Emergency Preparedness Canada before ending his Public Service career as the Departmental

Director for Occupational Health and Safety.

He joined the Friends of the Canadian War Museum in 2008 and immediately became a Volunteer Interpreter in the Cold War Gallery. Since then he has taken on a number of different tasks in support of the FCWM and the CWM. In addition to his VI duties, he is currently Chair of the Communications Committee and a member of the Membership Committee. He is the Editor of the Torch and the author of many of the Research Pa-

pers and Fact Sheets found on the FCWM Web Site. During the past year he initiated a project to capture the biographies of the many, varied volunteers serving the War Museum.

In addition to his volunteer time at the CWM, he also volunteers several days a week as a Volunteer Interpreter at the Diefenbunker, Canada’s Cold War Museum. For his efforts he was rewarded this year with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

## Book Review—Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Reviewed by John Anderson

Some of you (many of you?) may have already read this book. It was originally published over fifty years ago, and it is now hailed as one of the masterpieces of American literature.

I was aware of the book, if for no other reason than for it's being the genesis of the expression "Catch-22". I was also vaguely aware that it was somehow a satire about war and thus not to my taste, since I prefer history or perhaps historical fiction, narratives that have a beginning and an end, and perhaps lessons and conclusions. Thus I had no inclination to read "Catch-22" until my son gave it to me as a Christmas present, on the grounds that it was a famous book and because he knew that I was "interested in military matters."

Now that I have read it, however, I think I understand why it is so famous. It is funny, logical, horrifying, revolting -- and absolutely riveting. The closest comparison that I can make with other books/movies in my experience is "M.A.S.H.", but M.A.S.H. was constrained by the film medium. Catch-22, being a book, suffers from no such constraints and, also because of being a book, its con-

tent is much more funny/logical/horrifying. (Mike Nichols made a movie of "Catch-22" in the 1970, but it was -- no surprise to me -- not very successful.)

One of the really nice features of the 50th Anniversary Edition is that it includes a selection of the contemporary reviews and criticism from when it was first published. It also includes some review material from the 1994 edition and some material from the author describing how the book came into being. I was really glad to see this because, despite being fascinated, I really felt sick and depressed when I had finished reading the book. The additional material reminded me of the context in which this book was written: the unquantifiable threat and tangible fear of nuclear war, the Korean "war" and, by the time the book was published and became widely known, the Vietnam War. There was also a palpable distrust of government statements (i.e., propaganda) and the military-industrial complex; it was also the time, as one reviewer pointed out, of Oliver North and the Iran-Contra affair, an incident that has an uncanny and unsettling parallel in Catch-22.

I don't think of myself as particularly religious in the institutional sense, but the lesson that I draw from this book is the absolute and total bankruptcy of unbridled self-interest. Life has absolutely no meaning without some kind of moral compass; indeed, there is "right" and there is "wrong", and focusing on the "right" is what draws us together in community, which then leads to common purpose and concepts like loyalty.

And although the book is set during World War II, reviewers point out that the book is, as much as anything else, a commentary on our society and the human condition. And that leads directly back to each one of us. We live in a democracy; our government is us. And, has been frequently observed, "A nation gets the government that it deserves." So this book is indeed important: it is a portrait of where we might end up if we are not vigilant.

I will not conclude by saying, "Enjoy!" But, for those of you who have not already read this book, I can nevertheless commend it to you.

## Member Treasures

Check out the FCWM Web Site/Member Treasures. Do you have some military memorabilia that you

would like to share with others.?

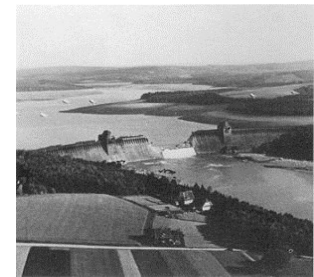
Send them to the FCWM Office

[fcwm-amcg@magma.ca](mailto:fcwm-amcg@magma.ca), Attention: Mike Braham.

## 70th Anniversary of Operation CHASTISE

**Operation Chastise** was an attack on three strategic German dams carried out on 16–17 May 1943 by Royal Air Force 617 Squadron, subsequently known as the "Dambusters", using a specially developed "bouncing bomb" invented and developed by Barnes Wallis. The Möhne and Eder Dams were breached, causing catastrophic flooding of the Ruhr valley and of villages in the Eder valley, while the Sorpe dam sustained only minor damage. Two hydroelectric power plants were destroyed and several more were damaged. Factories in the area were also either damaged or destroyed. An estimated 1,600 people drowned. However, the effect of the raid was mitigated by rapid repairs by the Germans, with production returning to normal in September. Canadians played a major role in the raid. Of the 133 airmen of 617 Squadron that set out on the raid, 30 were Canadian. Fourteen were killed during the raid and

one became a prisoner of war. Four of the Canadians who survived the raid were killed in action later in the war.



**Möhne Dam Breached**

## Army Traditions Restored

When the Government of Canada announced that it was reinstating the historical name of the Canadian Army in August 2011, it restored an important part of the Canadian Army's heritage.

The proposed changes include the re-introduction of divisional nomenclature and patches for the current Land Force Areas; traditional rank insignia for officers; corps shoulder titles following the restoration of traditional titles to a

number of Canadian Army corps in April 2013; and the Canadian Army's secondary badge. Further, the Minister of National Defence announced the intention to restore the historical Army rank names for non-commissioned members.

## Feedback by Mike Braham

I have been gaily pushing out this publication for the past couple of years without ever asking you if it meets your needs or if you find it interesting. The light has finally come on and this is my formal request to you for feedback. Within the obvious space limitations of 8 pages and the time lag

created by a quarterly publication, what are your reactions to the Torch as presently produced? Does it contain the type of articles that interest you? If not, what do you want to see? Send your comments to the e-mail or postal addresses found inside page 2, Attn:

Torch Editor, or by mail. I look forward to your help.

While I have your attention, you are also encouraged to provide me with any articles that you think might be of interest.

Thanks, The Editor

## North to Nunavut by Mai yu Chan

“We went to Iqaluit for a concert!” Gordon told everyone. It’s true. Ottawa’s own Angela Hewitt was there to give a fundraising concert for St. Jude’s Anglican Cathedral in Iqaluit and we thought we could help out by participating! It was a full house with a group from Ottawa in attendance!



**St. Jude’s Church**

Of course, the weather is the constant topic of discussion there. Two or three degrees celcius is not too bad, you would think, but the cold, persistent Arctic wind would mean a wind chill of minus fifteen or twenty each day we were there (except the one in Pangnirtung). Iqaluit is a small town with not too many paved roads. We were taken on a tour aboard a school bus (the only bus in town) and visited galleries and museums in town. The history of the establishment of a military base by the Americans was presented and its evolvement of Nunavut becoming a territory.

The one-hour flight to Pangnirtung on an ATR 42-300 plane was a smooth one. From the air we saw the beauty of icy

fjords, snow-crop circles and realized we were just thirty miles south of the Arctic Circle! It was a sunny day with hardly any wind.



**Old Iqaluit Hudson Bay Building**

Being close to Cumberland Sound, we feasted on fresh Arctic char and turbot for lunch and were treated to tales by Inuit elders who demonstrated the lighting of the kudlik, used for cooking and heating in the igloo (a man’s job, although his wife sitting next to him said that she did a better job); made us bannock and showed us tools of their survival in harsh conditions.



**Iqaluit Legion Hall**

Back in windy Iqaluit, we ran into Scotty (one George Strong, President of Legion 168 Iqaluit) in front of Tim’s, who promptly invited us to lunch at the Legion

the next day.

Much beer and very little food was consumed as you will see in the accompanying photo! The fellow sitting across from me told me he went to school with the artist whose painting I bought in Pangnirtung! Then there was the tall fellow with his dog-sled team and Japanese wife; the brothers who own the fish-processing plant (arctic char and turbot, no less)! The company was diverse and conversation animated! Scotty assured us that money made at the Legion goes back to the local community. Seniors receive free meals three times a week there. We can attest to the quality and quantity of the food! Contributions have been made to the Cathedral and other institutions and they also established, built and run the air cadet organization next to the Legion building.



**Iqaluit Legion Friends**

It was a short trip but one full of awe and wonder!

## Donations: The FCWM thank all of the following who generously donated to the Friends between 1 Apr-30 Jun 2013

The Mary and Leslie Barnes Family Fund	Miss Nola A. Ferguson	Mr. Adam Leclerc
LCol. William R. Aikman	Col. Gary Furrrie	Mr. B.D. Marantz
RAdm. Thomas S. Allan	Mr. Joseph Gambin	Mr. Charles W. Mavor
LGen. Charles H. Belzile	Mr & Mrs. John and Joan Gazeley	Ms. Lori Parent
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Berlinguette	Mr. William J. Gervin	Mr. Leslie Peate
Capt. Steven M. Byrd	Mr. Terence Grier	Cdr. Martin S. Pelletier
Maj. Walter L. Conrad	Mr. Hugh A. Halliday	Mme. Rita Poirier
Col. Patrick D.R. Crandell	BGen. (Ret'd) Daniel P. Harrison	Mr. Herbert F. Pragnell
Ms. Honor de Pencier	Mr. J. David Holmes	Dr. Victor Rabinovitch
Mrs. Elizabeth A. DeWolf	Col. (Ret'd) Jarrott W. Holtzhauer	Mr. George R. Skinner
Mr. and Mrs. Percy T. Eastham	MGen. Clifton M. Kinney	Mr. John B. Wilkes
	Mr. Robert J Kostash	

## In-Memoriam and Special Donations (1 Apr.-30 Jun. 2013)

Dr. J. L. Granatstein in honour of CMCC Board of Trustees member Dr. Michael Bliss and his wife Liz on their 50th wedding anniversary	Jeannine Soame (27 February 2013)	RCAPC, Hong Kong, November 1942
Mr. David Talbot in honour of Peter Talbot	Mr & Mrs. Brian and Lauraine Hammond in memory of WO 1 E.G. Munro	<b>In Memory of Capt. Robert Hunter Dunn</b>
(Anonymous) in honour of Robert Jardine	Mr. Frederick H. Hayward in memory of Lorne H.V. Gundlack, RAF 514 Squadron	The Breken Group
Mrs. Joan Dunn in memory of LCol J.S. Dunn	Mrs. Alleyne M. Huggard in memory of Major C.O. Huggard, PPCLI	Vanier Community Church
Mr. Gordon Foster in memory of John Bradley	Mrs. Ida G.S. Schjelderup in memory of Col. Roger Schjelderup, DSO, MC, DC (PPCLI)	Mr. Andy Dunn
LGen. Larry A. Ashley in memory of F/O Frederick Edmund Campbell, RCAF WW II	Ann Hyland and Edward Terry in memory of Capt. B.L. Terry,	Mr. Gordon Foster
Col. Gary Furrrie in memory of		Mr. Deborah L. Hawco
		Ms. Julie Hollinger
		Ms. Helen E. McCuaig
		Ms. Josephine A.E. Moynaugh
		Maj. Donovan J. Redknap
		Maj. (Ret'd) William H. Smith
		Maj. Howard A. Stutt
		Gen. (Ret'd) Ramsey M. Withers

## Nijmegen Send-Off

At a brief ceremony at the Canadian War Museum on 3 July, General Lawson, the Chief of the Defence Staff, bade farewell to the Canadian Forces contingent to the

annual Nijmegen March.

In attendance, and representing the Friends was our President, Doug Rowland who presented the

contingent with a wreath to be placed at the Groesbeek cemetery in Holland on behalf of the FCWM and the Canadian War Museum.