

FLY NORTH



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

Preserving and celebrating the history of aviation in the northwest through the collection and preservation of artifacts and the stories of persons and events that made this region unique in aviation history



NOAHC News ...

AGM for Financial Year 2021

NOAHC held an Annual General Meeting on October 20th, 2022. This AGM was for the Financial Year 2021, the time delay being the result of disruptions caused by the Covid pandemic. Because Covid is still out there, the meeting was held via Zoom. George Holborn arranged the Zoom set-up, Liz Wieben chaired the meeting and Denise Lyzun took the minutes. The meeting received the following reports. Liz Wieben provided the President's Report followed by the Treasurer's Report from Dave Sutton, who noted that NOAHC is in good financial shape with a small excess of revenues over expenses. Committee Reports were received on Memberships/Volunteer Hours (Archie Gribben), Newsletter (Dave Kemp) and Events/Presentations/Exhibits (Denise Lyzun). David Bryan provided a report on the current status of Acquisition Cataloging and book sales.

One of the main purposes of an AGM is to elect board members and, since NOAHC has overlapping terms, this year Dave Sutton, Archie Gribben, George Holborn and Denise Lyzun were up for re-election. The remaining members, Liz Wieben, Mary-Alice Isaac and David Kemp have one year left in their terms. All of the board members up for re-election were approved. In addition, John Hill, appointed to fill a vacancy earlier this year, had his position confirmed.

There is still space on the Board for additional members. If you are interested come along to a couple of meetings to find out what we do.

The Executive members of the Board are:-

President: George Holborn
Past President: Liz Wieben
Treasurer: Dave Sutton
Secretary: Denise Lyzun

Hurricane Project

A few months ago, Vintage Wings of Canada located in Gatineau, Quebec completed the restoration of a Hurricane Mk XII originally built at Canadian Car and Foundry in Fort William in 1942. The plane is painted with the markings of the aircraft flown by Willie McKnight, a Canadian pilot in the RAF, who flew with 242 (Canadian) Squadron in the Battle of Britain. After scoring 18 victories in the skies over France and England, McKnight was lost over the English Channel in January 1941.

After a nearly 15-year re-build, the Hurricane had its first post-restoration flight earlier this year and it took part in a flypast at the 2022 Remembrance Service in Ottawa. Additional tests are required, but the plan is to fly it on display at future aviation events. A group of NOAHC enthusiasts led by John Hill, and including George Holborn, Bill Turner, Scott Bradley, Jim Moshonsky and David Bryan, thought that the return of a Hurricane to Thunder Bay, 80 years after it left, would be a significant historic event for the city and region.

Following a letter campaign the team elicited support from companies and individuals in the local community, including the City, Alstom, current operator of the plant where the Hurricane was built, and Confederation College, which would provide the use of its hangar at Thunder Bay Airport. Vintage Wings has been informed about the high level of interest in the community, but as yet is reluctant to give its approval. The plane has still to complete its testing program, and items such as the logistics of the flight from Gatineau to Thunder Bay plus the substantial fundraising that would be required have to be considered.

Fly North will keep you posted on the progress of the project.

Volume 14, Number 4:
October – December 2022

Inside this Issue:

2. Women's History Month: Liz Wieben
- Book Review
3. President's Report
4. Gifts and Books

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE INC.

Mailing Address
403-1100 Memorial Ave
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 4A3

Centre Location
905 Victoria Avenue E
Thunder Bay

Contact NOAHC at
(807) 623-3522
or
noahc@tbaytel.net

Webpage
www.noahc.org



Women's History Month

Every October during Women's History Month new inductees are added to the City of Thunder Bay Women's History online exhibit. The exhibit recognises and celebrates women of all ages who played important roles in the history and development of the city.

In 2022, one of the inductees was *Elizabeth Wieben*, founding member of NOAHC.

The Archives describe her achievements as follows:

Accomplishments related to: Aviation, Education, Business, Women's Advocacy

Major affiliations: Confederation College, Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre; the Ninety Nines (International Association for Women Pilots)

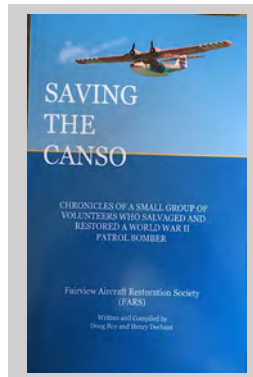
Elizabeth was born in Fort William as the oldest child of Orville Wieben, a well-known aviator and owner of Superior Airways. Like her four siblings, she learned to fly at an early age. She earned her pilot's licence at 17, and by the time she finished high school was flying for her father's company. After completing a business degree at Western University, she returned to Fort William and worked in the family business as both a pilot and the manager of the Lakehead Flying School.

In the 1960's, Elizabeth married Robin Webster, a geologist, whose profession took them to both the United States and Australia. In addition to becoming a mother to four children during this time, Elizabeth continued to both fly and instruct, earning her licences wherever they travelled. In many places she encountered resistance as a woman pilot, as at the time it was legal discrimination to not hire a woman pilot. Her determination to fly established her as a trailblazer in seeking equal opportunities for women, and her efforts gave other women a role model in a male-dominated field, proving that women had a legitimate place in aviation.

In 1979, the family moved back to the Thunder Bay area because of her father's illness. As he passed, she undertook the sale of his business to his former employees, Superior Airways, while taking over a portion under the company name Wieben Air, a business chartering planes and camps at Pays Plat. In the 1980's through to the early 2000's, Elizabeth taught adult education at

Confederation College, but she soon transferred to the Confederation College Flight Division. There she taught both academic courses, such as business and technical aspects of the aviation business, and practical, such as teaching students to fly on floats and skis. During this time, she was also appointed to the Canadian Civil Aviation Tribunal, now known as the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada. She retired in 2005 but did not slow down, becoming a founding Board member of the Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre and later its president. Now in her 80s, Elizabeth still flies and offers private flying lessons out of the Thunder Bay Airport. For her enduring legacy as a pioneer in aviation, she received the prestigious Elsie McGill Northern Lights Award, an annual award that honours outstanding women in aviation and aerospace in Canada. Her contributions continue to serve as an example of dedication and a willingness to reach for greater heights for women in the Lakehead.

Book Review : Saving the Canso



This is the story of the restoration of a Canadian-built Canso amphibious patrol aircraft that served with the RCAF from 1943 on anti-submarine patrols over the North Atlantic, escorting convoys and performing search-and-rescue missions. After the war, it served as a freighter, before being converted into a water-bomber. It continued fighting fires until 2001, when, during a water pick-up gone wrong, it sank in 100 feet of water in Sitidgi Lake, NWT. After being pulled

out of the lake, the engine, props and avionics were removed and the fuselage abandoned on the shore, where it remained for another 7 years until six farmers from Fairview, Alberta (including Don Wieben of the well-known family of aviators from Thunder Bay) found out about it and moved it south by sled, truck and barge to Fairview. As the Fairview Aircraft Restoration Society (FARS) they then set about refurbishing it as it had appeared in its fire-fighting days. After a further 7 years the restored Canso took to the air again, with the big event taking place on June 17, 2017 as part of the Fathers' Day Fly-In at Fairview. Since then, it has appeared at various airshows and fly-ins and in 2021 it became a TV star, portraying a WWII USAF Catalina in an episode of *DC's Legends of Tomorrow*.

The book is a generously illustrated, well-written account of what is required to restore an historic aircraft, and is a tribute to the determination and dedication of the six farmers, volunteers and supporters who did it all.

Saving the Canso is a "Six Farmers Production (2021)" written and compiled by Doug Roy and Harry Dechant. Copies are available at available at NOAHC at a cost of \$20.00.

For more on the Canso, see *Fly North* v9, n2, April-June 2017, v14, n1 January-March 2022 and www.savethecanso.com



Our corporate supporters...

Lakehead Models
Steve Meinick
262 Bay St.
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 1R5
Tel.: 807-345-5776
Fax: 807-344-6489
lakeheadmodels@shaw.ca
lakeheadmodels.com

Jay Caldwell
Manager, Maintenance & Manufacturing
309 Hector Dougall Way
Thunder Bay, ON
P7E 6M5
Canada
807-475-5249
Fax: 807-475-8238
jay@thunderbayaviation.com
www.thunderbayaviation.com

SJS Susan J. Southcott
Professional Corporation
CPA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

#701, 1184 Roland Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5M4
(entrance is between 1184 and 1186 Roland)

Phone: 807-623-5977 Fax: 807-623-3524
Email: sjsouthc@tbaytel.net

Recon Air
CORPORATION
The Leading Edge
ROY P. LEUENBERGER
President, Director of Maintenance
Lot 6 Geraldton Airport • PO Box 698 • Geraldton, Ontario P0T 1M0
P 807.854.2425 F 807.854.2426 E roy@reconair.net www.reconair.net

SUPERIOR SHORES
GAMING ASSOCIATION

DR TERRY TRUSDALE
CIVIL AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER
Medicals done at Aviation Centre of Excellence,
ACE Hangar, 2009 Derek Burney Drive, Thunder Bay.
Business Address:
30 Oakleaf Drive, Tel: 807-577-4888
Kakabeka Falls, Ontario FAX: 807-475-9944
Canada. P7K 0T0 email: trusdale@tbaytel.net

Thunder Bay Airport
The right approach



President's Report 2021

I have been grateful for the support of the Directors and members through a couple of very frustrating years. This report is for 2021.

There are three things that stand out in my mind for this reporting year.

Firstly, our finances. As you will remember, we were closed for most of the year due to Covid. Dave Sutton, our treasurer, negotiated with Mike Larizza, our then landlord to have him apply on our behalf for the Landlord/Tenant Rent Relief Federal program. When that program no longer existed, Dave applied for the Federal Government Rent Relief program. This helped greatly with our finances. Superior Shores Bingos were operating on and off, and although volunteers could not be on the premises other participation was required. Larry Bryan took over from Robin Webster as Bingo Co-Ordinator and he and Denise saw that we qualified for some of the Bingo revenue. On Larry's request, I would like to thank our faithful and very committed volunteers who come out every month (David Bryan, David Kemp, Archie Gribben, David Penfold, David Van Wagoner, and Jean Mayo). and, to also extend a welcome and thank three new volunteers John Hill, Charlene Mallory and Jo-Ann Porter who are currently being trained.

The 2nd hurdle that we were facing in October 2021 was the expiry of the 3-year lease of our rental location on Victoria Avenue. Through much discussion and negotiations with landlord Mike Larizza and then when the building sold again with our new landlord, we ended up with a new 3-year lease at the same price and a 3-year option to renew at a specified rent.

Thirdly, NOAHC published with a lot of hours of work put in by David Kemp, our 2nd book. "From Cape Breton to Northwestern Ontario". It was ready for sale in December and did well. We have had to order more books. A member, Bob Grant also published his own book "African Skies" which is a good read.

We have had several people leave the Board Helen Kyle, Gerry Bell, Jim Milne, and Victoria Bowen. We were fortunate to have Gary Sartain join us as a new Board member. More recently in 2022 Director Don McCrae, a very loyal and supportive member passed away this past spring as did my husband and volunteer Robin Webster.

As we moved from 2021 to 2022, I took a leave of absence from being President to be with my husband and family and George Holborn assumed the role of Acting President. I want to thank George very much for that kindness. Thank you all for the support from the Board and volunteers. What a congenial and hardworking group!

We need more members to be active in having NOAHC be able to present programs, hold events, collect/record aviation history and generally just help us demonstrate our presence in the community. If you would like to participate, consider sending us an email about your interest and any skills.

Liz Wieben



Get these aviation-themed products at the Centre



Caps
\$15.00

Caps \$20.00

NOAHC has recently brought in a variety of new products that are now on sale at the Centre. These may be purchased during regular opening times on Wednesday and Sunday. In December the Centre will also have extended hours when purchases can be made. Times will be announced to members shortly



Mugs
\$15.00



T-shirts
\$23.00

Other T-shirt designs available

Jigsaw Puzzles
\$5.00

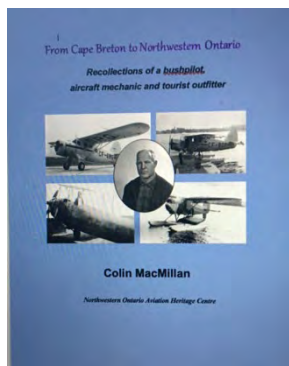


Die-cast models
\$5.00 - \$12.

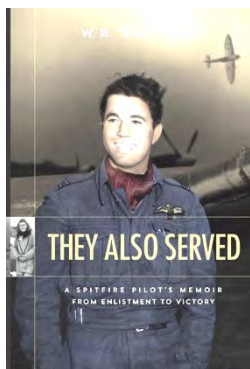


Sweat shirts \$25.00
Fleeces \$39.00
Hoodies \$39.00

NOAHC publications



"From Cape Breton to Northwestern Ontario"
Colin MacMillan
\$20.00



"They Also Served"
Bill McRae
\$30.00

Wide selection of sizes and designs

Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases

Cash, Credit/Debit Cards accepted



Books: \$10.00 - \$65.00