

FLY NORTH

Volume 8, Number 3:
July - September, 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

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

NOAHC News: Vintage World War II bombers visit Thunder Bay



B-17 Sentimental Journey (left) and B-25 Miss Mitchell (right) parked on the ramp at the Confederation College, Aviation Centre of Excellence, Thunder Bay Airport.

During the week of August 1-8, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) brought two of its vintage planes to Thunder Bay. The CAF, formerly known as the Confederate Air Force, is a Texas-based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and showing historical aircraft at airshows primarily throughout the U.S. and Canada. It was founded in 1957 and now maintains more than 160 restored aircraft, some 140 of which are airworthy. The Thunder Bay visitors were a B-17G Flying Fortress, *Sentimental Journey* from Airbase Arizona and a B-25J Mitchell, *Miss Mitchell* from the Minnesota Wing of the CAF.

Sentimental Journey was taken on strength by the USAAF in 1945 and flown in the Pacific Theatre until the end of the war. After stints in airphoto-mapping, air-sea rescue and forest fire suppression it was acquired by CAF in 1978 and by 1985 had been restored to flying condition. It is one of only 13 airworthy surviving B-17s, The original B-25J *Miss Mitchell* served in the 12th Air Force in North Africa and Italy completing over 130 missions. Its legacy of no crew fatalities during all of its missions was a rare accomplishment. The plane now flying as *Miss Mitchell* was delivered on November 10, 1944, and never flew in combat. She spent most of her service as a trainer, or in storage, before being sold

to the CAF in 1978. After restoration by the Minnesota Wing, her first flight was on April 18, 1992. *Miss Mitchell* is one of 45 surviving airworthy B-25s.

During their time in Thunder Bay some 2,200 people came out to look at and climb aboard the aircraft and about 60 were able to take flights above the city. The CAF came with its own crew to fly the planes, maintain them as well as to provide information and sell souvenirs. Local volunteers provided help on the ramp and in the parking lot, in addition to working the Centre's booth. Most of the volunteers were NOAHC members or friends who did an excellent job making sure that the visit ran smoothly. Special mention must be made of Denise Lyzun, NOAHC's volunteer *extraordinaire*. From the time she visited *Sentimental Journey* in Arizona in April until the morning the planes left in August, she worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the visit.

A number of companies and organizations contributed supplies and services during the week, including Maintair Aviation Services, City of Thunder Bay, National Car Rental, Valhalla Inn, Confederation College, Thunder Bay International Airport and NOAHC. Their help was much appreciated by our visitors from the CAF.

Inside this issue:

2. Quotable Quotes

3. Nose Art

4. CAF bombers at Thunder Bay



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE INC.

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

Centre Location
430 Waterloo St. S
Thunder Bay

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

Webpage
www.noahc.org

Comments from some of those who flew in the planes:-

"I was the first one to board, so I climbed up into the radioman's seat behind the pilot and above the bomb-bay. When we taxied out to our take-off runway the bomb-bay doors were left open. For emergency exit the quickest way out. So it was fairly loud and the bombs were visible, all adding to the excitement. Once we were clear to go the doors were closed and we took-off. In the air it was still noisy and a wee bit bumpy, after five minutes in the air I switched seats with the person at the waist gun, so he could experience the ride up front and I could experience the waist gunners position. Just to experience flying in the Flying Fortress with all those 50 caliber machine guns gave me a sense of what all those WWII airforce men went through. Minus the enemy shooting at me. I feel very grateful to have had the experience and my hat's off to all those in Bomber Command during WWII. Thank you."

Don McRae - on the B-17

"Bumpy flight with a hot-shot pilot. Very exciting."

Jim Milne:- on the B-25

"Thanks to the generosity of Peter Duncan and Mike Hansen two gentlemen I had the pleasure flying with and who sponsored my ride in the B-17 I was able to make a dream come true. I can honestly say after decades of flying I have never had such a wonderful view of a take off, the world around me in flight, or a landing than I had from the nose-turret of *Sentimental Journey* - Magnificent!"

Gerry Bell:- on the B-17

"After receiving proper B-17 safety training, we taxied to the 'Cross Wind' runway and took off. As I looked out the window, everyone there was taking pictures and videos with their phones! Unfortunately, I hadn't time to purchase film for my camera (old school!!) so like all Big Foot and U.F.O. stories.....no camera documentation that I was there. Flying at around 3500 feet, the view of the city and lake islands (even Isle Royale) from those big windows was amazing. Turbulence took some getting used to and touching down with the tail gear on landing most unique! I received a certificate from the crew to commemorate my flight on the B-17, which just topped off an experience of a lifetime. For those of you reading this article, please think about signing up as a volunteer for such events supported by NOAAHC. You could be next!"

Jon Powers:- on the B-17



What the Vets thought:-

"I couldn't believe it. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. It brought back a lot of memories because this is where I learned to fly. After the war I instructed over this field. I've flown here literally thousands of times."

Bill Turner: WWII Lancaster pilot – on the B-17 (quoted in the Chronicle Journal)

"Seeing and being on the plane brings back memories. I lost two of my best pals in the air force and aircrew. I think it's good people are remembering this. We shouldn't have to go through it again."

Gord Stinson: WWII Halifax pilot – on the B-17 (quoted in the Chronicle Journal)

"We've been looking forward to it coming in for quite a while you know and now that it's here it's quite a machine"

Ted Murphy: WWII Lancaster rear gunner – commenting on the B-17 for TBT News



Carter Sabourin - Future 'flyboy'?



courtesy Kathryn Sabourin

What the Sentimental Journey's crew thought:-

Thunder Bay was amazing. I have toured with the B-17 for 32 years, and have been to big and small stops. It is not the size of the town, or if they have world-class museum – it is the people. Please share with all of the volunteers how much we have appreciated them. It was all the not so little extras that they provided us, like lunch every day, but what meant the most to us was their smiling faces and enthusiasm for what we do.

To the people of Thunder Bay, thank you for coming out to support us. Thunder Bay should be proud of itself for having a community that is well versed in history, and takes time to pay respect to our heroes.

Thunder Bay gets a huge thumbs up from me. It is the kind of place that I would encourage other Warbirds to visit, and hope to return myself.

A B-17 crew member - via Dave Siczk

Our corporate supporters...

Lakehead Models
Steve Melnick

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



EKT 90 INC.

INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS

BUS: (807) 623-5211
RES: (807) 475-5636
FAX: (807) 623-7415
600 Norah Crescent
MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 29034
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6P9



Shell Aviation

Maintair Aviation Services Ltd

Brock Marshall

Tel: (807) 475-5915 24 hours
Fax: (807) 475-8321
Cell: (807) 626-3258
maintair@tbaytel.net

316 Hector Dougall Way
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6M6
UNICOM 122.85

Shell Aviation Dealer



SIGNAL GROUP
A Division of Signal Resources Ltd.

TEL: 1 807 475-9341
FAX: 1 807 577-3828
www.signalresources.com
info@signalresources.com
TOLL FREE: 1 888 854-0468

DAVE KING
OWNER

313 EDWARD STREET S.
THUNDER BAY, ON P7E 2G9

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

Thunder Bay Airport



The right approach



Bearskin Airlines

Let the Bear take you there!



CIBC
Wood Gundy

Shannon Joblin
Investment Advisor
www.cibcwoodgundy.com
shannon.joblin@cibc.ca

CIBC Wood Gundy is a division of
CIBC World Markets Inc.

CIBC World Markets Inc.
180 Park Avenue
Suite 101
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6J4
Tel: 807 344-3667
Fax: 807 343-7973
Toll Free: 1 800 461-8909

DR TERRY TRUSDALE

CIVIL AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER

Medicals done at Aviation Centre of Excellence,
ACE Hangar, 2003 Derek Burney Drive, Thunder Bay.
Business Address:
30 Oakleaf Drive,
Kakabeka Falls, Ontario
Canada. P7K 0H2

Tel: 807-577-4888
FAX: 807-475-5044
email: trusdale@tbaytel.net



The PATERSON FOUNDATION

*Proud Supporter of Thunder Bay's
Aviation Heritage*

www.patersonfoundation.ca

1918 Yonge Street, Thunder Bay,
Ontario P7E 6T9

*To become a
corporate supporter,
contact us at
noahc@tbaytel.net
OR
(807) 623-3522*

Nose Art:

Nose Art has been applied to military aircraft since WW I as a way to provide some individuality to aircrew and their squadrons, but it probably achieved its greatest expression on the bombers of the USAAF during WWII.



Perhaps initially a revolt against the constraints and uniformity of the military, nose art was developed to evoke memories of home and peacetime life, wives and girlfriends. Sometimes it was used to express aggression against the enemy; sometimes it was humorous; sometimes it had sexual overtones. Both the B-17 and B-25 have impressive examples of the nose artists' craft.

Commemorative Air Force Bombers in Thunder Bay: August 1 – 8, 2016



*The aircraft on the ramp at the Confederation College ACE.
(above) B-17 Sentimental Journey
(left) B-25 Miss Mitchell.*



The arrival of Sentimental Journey: August 1, 2016



Sentimental Journey – 1940s b and w style



Sentimental Journey departs for Sault Ste. Marie: August 8, 2016