



# Mosquito Bytes

www.calgarymosquitosociety.com

## Important info about donations:

- You will receive a tax receipt for any donation over \$20.
- Every dollar raised is matched one-for-one by the City of Calgary.
- Donations for services or materials also contribute to our fundraising, plus they're eligible for tax receipts too.

## Looking back and looking forward

As I write this, I've just finished writing our report to the City of Calgary for the second quarter of this year. I hate writing reports. Before sitting down to write it, I was afraid that we hadn't accomplished much, or as much as I felt we should have in this three month period. As I continued to write, I discovered that I was wrong. In fact for the period of April 1 to June 30, we got a great deal done and as I sat writing it all down while listening to the stirring music of "I Vow to Thee, My Country" that we have arrived: we've really done it. We are living the promises we made to all the people who signed up, who listened, who supported and to those who have donated to the cause.

I was completely overcome with emotion as I was dropping into the report a photo of our society Vice President Bob O'Connor, a wartime 627 Squadron Mosquito navigator, standing in front of the world's only flying example at the Hamilton Int. Air Show last month. HONOUR.

We were invited to address the annual convention of the western Canada section of The Ninety-Nines Inc., (International Organization of Women Pilots) held in High River, AB. At the end of April board member Jack McWilliam and I attended the Smithsonian sponsored and or-

ganized Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums conference in Seattle. EDUCATE.

Next week marks the one year anniversary of our signing the contract with the City that will see both the Mosquito and the Hurricane secured from an international sale. RETAIN.

And last but not least: RESTORE. Take a bow all of you, who under Jack's direction, have been getting their hands dirty in some actual restoration work. Just in the past three month period we have:

- cleaned, scraped and repainted the engine stands
- built a jig for the Mosquito canopy
- built display stands for the vertical fin and rudder, the tail wheel, the control wheel, two work benches, a shelf unit, a prop shaft support and a mock up board for the fire bottles
- hand sanding, with 6,000 grit, the layers of paint from the crew escape hatch (Yea Lionel!)
- had the engine fire bottles squibs removed and the bottles emptied of their nasty methyl bromide gas (thank you Canadian Aero Accessories)
- moved the Hurricane pro-

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## Next Public Meeting:

The next CMS general meeting will be **Aug 14<sup>th</sup>** at the Phoenix Foundation, 320 - 19<sup>th</sup> Street SE. [Click here](#) to download a map.

**Be sure to attend in order to pick up your WestJet raffle tickets!**

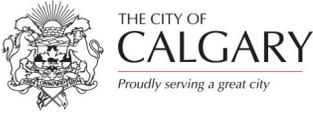
*We are living the promises we made to all the people who signed up, who listened, who supported and to those who have donated to the cause.*

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# Mosquito Bytes

## So who reads these things?



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Every month the CMS tries to add a story to our website for visitors to enjoy. Some are restoration updates or stories about our airplanes, but we've also written about the wartime experiences of several of our members (Bob O'Connor, Weldon Stacey and Pat Anderson). In the case of the latter two, these stories are all that remain of their military service now that they've passed away.

But who reads these stories and what happens once they're done?

Well, obviously our members read them, but so do a whole bunch of visitors who discover our website by accident or through another link. Others find their way to the website thanks to our public speaking engagements.

Recently however the CMS has been approached by magazines in order to reproduce a couple of our stories. Aeroplane Monthly was writing a story about a PBY Catalina that's being restored for the warbird circuit. We had a story about the same airplane and its survey work with Kenting Aviation Ltd. so we helped fill in some information. Britain at

*Many of you will remember the founding motto of the Calgary Mosquito Society - Retain, Restore, Honour and Educate...*



Britain at War ran a copy of Trevor McTavish's farewell to Pat Anderson in their July 2013 magazine as a follow-on to a story they'd run about 410 Squadron.

War reprinted our story about Pat Anderson's wartime experiences as a follow-on to a story they'd run about 410 Squadron.

Many of you will remember the founding motto of the Calgary Mosquito Society— Retain, Restore, Honour and

Educate, and while we no longer end our letters with those four words, we're still following through on its message. It is through stories, such as Pat Anderson's, that we honour our veterans and the sacrifices they've made, retaining their stories and educating our visitors. •

## The 2013 Airdrie Airshow

People love airplanes, whether it's aerial acrobatics, the sight of a warbird, or the ear popping roar of a jet fighter, there's no place better to see them than at an airshow.

While the long-time airshows are quickly going the way of the rotary engine the city of Airdrie has picked up the torch and hosted three successful shows in 2009, 2011 and 2013. Apparently the bi-annual format and their proximity to Calgary have been enough to attract tens of thousands of visitors each year.

For the second time the Calga-

ry Mosquito Society was invited to attend and set up a booth, which we did, inside an airplane hangar owned by one of our members. Rather than the 100 square feet of space that rental tents would give, our donated space covered more than six times that area and made us the single largest vendor or organization on display. That meant that in addition to the display board, and tables for raffle ticket and merchandise sales, we were able to place some artifacts on display; including the Mosquito's towering vertical fin and rudder.

"This year's arrangements made it difficult to figure out traffic flow," said CMS Director Trevor McTavish, "but we were near show-centre, so we still had good crowd exposure." Cloudy weather on Saturday morning and Sunday's cooler temperatures kept crowds down until the airplanes started flying at noon but visitors continued to drop by our pavilion throughout the day. "Every show has something that disappoints someone," Trevor continued. "The CF-18 broke on Saturday and the Mustang lost its coolant on Sunday. For vendors on the

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*...the bi-annual format and their proximity to Calgary have been enough to attract tens of thousands of visitors each year.*



The biggest item on display, and the best billboard we could ask for, the Mosquito's vertical stabilizer towered almost eight feet tall and could be seen from hundreds of feet away. (T. McTavish)

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## Mosquito Bytes



(T. McTavish)

ground, traffic flow was actually directed away from show-centre and this kept people from wandering over while they looked for somewhere to sit.”

All told, airshow was consid-

ered by all a success. . “It was spectacular, just an awesome show and everyone had a great time,” Airdrie Major, Peter Brown told the local newspaper. Numbers weren’t available but the crowds appeared close to 2011’s attend-

ance of 25,000. Planning for the 2015 show is already underway and the CMS will be there – hopefully with a big chunk of Hurricane to show off. •

## Thank you to our new and renewed members

### Scott McTavish

Wooden Wings Sponsor

Dan Dempsey  
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peller from Wetaskiwin to Aero Propeller in Calgary, as well as returning two crates of non-Hurricane/Mosquito parts to the Aero Space Museum, in addition to moving two crates of Hurricane Merlin parts to Nanton (thanks Scott)

- accomplished a beautiful clean and polish on a couple of the copper fire bottles
- designed a steel jig for the Mosquito fuselage
- received the "GO" signal, plus a cheque for \$78,000 from the City of Calgary to begin restoration on the Hurricane fuselage and center section

In addition to the restoration work, we staffed our display booth in the Bomber Command Museum for their season opener on April 20<sup>th</sup> and again on May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> at which time we began to sell a collection of over 300 aviation books donated to us through the efforts of Bruce

## 2013 CMS events

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - Calgary**  
**Historic Calgary Week**  
Central United Church, 131- 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW at 12 noon.

**August 24<sup>th</sup> - Nanton**  
**"Salute to the Royal Canadian**

Gowans.

Through the efforts of board member Trevor McTavish we again have a pair of FLY ANYWHERE tickets courtesy of WestJet. We could use a hand from you in selling them. Where and when? Drop into our general member's meeting at the Phoenix Foundation on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Jack, Colette, Bob and more will also talk about attending the air show in Hamilton and seeing the Mosquito fly.

If you want to buy or sell some raffle tickets, but can't make the meeting, drop us a line or give me a call at 403-235-1350.

Come out August 24<sup>th</sup> to the Bomber Command's Salute to the Royal Canadian Legion day, where they will for the *first time ever* have all four Merlins on their Lanc roaring at once! Ever wanted to know what two low flying Mosquitoes sound like? Drop by and listen. Help staff our booth and make sure you hear the presentations in the Joe English Room

**Legion"** and Lancaster engine run. See the [BCMoC website](#) for details.

**September 21<sup>st</sup> - Nanton**  
Lancaster engine run. See the [BCMoC website](#) for details.

of the Museum by Anne Gafiuk and Jack McWilliams.

It might surprise you to know that in reporting our volunteer hours to the City that four board members put in more hours doing administrative work than all other volunteer contributions combined! Big thanks to Jack, Colette and Trevor.

And no less thanks to all who have driven back and forth, gotten your hands and your clothes dirty and contributed your time, skill and passion to our success:

Ken P., Wayne, Tim O., Andy W., Lionel C., Laura G., Craig G., Paul G., Bert F., Wayne T., David A., Vanna L., Paul P., David D., Don Y., Bob L., Dick S. and Al M.

Your contributions and what we have accomplished had me in tears as I was writing my report for the City.

Richard de Boer  
President •

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - Calgary**  
WestJet raffle draw.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact us if you're able to spare some time. •



Wooden Wings Sponsor

**Richard de Boer**

Wooden Wings Sponsor

## Calgary Mosquito Society

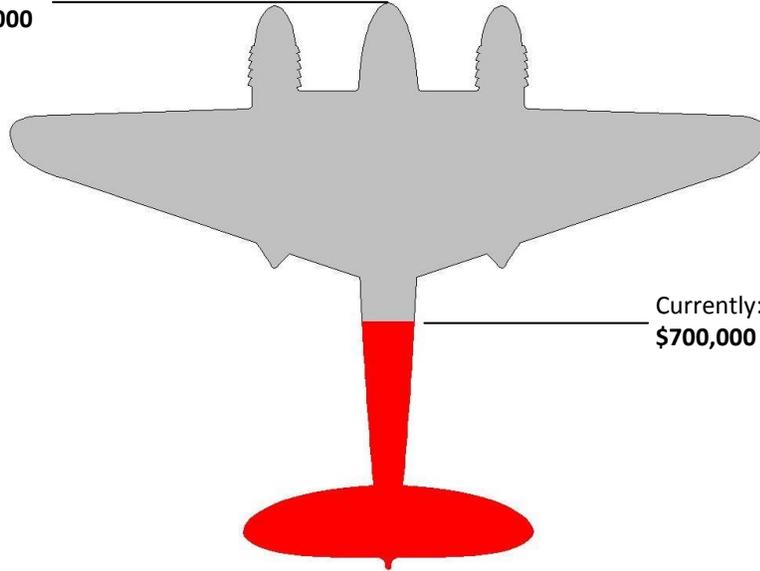
C.O. Richard de Boer, President  
1021, 3235 - 56th Street NE  
Calgary, AB, T1Y 2X7  
Canada

Phone: 1-403-235-1350  
E-mail: calgarymosquitosociety@hotmail.com  
Web: www.calgarymosquitosociety.com



Wooden Wings Sponsor

Goal:  
**\$1,600,000**



Start:  
**\$0**

A special welcome to our latest Wings sponsor - **Aero Aviation Ltd.** Aero, as they're commonly called, has been a fixture on the Calgary Airport for years, originally called Aero Metal Fabrication. Thank you Aero Aviation, and thank you to our other Wings sponsors; **The City of Calgary, Rangeland Truck and Crane Ltd., Scott**

**McTavish, Aero Propeller of Calgary Ltd., Richard de Boer and WestJet Airlines.**

A minimum \$5,000 tax-deductible donation is all it takes to become a Wings sponsor and ensure lasting recognition of your support to restoring both airplanes.

Visit the [website](#) for an up to date listing of all sponsors and supporters, and please don't forget, we need volunteers to help us identify additional sponsorship candidates, and to help put together grant applications. Contact the CMS if you have suggestions, or if you're able to volunteer a few hours over the upcoming months. •

## Thank you for supporting the CMS with a donation

Dan Dempsey  
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