



# ROAR of the Harvard

Canada's grassroots organization devoted to keeping 'em flying

[www.harvards.com](http://www.harvards.com)

June 2015

## "President's Report"

By Pat Hanna

Spring has finally decided to stay around a bit longer and we could not be happier! The winter seemed very long this year and was somewhat discouraging at times, but the Harvards and Yale are "roaring" again and the smiles are returning to people's faces.

As most of you know, AME Carey Wilkinson and CTechO Shane Clayton discovered some stress cracks in the horizontal stabilizer spars of several Harvards during routine inspections early this winter. We were able to obtain replacement spars from Dallas, Texas and they have been replaced in almost all the aircraft at this writing. It took a lot of time and the maintenance team worked long hours to get the Harvards back in the air in time for "spring training". **Thank you all for a job well done!!**

Just when we felt things were coming together, metal shavings were found in the oil screen on Harvard HWX! The decision was made to ground the aircraft until we can get an overhaul done to the engine. In Canadian dollars, that would amount to approximately \$50,000, so we need to raise some more funds before giving the OK to proceed. The Tiger Moth will be taking the season off too! Numerous repairs are being done to the landing gear and wings, but more importantly, the crankshaft in the engine needs to be replaced. We trust we can raise the necessary funds to put this historic aircraft back to flying status in the near future.

On the bright side, the Yale is being kept very busy as several pilots are getting checked and flying regularly. We are anticipating a full flying season this year for the first time ever! If you want to take a ride in a very rare piece of Canadian history and folklore, call Melanie Burden today and book a flight experience in our latest star. Pilot checkouts in the Harvards and Yale and formation flying practices are happening at every opportunity with several new names being added to the pilot roster. A huge thanks goes out to Dave Martin and Scott McMaster as they give freely of their time to advance the flight program. COpsO Bjarni Tryggvason has had a challenge trying to schedule all the pilots around three flying Harvards and the Yale. We look forward to having five Harvards on the flight line soon.

In late April, we had our Annual Awards Banquet and Fund-Raising Auction at the Woodstock Legion. There was a good crowd on hand to bid on the many interesting items donated for auction. The speaker for the evening was Peter Killin from Campbell River on Vancouver Island. Peter flew the Martin Mars water bomber for almost thirteen seasons fighting fires across North America and Mexico. He gave the pilots on hand a "start-up briefing" and showed many interesting photos of the Mars in action. See the photos of this year's award winners in another article.

*...Continued on page 13*

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### **Upcoming Events & Meetings 2015**

- Sat June, 20 2015 – Monthly member’s briefing –
- Sat July, 18 2015 – Monthly member’s briefing –
- Sat Aug, 15 2015 – Monthly member’s briefing –
- Sat Sept, 19 2015 -- Monthly member’s briefing –
- Sat Oct, 17 2015 -- Monthly member’s briefing –
- Sat Nov, 21 2015 -- Monthly member’s meeting –
- Sat Dec, 19 2015 -- Monthly member’s briefing –

## CHAA's Annual Banquet was held at the Woodstock Legion on April 25<sup>th</sup>.



*On the left, Randy and his father Ed Wilson get set to enjoy the dinner. Ed was one of the veterans who flew in a Harvard during the Gathering of Harvards and Heroes last summer. On the right, old friends Jim Fox and Len Fallowfield are all smiles.*



**Bob Hewitt**

**Dave Timms**

**Len Fallowfield**

**Pat Hanna**

CHAA presented 30 year pins to these amazing gentlemen. Thank you, guys, for all you have done and continue to do for CHAA.

## Shane Clayton presented with the inaugural Bob Hewitt Award



The Bob Hewitt Award is given to the member who has contributed most significantly to the overall success of CHAA in that year. 2014 was the launch of the award that Bob initiated. The award is presented to the member based on votes from the membership for an individual who has placed CHAA and our mandate first and foremost. Shane was obviously a great choice to be the first recipient of this annual award. Thank you, Bob and congratulations Shane!



# CHAA's First Fly Day of 2015

All images by [www.gusair.com](http://www.gusair.com)



Thanks Gus!

# Let the Learning Begin

By Roy Venn



C Tech O Shane Clayton conducts a tour for students from Fanshawe College [Woodstock Campus]



Here the CHAA service crew is refreshing their skills preparing for a busy flying season.

## Home School Students and Parents Tour CHAA



Jack MacKenzie explains the workings of a Harvard to a group of home schooled students in the maintenance hangar. They ranged in age from toddlers to high school students.



So that's what makes all that noise....hmm.



Poet & author Cathy Cowan presents framed poem to CHAA President Pat Hanna.

## Help us celebrate 30 years of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association

We're 30 years young and we invite you to help us celebrate! June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at Tillsonburg Regional Airport (CYTB), we mark our association's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We'll have our Harvards on the ground and in the air along with other winged-guests that fly in to say congratulations. Each day will feature our 45-foot long Timeline capturing the history of the organization along with interactive displays, videos, simulators and more. Shop at our CHAA store, tour the facilities, meet the pilots, learn the many areas of involvement with CHAA from operations to restorations, flying, maintenance, and even dive & recovery. There are so many ways to get involved as members.

Fundraising activities throughout the event are sure to bring some fun and mystery while supporting our efforts to keep the Roar of the Harvards in the skies. A Youth Zone will challenge the energy of toddlers to teenagers, a Tourney Zone will give Card Sharks and Board Game Barracudas a chance to gather, and there will be much more fun for the whole family! Back seat rides will fill up fast and are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no admission fee, but donations to the Harvard Association are encouraged and appreciated.

We want to share the love of history and aviation which has kept us going for three decades. Plus, we are always looking for new members to share the fellowship of our fantastic volunteers.

Join us at Tillsonburg Regional Airport. Fly-ins are from 9 a.m. onwards and Anniversary Festivities run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14. Camaraderie, laughter, adventure, a smack of sights and sounds to your senses, fresh air, open fields – it all makes for a day of memories. Your fun is our toast to success. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.harvards.com> or call (519) 842-9922.

### Flight Ops (as of May 30) For more information, contact Melanie Burden, Backseat

Co-ordinator: [m\\_burden@harvards.com](mailto:m_burden@harvards.com) or 519-295-0059

June 13	Brampton 753 Air Cadet Sqd 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Fly Past	1 SEAT LEFT
June 13	Woodstock Relay for Life Fly Past	3 SEATS LEFT
June 13/14	CHAA's 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	
June 27	Branford Fund Raiser Fly-In	
July 1	Port Burwell 175 Lighthouse Fly Past	FULL
July 5	Owen Sound Wings & Wheels Fly In	1 SEAT LEFT
July 11	Huron Park Annual Summer BBQ Fly In	1 SEAT LEFT
July 18	Open House Fly Day	
August 1	Open House Fly Day	
August 8	Edenvale Gathering of Classics Fly In	1 SEAT LEFT
August 22	Waterloo Flight Centre –Open House	
September 12	Wings & Wheels	
September 13	Brampton Great War Museum Fly In	
September 19	Guelph Tiger Boys Fly In	
October 3	Member's Appreciation BBQ	
October 18	Six Nations Remembrance Day Fly Past, Ohsweken	
November 8	Remembrance Day Fly Past, Shedden	
November 11	Remembrance Day Fly Past, Toronto	FULL

## Excerpts from “Tales Of Our Town”

(Reprinted with permission from the Strathroy & District Historical Society)

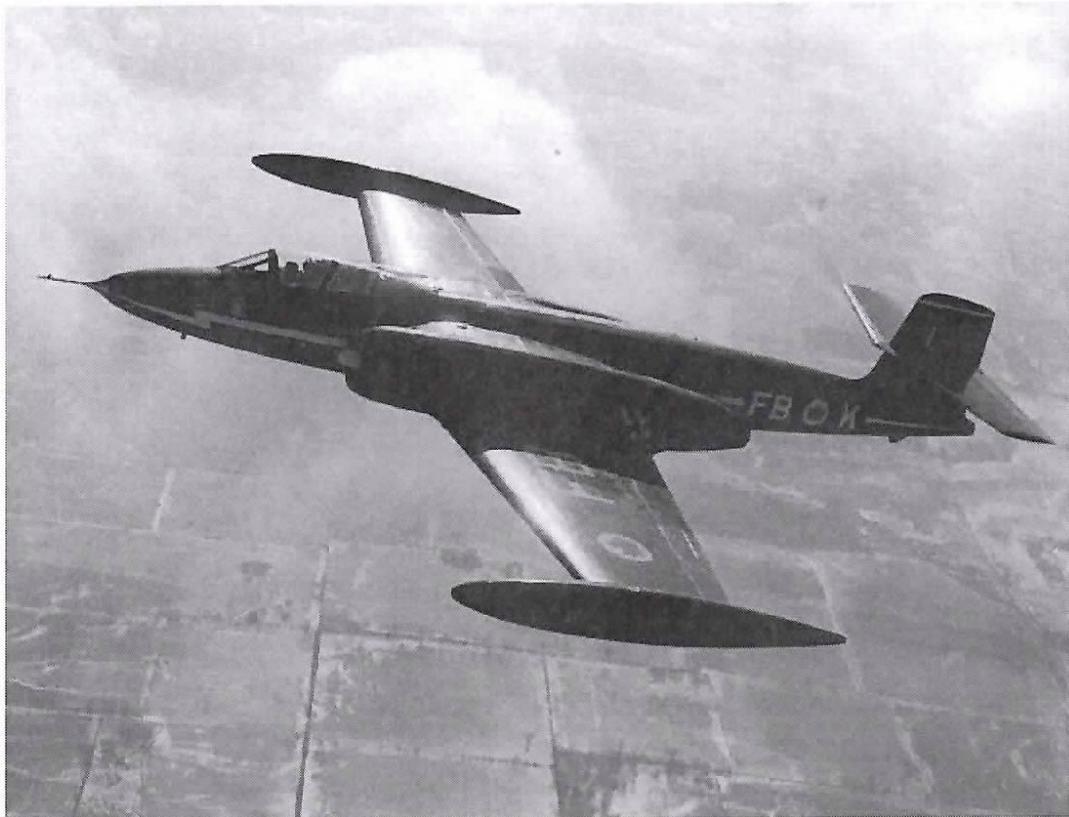
### Komoka area plane crash

More disastrous than the Crathie incident was the tragic accident near Komoka on April 5, 1951. A twin-engine Avro CF-100 jet crashed and exploded four miles east of Mount Brydges, killing both the pilot, F/Lt. Bruce Warren, and Robert Ostrander, an engineering observer. Witnesses noticed black smoke before the plane hit the ground, nose first. It left a crater 30 feet long, 15 feet wide and more than 12 feet deep. The force of the explosion was felt more than five miles from the crash, and the wreckage, almost unrecognizable, was spread over an area half a mile square.

The plane was a prototype built by A.V. Roe Canada for the RCAF. Its first flight had been on July 10, 1950. On this June morning it was on a routine test flight out of Toronto when something went terribly wrong. Since it was a top-secret model, nearly 50 RCAF and Avro personnel kept visitors away from the crash site. Investigators from the RCAF and Avro Ltd. eventually reported that the probable cause of the tragedy was the failure of the pilot's oxygen supply system. The lack of oxygen caused him to pass out and lose control.

*Source:*

*“\$1-million dollar plane crashes near Komoka; probe starts”; Strathroy Age Dispatch, April 12, 1951.*



The prototype CF-100 Canuck that crashed near Komoka

## ***Did You Know...***

*You can view the Roar of the Harvard on CHAA's website?*

*Simply go to [www.harvards.com](http://www.harvards.com), click on "Newsletters" in the grey area under the banner photo, then click on Roar of the Harvard.*

*You can now open, read or print a colour copy of the Roar of the Harvard.*

## **Transport plane forced down in Adelaide**

by Libby McLachlan

Published in The Age Dispatch, August 4, 2011

Winter 1945 had been especially challenging, with hundreds of rural people snowed in for weeks at a time since mid-December. The war in Europe carried on, but was expected to end in the spring.

On a snowy February 2, 1945 a C-47 Dakota Royal Air Force transport plane was heading from Windsor, Ontario to Dorval, Quebec on the return leg of a routine training flight. On board were the pilot, the navigator, the wireless operator and six student navigators. At 11:30 p.m. the plane was flying at 7000 feet about four miles north of Strathroy, near Crathie, when the two 1000 horsepower engines sputtered and failed.

As the plane was quickly losing altitude the veteran pilot, Flight Lieutenant Duval, knew he

couldn't reach the Crumlin air base near London. With the aid of powerful landing lights on the plane's wings he circled the area once, came down through the overcast, and made a belly landing in a pasture field owned by William Nettleton. The plane skidded in an arc for about 300 yards, leaving foot-deep gouges in the several feet of snow, before coming to a stop just 75 yards from a stand of small trees.

Luckily, no one was injured, but the propellers and the undersides of the two engines were damaged. The crew members spent the night at the LaMantia Hotel in Strathroy before returning to their base. Four service police were assigned to 24-hour guard duty at the downed plane. A few days later a repair crew arrived from No. 6 Repair Depot in Trenton. Because the Dakota was such a large plane the plan was to repair the damage and fly it out.



Dakota military transport plane similar to the one forced down near Crathie

to repair the crash-landed Dakota. There was special thanks to Walter Moran for letting “the boys” use his apartment; to George Kemp for opening his home and driving “the boys” around; to Mr. and Mrs. Frank O’Connor of LaMantia Hotel for providing the comforts of home; and to T.A. Snelgrove for making room in his warm garage for any mechanical work that could be done away from the aircraft.

What could well have been a tragic crash land-

On February 23, three weeks after its forced landing, the repairs were complete. Flight Lieutenant A.K. Miller from Trenton, a veteran of many overseas operations, took off in about 500 feet of space that had been cleared of snow. He roared over the town and headed for Crumlin.

The following week a letter of thanks appeared in the Strathroy Age from RCAF Repair Depot at Trenton. It expressed “most hearty thanks” to the people of Strathroy for the kindness and hospitality shown to the crew that had been sent

ing was instead an incident that left an RCAF repair crew with fond memories of Strathroy hospitality.

*Sources:*

*“Airplane crashes, no one injured”; Strathroy Age Dispatch, February 8, 1945.*

*“Fly big aircraft from cow pasture”; also “RCAF repair crew sends thanks to Town”; Strathroy Age Dispatch, March 1, 1945.*



Thomas A. Snelgrove's Shell gas station, garage and Hudson dealership, early 1930s; located at 19 Front St E. where Tim Hortons is in 2013. On the left is Thomas Snelgrove, on the right Sam Nichols. The tow truck was built by Thomas Snelgrove. The garage was still in business in 1945, when it was made available to repair parts of the plane forced down at Crathie.

*Photo courtesy of Museum Strathroy Caradoc*

**Special thanks to Libby McLachlan suggested by CHAA member Bill Giffen**

## **CHAA 2035**

By Vic Whitcroft

Hello Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and the year 2035, I hope this finds you well. Needless to say you're reading this because you have opened the time capsule that was placed for the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association in 2015. How has CHAA, the flying community and CYTB changed over the last 20 years since our last major anniversary? Let me speculate how the association might look in June of 2035

The City of Tillsonburg Airport Commission has waived land lease increases for thirty years to assist CHAA in maintaining the 150,000 square foot hangar museum complex that was erected and occupied in 2033. Most of CHAA's flying aircraft are housed in the main building. The fleet now includes 12 Harvards, 2 Tiger Moths, 4 Chipmunks, 3 Yales and a recently decommissioned Harvard 2 donated anonymously just last year. With ever increasing fuel costs it has become very difficult to keep all of the fleet flying. At

a cost of \$17.01 per litre for av gas, when you can get it, is a burden on the budget. Aircraft on static display that have timed out include 4 Harvards and a Yale that was excavated by the CHAA archaeology team on the site of Ernie Simmons farm. Apparently Ernie had buried some artifacts which CHAA has been given exclusive rights to and has undertaken the task of unearthing whatever treasures may be there.

On a similar note the Dive recovery team has located a perfectly preserved C47 in sixty feet of very cold water in an undisclosed location in northern Ontario. Walt said it should be at CHAA headquarters before the summer is over. Since its inception CHAA has had members world wide. Information received a few days ago confirmed that our membership list includes three people on the recently colonized outpost on Mars including our newest Harvard Hawk, a baby boy born on the red planet. Our first true Martian member! Flight experience days have obviously been limited by the "manned" flight rules. With 17 million drones registered in Ontario and 300 million globally, manned flight is the exception not the rule. Transport Canada only allows piloted flying in certain restricted airspace on odd numbered days below 6000 feet. The Society of Manned Flight has been fighting this rule for three years but has made no progress. On a bright note climate trends make it possible to fly every month of the year with only a wind breaker and light gloves to protect from the slightly uncomfortable weather.

Due to CHAA's growth, demands for maintenance, restoration, archives and day to day management activities have increased. Shane Clayton, VP in charge of rail safety at GFRR formerly CP Rail has retired to devote full time hours to CHAA. A heritage grant from the Canadian Government will cover his wages for three years. Shane is our first and only paid employee. His official title is C Ops E (E is for everything) but he is most often referred to simply as "The Man".

The airport has seen many changes over the years too. The addition of a paved parallel taxiway for runway 08/26 and the paving, extension and parallel taxiway for runway 02/20 CYTB is still a great place to be. CYTB has become home to over 75 vintage warbirds of all makes and models from the Harvard to Spitfires. I must mention several ex-military jets based on the field at CYTB. Two CF-18's and one F 86 among them. Rumour has it in 2038 when the Snowbird's stop using the Tudor, Snowbird 9 & 10 are going to be based here. Exciting times!

Well I've wasted enough time letting my imagination take me away. Am I one who sees the future or did I miss the mark? Although a positive thinker, I quite likely won't be here to check it out for myself, so my granddaughter Noelle said she would come by the day they open the capsule to see.

### ***...President's Report - Continued from page 1***

Way back in the spring of 1985, a group of Harvard owners and some associated enthusiasts formed the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association at a small air strip just outside Woodstock, Ontario. We had a handful of members, four privately owned Harvards and no hangars. The next year we bought a two bay hangar at the nearby Tillsonburg Airport and we also bought Harvard #AJ 583, CF-HWX.

From that humble beginning thirty years ago, we now own free and clear, eight Harvards, a Yale, a Tiger Moth, two hangars and two portable meeting rooms! The Yale is a trophy of volunteerism, as it was restored from the ground up over a period of nearly twenty-five years by countless volunteers, many of

whom we have said our final goodbyes to over the years. It is registered as C-GLJH in honour of former RCAF Wing Commander Lou J. Hill who spearheaded and guided the project for many years. Lou was the "Honourary Chairman" of CHAA in those early years.

On **June 13 and 14**, CHAA will be celebrating its **thirtieth (30th) anniversary** at the Tillsonburg Regional Airport. We encourage everyone to attend this special reunion of CHAA members past and present! A full slate of activities has been planned to involve young and old alike. The schedule of events is posted in the ROAR, on the website ([www.harvards.com](http://www.harvards.com)) and on Facebook. Make plans now to attend and bring your friends! Of course the Harvards will be "ROARing" and there will be lots of opportunities for flight experiences. This is a great opportunity to experience a flight in the Yale for the first time.

A very special "**Thank You**" to every **volunteer** in CHAA! Thank you for your willingness and eagerness to assist in the many ways it takes to keep an organization of this size running smoothly. Big or small, each task or each minute of time contributes in a significant way to the preservation of this unique part of Canadian history! **YOU** are writing the history books for the next generation! Because of **YOU**, the **VOLUNTEER**, others will long remember the Harvard and the role it played in the freedom of our country of Canada and the other countries of the British Commonwealth. **THANK YOU!**

As we head into summer, there is a noticeable lack of air shows in Ontario on the calendars this year. CHAA has always played an important role in these shows and they have been a big revenue source for us, particularly in "stores" sales of CHAA merchandise. This season, we have paid close attention to other opportunities at fly-ins, special flyovers and displays and especially right here at home. So please mark our fly-day/open houses on your calendar and come out in support of CHAA. Pick up a t-shirt or special gift to remind yourself that the ultimate goal of CHAA is to "**Keep those Harvards FLYING!**"

*"The Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing. The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people, languages, ideas and values together".*

*- Bill Gates*

