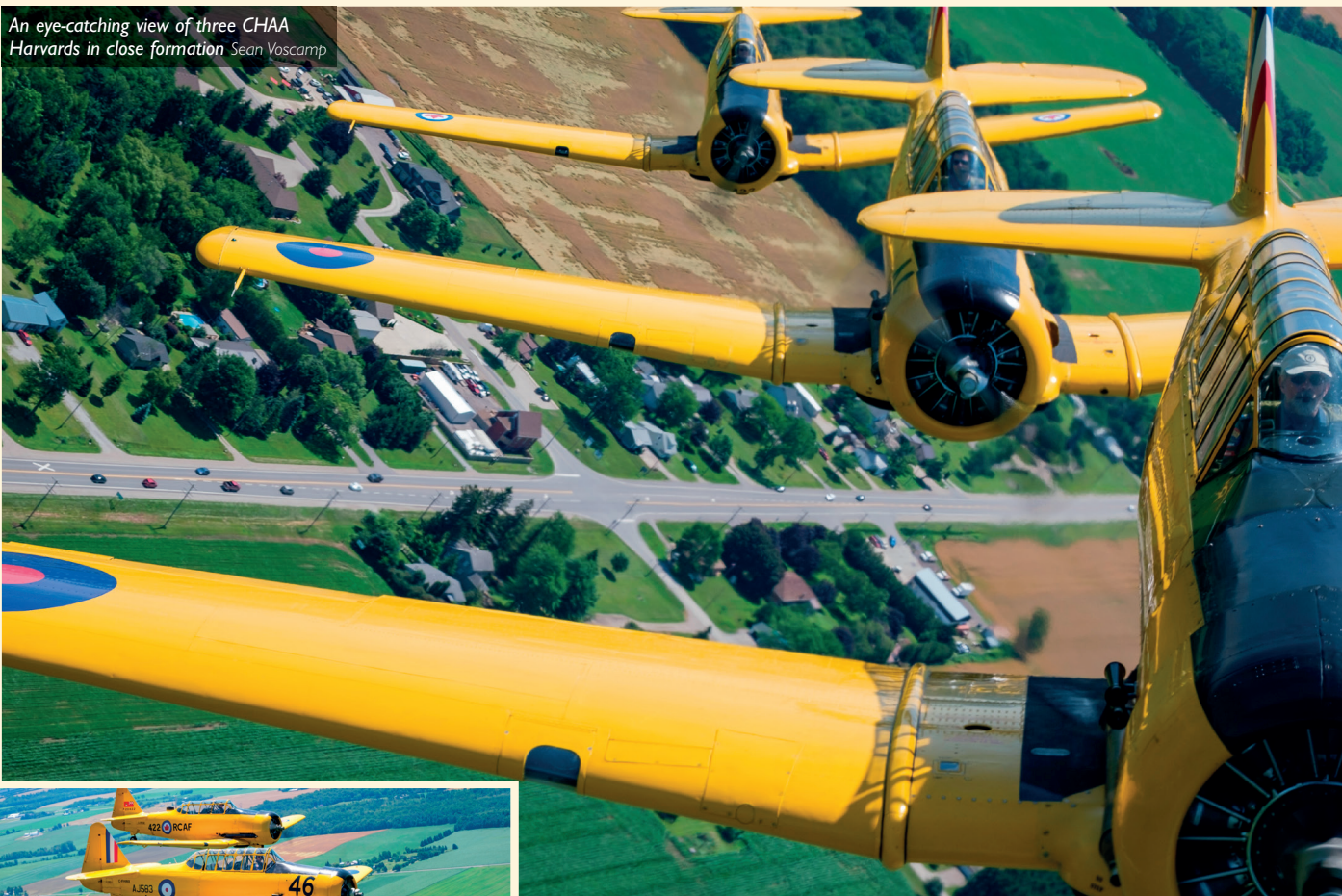


Canadian Harvard group celebrates four decades of flight

An eye-catching view of three CHAA Harvards in close formation Sean Voscamp



A trio of CHAA Harvards – C-FRWN (nearest camera) with C-FHWX and C-FRZW Sean Voscamp

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (CHAA), based in Tillsonburg, Ontario, is marking its 40th anniversary in 2025.

The Association was created in 1985 by three aviation enthusiasts who aimed to preserve the North American Harvard in remembrance of those that flew and worked on the classic trainers during World War Two.

Today's CHAA is a volunteer-run charity and can boast North America's largest fleet of Harvards – no fewer than eight and one Yale are based at Tillsonburg Regional Airport.

"Keeping these warbirds in flying condition is a colossal task," said CHAA boss Walther Irie. "Yet our volunteers are dedicated to keeping the legacy of the Harvard alive and preserving

its historical significance."

The legendary type, and its variants, were used to train pilots of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the United States Army Air Forces and the subsequent United States Air Force, plus the US Navy, RAF and other air forces of the British Commonwealth during World War Two, and even into the 1970s. Some 130,000 Canadian and Allied personnel under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan made use of the type in Canada, operating from more than 150 air bases across the country.

CHAA has received minimal government funding over the years and raises money via campaigns, events and initiatives, including taking passengers for flight experiences. "We've had Second World War veterans visit us with their flight logbooks," Walther recalled, "and when they climb into the

cockpit again their faces can either light up or fill with tears. It's difficult to comprehend what is going through their minds, but for us, it makes all our efforts worthwhile to give them this opportunity."

CHAA plans to host several special events during this anniversary year. See: www.harvards.com



The volunteer-run group is based at Canada's Tillsonburg Regional Airport. Via CHAA