



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.

Mosquito Bytes is the official newsletter of the Calgary Mosquito Aircraft Preservation Society.

If you have an interesting story or news items relevant to our organization, please contact the society at:

calgarymosquitosociety@hotmail.com

Big stuff

I was in Ottawa last week to attend a museum conference which drew conservators and curators from around the world. More than a passive attendee, we had been asked to give a presentation to this esteemed group of professionals and Ph.D holders.

When my turn came on Wednesday morning I began by saying that "I want to talk to you today about two of my least favourite things in the world: Politics and money." I told them how a grassroots group of committed dreamers beat the odds and the opposition to win a campaign to save a couple of the world's coolest airplanes. They nodded. They laughed. They applauded. They got it.

The theme of the conference was "Saving Big Stuff in Tight Economic Times". 'Big Stuff' is a unique triennial international meeting focused on the challenges and triumphs of conserving large technology heritage. The meeting has been hosted in Canberra, Bochum, and Duxford and for the first time in Canada where it was held at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum and the Canada

Science and Technology Museum. Over seventy people attended from Australia, Scotland, France, Greece, USA, England, Norway, Germany and Estonia.

How did we end up there? It started with an invitation from Sue Warren, Conservation Manager with the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation in Ottawa. Ms. Warren was the key organizer of the conference and as I came to learn, someone well versed in what we have been doing. I received a note from her last March which in part stated "I was one of the members of the team that selected your group to work with the City of Calgary on the Mosquito project. I was thinking of your group as an excellent example of how privately funded volunteer groups can become powerful advocates and activists involved in preservation. In an age of decreasing government funding for arts and culture, your type of initiative will be increasingly important. The project in itself is fascinating, but I also think there is a lot for others to learn from how your organisation set about

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Next Public Meeting:

The next CMS general meeting will be **November 13** at the Phoenix Foundation, 320 - 19th Street SE. [Click here](#) to download a map.

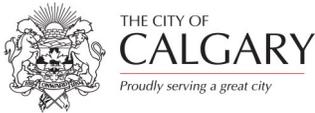
I told them how a grassroots group of committed dreamers beat the odds...

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Mosquito Bytes

News - faster than a speeding Mosquito



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Last newsletter we answered the question “who reads these things.” Specifically the articles we post on the Calgary Mosquito Society’s website. In fact, we pointed out that many of the major aviation heritage magazines (Flypast, Aeroplane, etc.) look to organizations websites for updates and breaking news.

It’s been a tough road for magazines in this new digital age. A plethora of new specialized publications have emerged in recent years but waiting a month or two to learn what’s happening simply isn’t fast enough in this age of instant communication. Websites with daily updates have become the norm. Most commercial businesses have adapted by embracing social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter to broadcast new products, sales, even the news - without relying on readers to remember to visit their websites.

Take for instance the much anticipated first flight of Jerry Yagen’s Mosquito. The entire world’s aviation press was on hand in New Zealand, foaming at the mouth as they raced to be the first to publish images of an airborne KA114. Even print magazines, who usually work two to four months behind, saved space for the

The success to social media’s speed is (in part), its use of blogging software, where contributors don’t have to constantly adjust or create unique webpage designs. This drastically reduces the time needed between writing a story and posting it for everyone to read. (warbirdsnews.com)

event, just so they weren’t left in electronic dust of the internet news sites.

One of the newest groups to

emerge and quench warbird enthusiast’s thirst for information has been

www.warbirdsnews.com

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...waiting a month or two to learn what’s happening simply isn’t fast enough in this age of instant communication.

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where contributors have written articles that vary from our friends at the RAF Museum receiving a C-130 Hercules, to flight reports about Harvards, Loadstars and FW190s. Sadly, they have also been able to report on the wanton destruction of a Spanish HU-16 Albattross, scrapped by the very organization that was expected to save it.

“The goal of the site is to provide fresh daily news content for a large community of aviation fans,” says Moreno Aguiari, the website’s managing editor (and a Commemorative Air Force Dixie Wing volunteer). “We are encouraging warbird operators, private restoration organizations and public avia-

tion museums to send us news, announcements, press releases or details about upcoming events that our staff can publish them on the site. It is our intention to play a role in safeguarding the heritage of these beautiful machines by providing increased awareness and education through the use of internet based digital media,” Moreno continued.

Warbirdsnews.com recently took an interest in the Calgary Mosquito Society and wrote a rather lengthy piece about CF-HMS and the half century of neglect and uncertainty she’s had to endure. It’s a unique story* because most organizations either have an airplane donated to them, or they purchase the airplane they desire. The Calgary Mosquito Society

in comparison spent most of its early years lobbying politicians in order to save our beloved airplanes.

The Calgary Mosquito Society has happily added the readers at warbirdsnews.com to our list of local and global media contacts. Interestingly, several of these sources were unheard of before they contacted us from as far away as England, New Zealand and Australia.

* The only other known group having to do as much political lobbying is the Collins Foundation. Their attempts to lobby Congress into releasing a Republic F-105 Thunderchief haven’t been as successful as ours. •

Wendy Gibson was drawn as the winner of the WestJet tickets on October 1.

Someone’s going on vacation

Imagine sandy beaches, sparkling blue waters, and tropical music. How could you not enjoy a vacation somewhere like that, especially if all it cost you was five bucks? Thanks to our Wooden Wings sponsor, **WestJet Airlines**, and their generous Caring for Our Community program, the CMS received two return tickets anywhere **WestJet** flies – a fantastic prize that sold out for the

second year in a row.

Wendy Gibson was drawn as the winner of the WestJet tickets on October 1. Congratulations Wendy, we hope you enjoy your tickets.

The best part of the **WestJet** raffle is that 99.98% of the money we raised (less the cost of printing the tickets) will go towards the airplanes. The

tickets’ value will be matched by the City of Calgary and so will the money raised through ticket sales. In short, two airline tickets have earned our society more than \$25,000.

The Calgary Mosquito Society will be eligible for another **WestJet** gift in May 2014 so keep dreaming those tropical dreams. (You can dream about Regina -if you *really* want to!)•

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Wooden Wings Sponsor

Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in reaching this fantastic milestone.

Scott McTavish

Wooden Wings Sponsor

Mosquito Bytes

Historic news from Nanton

In case you've been stuck on a deserted island or hiding on the far side of the moon, it's a safe bet that you've heard about a very significant event that took place at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada.

Last month, all four Merlin engines on the Ian Bazalgette Memorial Lancaster ran together for the first time in more than 50 years. It was an ear splitting, soul shaking, fire belching and ultimately satisfying experience; the culmination of more than a decade of

hard work by BCMoC volunteers.

Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in reaching this fantastic milestone.

September's success now elevates FM159 to one of only four Lancasters anywhere in the world with four running engines.

Only our partners at the BCMoC know what the future holds for their Lancaster (rumors persist about getting it

taxiing), but we wish them all the best and will continue to support them as they share our goal of preserving and sharing our unique pieces of Canada's aviation history.

The good news for the Calgary Mosquito Society is that the BCMoC's engine overhaul shop is now vacant, leaving plenty of space for the City of Calgary's Hurricane Merlin. Stay tuned to discover more about our "silent" restoration. •



The celebrations started off on Friday night BCMoC a moving nighttime run on Friday, followed by daytime runs on Saturday. The night time engine runs are especially powerful as they transport viewers back to WW2 and the harrowing bombing missions over enemy lands. (Richard de Boer)

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WESTJET

Wooden Wings Sponsor

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winning the bid.”

As it turned out, the City of Calgary, needing an independent eye on our proposals, restoration plans and the expertise of our members, had been sending our submissions to Sue Warren and others in Ottawa for their review.



After a few exchanges we decided that I should focus on our strategic partnerships. I wasn't really aware that we had any until she mentioned it, but there it was: Government (City of Calgary), business (Historic Aviation Services) and a much respected not-for-profit museum (Bomber Command Museum). We were a new organization with no track record. How did we build credibility? In part, through strong partnerships with established and respected entities.

I mentioned the conference invitation to the City of Calgary manager to whom we submit all our reports and documents. He was thrilled that the City (and us) was recognized at a national and even international level. Okay, I guess I had

better go. Good choice: We heard from the man who developed the conservation plan for the Space Shuttle Atlantis. He is now in charge of the complete renovation of the west block of Parliament. Someone else had done a laser scan of an entire town. Others worked to conserve an entire 14 hectare, 90 building, blast furnace complex in the Ruhr Valley. Another talked about moving a 120 tonne steam locomotive from South Africa back to its British birthplace. One of my favourites was about the emergency waterproofing treatment of a DH 106 Comet airliner left outside in the rain for too many years by a young German conservator working for a Scottish aviation museum. Such cool stuff, engaging such passionate, educated and skilled people.

In addition to three days of presentations we got a guided tour of the Canadian Conservation Institute, a look at the back rooms of the War Museum, walking tours of the Rideau Canal locks and a good taste of Ottawa after hours patio culture.

It was one of the best little vacations I have had in years. But the significant take away for me is that us Mosquito-ites all share in having created something of note; something thought worthy of sharing with museum professionals from around the world, bourn of our passion, our hard work and our partnerships. Too cool. Thank you.

Richard de Boer
President •

In an age of decreasing government funding for arts and culture, your type of initiative will be increasingly important.

Richard de Boer

Wooden Wings Sponsor

Calgary Mosquito Society

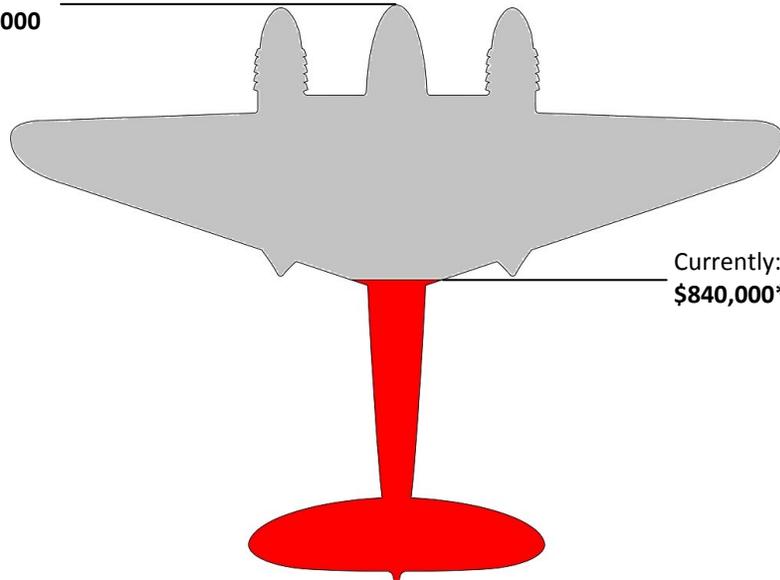
C.O. Richard de Boer, President
1021, 3235 - 56th Street NE
Calgary, AB, T1Y 2X7
Canada

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



Wooden Wings Sponsor

Goal:
\$1,600,000



Currently:
\$840,000*

Start:
\$0

*As of August 1, 2013

Thank you to all of our Wings program sponsors; **The City of Calgary, Rangeland Truck and Crane Ltd., Aero Aviation 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 restoring both airplanes. Plus, every dollar donated is doubled by our partners at The City of Calgary.

Visit the [website](#) for an up to date listing of all sponsors and

supporters.

Contact us if your interested in volunteering, either with the airplanes or in support of the society, especially in the area of fundraising. •