



## **The Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation**

*La fondation du Musée d'aviation de Shearwater  
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Honourary Patron  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

**13 December, 2020**

### **A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SAM FOUNDATION**

**Hello to all our members, wherever you might be around this crazy old world we live in today. And a special welcome to our new members who are just becoming aware of SAM's activities and programming. We hope that once Covid is dispensed with that many of you will come to visit us. In short, it's an impressive display.**

**So, this has been a crazy old year when measured with any standard you wish to use, hasn't it? Here in Nova Scotia, as you who followed events down here will know, we had a topsy turvey start to it all. Our mad dentist did his damage in a 14-hour spree, shooting and killing 22 good and totally innocent Nova Scotians. His girlfriend, her brother and a friend of her brother have now been arrested for procuring the ammunition for the carnage. Me thinks she has protested perhaps for the last time, as her lawyers last week began the call of "That ain't fair! You didn't tell her you were suspecting her of anything!" More to follow, no doubt.**

**The museum that we all pour so much effort into has been officially closed for the last many months. I stopped by there last week to buy some 50/50 tickets and I could shoot a canon down the hallways. Much of our work goes on behind the scenes, and we are all agreed that things could be a lot worse. Our Curator, Christine Hines and our SAMF Office Manager, Karen Collacutt McHarg are usually in the building, as even in the grip of Covid, the business of actually running the museum beneath the surface carries on. There are a couple of new items that are being added to our collection, and we would very much enjoy introducing them to all our members, not just our new arrivals. One which has just arrived is rather breathtaking. It is a Virtual Reality Viewer that puts you in a Sea King Helicopter cockpit actually doing missions. Cool!**

**As I mentioned in last year's Christmas edition of the Warrior, we have the drawings done up for expansion plans to house our ever-growing collection. Our relatively new expansion hangar (now 19 years old) showed its limited capabilities as soon as we put two Sea King helicopters in the buildings. So, any future new additions will do a little expansion here, while adjusting a few spaces over there to come up with a very presentable layout of the SAM, Mark 3.**

12 Wing built the Shearwater Air Park across Bonaventure Street from the Museum as a Shearwater 100 project, & will be redeveloped in 2021. This is a truly nice little display to welcome you to Shearwater and its 102-year-old history. It has representative aircraft from some of the various era's that Shearwater has played host to over the 102 years of its existence. There is also a very interesting plaque mounted near the sidewalk between the Air Park and the Museum, presented by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. It concisely speaks to the great work done by Naval Air personal during the period that the Navy presided over its Air Branch for the 25 years between 1947 and 1972 and beyond. Any visitor who has not stood at this monument for a couple of minutes to read it and soak in what it says, will not be fully preparing themselves for what they are about to see inside the museum. I encourage you to visit this small display prior to entering the Museum proper. It will enhance your visit. This was the brainchild and labour of love of LCol (Retired) Bud MacLean, a true son of Shearwater, who in his heyday was a Commanding Officer at 406 Squadron.

We have a very fine Art Gallery; a place of reverence where one of our truly great heroes, Lieutenant (RCNVR) Robert Hamilton (Hammy) Gray, whose acts of valor and skill are memorialized. Gray died pressing forward with an attack on a Japanese Destroyer in Ongawa Bay Japan. It also depicts the courage of an RCAF crew flying a Canso Flying Boat in the Pacific Theatre. The Crew Commander was Flight Lieutenant David Hornell, and he and his crew had stumbled upon the Japanese Fleet as it was silently closing on US Bases in the Pacific. He and his crew's story are as compelling as Hammy Gray's. Several years ago, the Japanese Government allowed a cairn commemorating this Canadian Naval Air hero to be erected at the site of his last battle, which is Japanese Territory. A truly remarkable act on the part of the Japanese Government of the day. And soon there is to be a new monument erected in Victoria BC to the memory of Hammy Gray. I will ensure that we get adequate coverage of this event and share it with our readers when it is commissioned in the near future.

Our membership fees and dues were adjusted slightly approximately 2 years ago. A regular membership is just \$50 per year. We also have incorporated a second membership level, the Sustaining member for \$100 per year. Both these membership categories will buy you 3 copies per year of our Warrior Newsletter plus unlimited entry into the Museum for you and your entire family. The sustaining member paying \$100 for his membership allows us a little flexibility to apply portions of their additional \$100 towards specific items for the museum. The remaining two membership categories are the Patron at \$250 per year and Life members who pay a onetime fee of \$500. So just a word to you all: if your aim is to allow us to place you in one of our categories which allows us to make full use of your membership over and above a basic membership rate of \$50 per year, your additional support will be thankfully received, appropriately acknowledged and gratefully applied. And thank you for asking Sir David.

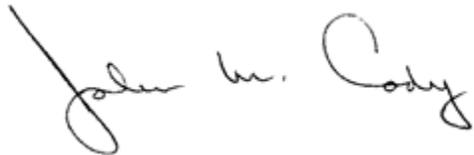
So, while things on the surface appear to be running along nicely, we are quite busy preparing once again to reopen, this time for good we hope. I for one have

heard just about enough of Mr. Covid. We're all being very good here with our Social Distancing, another example of Nova Scotia Strong on display, which pleases this old curmudgeon to no end. We hope you get the chance to stop by and spin a yarn or two anytime we are open.

We also have a fairly robust Gift Shop that is stocked with an interesting range of reasonably priced items for sale, just in time for Christmas. Especially for the grandchildren. There's a really cool small sized aviators flying jacket and model aircraft along with some great reference material to expand your personal book collection. So, come on down and take a look at the place that cross country aviation in Canada started 100 years ago in October 1920.

How blessed we all are for having the great good fortune to be born or naturalized in Canada.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Cody". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

**John M. Cody**  
**President**  
**Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation**