



RCAF Centennial Conference

November 14-15, 2024

University of Calgary

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you, boys"*

*Fly and Fight
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TO SERVE

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About



The Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies (CMSS) is glad to host the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial Conference on 14-15 November 2024. Spearheaded by University of Calgary professors of History, Dr. David Bercuson and Dr. John Ferris, “RCAF Centennial Conference” will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the RCAF over two full days of excellent speakers and panels. The RCAF has faced and overcome incredible challenges in the last 100 years and continues to both excel and represent Canada on the world stage. Featuring retired fighter pilots of the cold war, academic experts, government officials, and military leaders of the RCAF, this conference seeks to explore and laud the social, political, economic, and strategic might of the RCAF throughout its 100-year history. Through the generous support of our sponsors, we aim to bring this history and its many considerations before the public.

Sincerely,
The Organizing Committee

Dr. Rob Huebert
Interim Director, CMSS

Dr. Ron Wallace
Board of Governors, Bow Valley College

Dr. David Bercuson
Professor, History, U of C

Ms. Mary Anderson
Coordinator, CMSS

Dr. John Ferris
Professor Emeritus, History, U of C

Schedule

Day One | Thursday November 14, 2024

Teaching Institute 160, 434 Collegiate Blvd NW, University of Calgary

7:45 a.m.	Doors open
8:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Dr. John Ferris & Dr. David Bercuson➤ Dr. Rob Huebert➤ Dr. Aoife Mac Namara➤ Hon. Mike Ellis, Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services (With MLA Justin Wright)
8:45 a.m.	KEYNOTE 1 Major-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force
9:45 a.m.	Panel 1: Fighter Pilot Experience Moderator: Ron “Dinger” Guidinger <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Laurie Hawn➤ Gordon Todd➤ Bob Wade➤ Billie Flynn
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Teaching Institute Atrium
12:45 p.m.	Panel 2: Understanding the History of the RCAF <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Richard Mayne - Predecessors, Problems, and Promise: The challenges of writing governmental air force history➤ David Bercuson - Writing RCAF History➤ Sebastian Cox - “No risk of its being forgotten”: the workings of the Combined Strategic Targets Committee and its influence on the strategic targeting policy of RAF Bomber Command 1944-45
2:05 p.m.	Panel 3: The Second World War <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ted Barris - A Great Tide of Airmen➤ Randall Wakelam - “This aircraft..is considered missing”: the Heroism of Eddie Laporte➤ Rebecca Murray - Taking a Gander for Grandma: How Servicewomen are Historicized in the Photographic Record

	Break
3:50 p.m.	Panel 4: Government of Canada and RCAF Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Erin O'Toole - Sunward Climbers: The Men & Women of the RCAF ➤ Richard Goette - Unification and Canada's Air Force ➤ David Pratt - The Ukraine Conflict, NATO, and Canada's Strategic Position

RCAF Centennial Banquet

Thursday November 14, 2024

MacHall Ballroom, MacEwan Student Centre, University of Calgary

Registration required via Canada Company

5:30 p.m.	Doors open
6:30 p.m.	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Scott Burns, Canada Company Alberta Chapter ➤ Hon. Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education ➤ Dr. Ed McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calgary
7:00 p.m.	KEYNOTE 2 Billie Flynn, Retired RCAF Combat Commander and Former F-35 Lightning II Senior Experimental Test Pilot



**MANY WAYS
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Schedule

Day Two | Friday November 15, 2024

Teaching Institute 160, 434 Collegiate Blvd NW, University of Calgary

7:45 a.m.	Doors open
8:00 a.m.	Panel 5: RCAF Technical and Social History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ James Fergusson - The Neglected Command: An Historical Perspective on NORAD and the RCAF ▶ Adam Coombs - Flying on Ice: Hockey in the RCAF during the Early Cold War ▶ Allan English - Creating an “Air Force Community” L Women and the RCAF - 1952-1962
9:35 a.m.	Panel 6: Air Operations Post Cold War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sebastian Ritchie - Operation Unified Protector, Libya, 2011: Air Campaigning in the Context of the Coalition Warfare ▶ Bob Bergen - Lessons Learned During Canada’s Bombing Campaign During the 1999 Kosovo War; Russia’s War Against Ukraine; and the Israel-Hamas War ▶ Richard Shimooka - Adaptation and Upgrades: In-service Capability Modernization in the RCAF 1980-2024
11:30 a.m.	Lunch - Teaching Institute Atrium Ted Barris Book Talk - “Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in their Finest Hour”
12:30 p.m.	Panel 7: RCAF Servicewomen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sarah Hogenbirk - “Gone but not Forgotten:” Leading Aircraftwomen Alice Lovina Anderson and Airwomen’s Deaths During the Second World War ▶ Karen Davis - Women in the RCAF: Unification to the 21st Century ▶ Erin Gregory - The New Few: The SWINTER Aircrew Trial, 1979-1985
2:05 p.m.	Panel 8: The North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whitney Lackenbauer - Per Ardua Ad Arcticum: the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Opening of the Canadian Arctic and Subarctic, 1920-1960 ▶ Jeff Noakes - Canada and the Strategic Air Command Refueling Bases, 1958-1963 ▶ Patrick Carpentier - Communications, Energy, and Transportation/Resilience and its role in Deterrence

	Break
3:50 p.m.	Panel 9: Canadian Air Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andrea Charron & Chris Morrison - The Neglected Command ➤ Brad Gladman - From Strategy to Organizational Change: Analysis and Recommendations for the Future RCAF ➤ Rob Huebert - Canadian Air Power - Looking to the Next



Mike Ellis was sworn in as Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services on June 9, 2023. He previously served as Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addiction.

Prior to his service as an elected official, Mr. Ellis spent 12 years with the Calgary Police Service. During his tenure he served 8 years in the position of constable and three as patrol sergeant. In recognition of his service, he received a ten-year distinguished service medal in 2013.

Mr. Ellis has studied in the bachelor of policing program at Charles Sturt University in Australia. He also holds a management certificate from Mount Royal College and leadership certification from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Ellis is married to Hollie, and together they have 3 children.

Rajan Sawhney was sworn in as Minister of Advanced Education on June 9, 2023. She previously served as the Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Prior to her service as an elected official, Mrs. Sawhney worked in the oil and gas industry for over 20 years in a variety of roles in economics and business development and served as the Vice President of Business Development for Fracture Modeling Inc.

Born and raised in Calgary, Mrs. Sawhney is a proud mother of 4 and has been married to her husband, Gurpreet Sawhney, for 30 years. Mrs. Sawhney is also a University of Calgary alumna where she earned a degree in Economics and Political Science as well as an MBA.



Panelists Day One

Keynote 1: Major-General J.R. Speiser-Blanchet, CMM, CD Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force Thursday Nov 14 | 8:45 a.m.



Major-General Speiser-Blanchet enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1990 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in 1994 with a degree in Computer Engineering.

Earning her pilot wings in March 1996, she served as a Rotary Wing Tactical Aviation pilot flying the CH146 Griffon helicopter in 1 Wing. Her operational and staff postings include 430e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères (430 ETAH) in Valcartier, 1 Wing Headquarters in Kingston, 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters in Winnipeg, and 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron in Gagetown. MGen Speiser-Blanchet deployed as a helicopter pilot during United Nations and NATO missions in Haiti and Bosnia and was appointed Deputy Commander (Operations) for Joint Task Force-IMPACT in Kuwait in 2019. In Canada, she has deployed on

numerous domestic operations in response to regional emergencies and in support to other government agencies. MGen Speiser-Blanchet has commanded at multiple levels, including 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron, the Canadian Forces Intelligence Group, and the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group. She has served in strategic staff appointments as military assistant to the Minister of National Defence and as the Special Advisor to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

A graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Programme (JCSP) and the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) in Australia, she holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from RMC and a Masters degree in Politics and Policy from Deakin University. She was promoted to her current rank in 2023 and appointed to the position of Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Panel 1: Fighter Pilot Experience

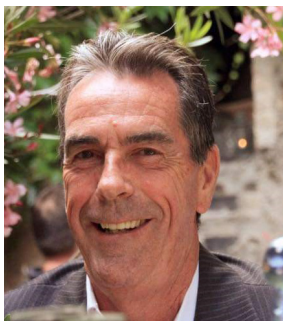
Moderator: Ron “Dinger” Guidinger

Thursday Nov 14 | 9:45 a.m.



Laurie Hawn “Hawnski” Joined 1964 at 17, wings Gimli 1967. 4.5-years QFI T-33 Gimli and Portage. 6-years CF-104 – 441 and 417 Sqns NFA Office 3.5-years select CF-18. Set up 410 Sqn 1-year Cold Lake. Initial Cadre CF-18 and IP 2.5-years. Staff College. Fighter Group North Bay 2.5-years. SSO Fighters Winnipeg 1.5-years. CO 416 Sqn 1.5-years. Wing Ops O Cold Lake 3-years. French Esquimalt 1-year. Retire Nov 1994 and 30+ years. HCol 417 and 401 Sqns 7-years. 7,000 hours. Landings = Takeoffs albeit one T-Bird landing in swamp.

Gordon Todd LCol (Re't) joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in September 1961. After completing an Electrical Engineering Degree at Royal Military College, he entered flight training at Gimli Manitoba and received his wings in 1967. He completed CF-104 training at Cold Lake in 1968 and flew Starfighters until 1975 with 430 Sqn in Zweibrücken and Lahr West Germany and 417 Sqn in Cold Lake. After retirement from the Air Force, he received a Computer Science degree from the University of Calgary and joined General Dynamics Canada as a Systems Engineer. He retired from General Dynamics in January 2009 and he and his wife Audrey currently reside in Calgary Alberta.



Bob Wade Feb 1, 1968, Joined CAF. 1969, Pilot Instructor at CFB Moose Jaw. 1973, Assigned to Snowbird Aerobatic Team. 1975, Assigned to CF104 training CFB Cold Lake. 1976, Assigned to 441 SQN CFB Baden. 1979, Assigned to 1CAG HQ CFB Lahr. 1981, Assigned to 417 Sqn CFB Cold Lake. 1983, Assigned to 410 Sqn CFB Cold Lake. 1987, Assigned to 441 Sqn CFB Cold Lake. Feb 1, 1991, Retired from RCAF. 1991 to 1998, A330 Captain with Canada 3000 Airlines. 1998 to 2006: A330 Captain with Korean Air.

Billie Flynn stands as one of the world's foremost aviation experts and 5th Generation test pilots, with unparalleled expertise in advanced aircraft technologies, combat leadership, and global defense. As F-35 Senior Test Pilot, Flynn played a pivotal role in developing the F-35 Lightning II program, the largest program in history. He designed and performed the first F-35 airshow demonstration at the 2017 Paris Air Show and was instrumental in securing the F-35 as the backbone of the Royal Canadian Air Force. See Keynote 2 for more details.



Panel 2: Understanding the History of the RCAF

Thursday Nov 14 | 12:45 p.m.



Dr. Richard Mayne, CD, received his BA from the University of Toronto, MA from Wilfrid Laurier University, and a PhD in military history from Queen's University. Having served 18 years as a reserve officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, he now works for the Department of National Defence as the Chief Historian and Director of RCAF History and Heritage. He has authored, co-authored, or co-edited publications on aspects of Canadian military history and defence issues. He further sits on various Board of Directors for organizations related to defence and aviation issues including Deputy Chairman of the RCAF Heritage Fund.

Being an official air force historian can be a mixed blessing. The Office of RCAF History and Heritage has had its fair share of challenges and successes over the last decade, issues that are far from new. Its predecessor organizations, dating back some 84 years, have faced similar situations. As a result, there are many lessons and established trends that are worth exploring as they reveal much about the RCAF's relationship with its own History and Heritage, as well as the value of exploring further engagement with academia to collectively understand why a comprehension of the past is so critical. Comparing the experiences of previous RCAF historical offices with modern circumstances makes it possible to lay a foundation for a discussion that can lead to a promising future for Canadian air power and history. It is the aim of this presentation to suggest ways the current academic community, historians and air power experts alike, can help make history relevant to the RCAF. Building connections between academia and the RCAF is key to ensuring that RCAF History and Heritage remains a core business within the Air Force in the current strategic environment.

Dr. David Bercuson is a history professor at the University of Calgary, and the founding director of the Centre for Military, Security, and Strategic Studies. He continued to spearhead its development for more than fifteen years and remains an active member. His research focuses primarily on modern Canadian politics, Canadian defence and foreign policy, and Canadian military history.



"How not to write an official history of the RCAF" My intention was not to write an "official" history of the RCAF from 1924 to 2024. So my real challenge was to use largely secondary sources, and interviews if we could find them, to weave the narrative together. To my surprise we discovered several gold mines of interviews that did pull the story into one cohesive whole. My presentation will sketch the story of how we did it.



Dr. Sebastian Cox is the Head of the Air Historical Branch (RAF) in the Ministry of Defence, a position he has held since 1996. He serves as the principal historical advisor to the Chief of the Air Staff and the Royal Air Force. He is also one of three co-directors of the RAF Centre for Air and Space Power Studies. He joined the Air Historical Branch in 1984 having previously served on the curatorial staff of the RAF Museum and thus has over forty years' experience in the field of RAF history. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and President of the British Commission for Military History and served two terms as an elected trustee of the international Society of Military History. He is also the Chair of the RAF Museum's external academic Research Advisory

Board. He has written widely on the history of the RAF and air power. He was awarded an OBE in 2017 for services to RAF History and Heritage.

The paper will consider the work of the Anglo-US Combined Strategic Targets Committee [CSTC]. Theoretically, CSTC was established in 1944 to provide advice to bomber commanders on the priorities for attacking different target systems. The British Official History characterizes the CSTC as being in a position of "considerable authority as the main advisory body of the offensive". Yet, outside of the Official Histories, CSTC is almost entirely absent from the historiography on bombing policy, receiving scant, if any, mention in most published histories. The paper will seek to show that the CSTC was a major factor behind the scenes in the policy disputes of 1944-45 and was heavily biased towards oil as a target.

Panel 3: The Second World War

Thursday Nov 14 | 2:05 p.m.

Ted Barris is an award-winning journalist, author, and broadcaster. His writing has regularly appeared in the national press, and magazines as diverse as *Air Force*, *esprit de corps* and *Zoomer*. He has also worked as host/contributor for most CBC Radio network programs, NPR in the U.S. and on TV Ontario. He taught journalism at Toronto's Centennial College for 18 years. In 2024, a new UBC Press book *Canada and the Korean War* features Barris as a contributor. His 22nd book *Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour* from Sutherland Press hits the stands in September.



Ted Barris will also provide a lunchtime book talk November 15 at 11:30 a.m. - "Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour"

On the heels of the British evacuation from Dunkirk evacuation, in the spring of 1940, with RAF fighter pilots barely escaping France, and with Hitler ready to launch an invasion of Britain, the Canadian government offered to cannibalize its newly minted aircrew training plan – sending instructors to replenish the ranks of Fighter Command. Winston Churchill said, No. “We count on the training plan to supply a great tide of airmen ... We would prefer a thousand pilots later, than ten today.” The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (centred in Canada 1939-1945) in which Churchill had such great faith, he later said, proved to be “the deciding factor” in winning the air war. This paper/presentation explores a major source of the Plan’s success – the skill and courage of its corps of instructors.



Dr. Randy Wakelam is an emeritus associate professor of history at the Royal Military College. Previously, Wakelam had an extensive military career which saw him fly helicopters for the Army, serving in three different squadrons before commanding 408 Squadron in Edmonton from 1991 to 1993. Between flying tours, he had staff assignments in language training policy and aircraft procurement. The latter exposed him to many of Ottawa’s vagaries in providing the hardware required to fulfill defence policy. Beginning in 1993 he served in various teaching leadership position in officer education, principally at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. From 2010 til today he has taught at RMC Kingston. He researches and publishes in Canadian air power and military education.

From 1939 to 1945 RAF Bomber Command sent tens of thousands of young men into the skies to attack the German Reich. The vast majority of these sorties took place at night and the experiences, the fears and the heroism of the flyers is little recorded compared to the sweeping campaign and battle studies of the other services. One such crew was that of F/O Eddie Laporte, 425 Allouette Squadron RCAF, that went missing on the night of 22/23 May 1944. This paper looks at the big themes of the bomber war through the personal experiences of Laporte and his mates. It aims to show that while their war was fought largely unseen it was every bit as fearsome and heroic as any other. The paper draws largely on the author’s previous research as well as key historiography of the bomber war.

Rebecca Murray has a Master of Arts in Canadian Studies from Carleton University (2012) and has worked at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in Ottawa for over ten years as a Reference Archivist and Program Advisor. Her research interests include the representation of servicewomen in archival photographs and the related and various intersections of art and military history, feminism and user experience. She has been working with the visual record of the Second World War and post-war period since 2018 to identify servicewomen and enhance their discoverability in the holdings.



The Second World War saw 50,000 women officially serving in the Canadian military, breaking into roles historically held by men. Of these women, 17,000 served with the RCAF's Women's Division (WD). One of those women was my grandmother Kay. This presentation will explore the photographic record of servicewomen, like Kay, serving in Gander, Newfoundland in 1942. The visual record of the conflict, both at home and abroad, is consistently called upon for remembrance efforts, yet we must ask how it historicizes these often-forgotten women and what it can tell us about the women who were breaking the mold and "invading" Gander.

Panel 4: Government of Canada and RCAF Policy

Thursday Nov 14 | 3:50 p.m.



Hon Erin O'Toole is the President and Managing Director of ADIT North America and serves on the executive committee of ADIT Group in Paris. ADIT Group is a leading business intelligence firm that provides global investment due diligence and economic diplomacy services around the world. He assumed this role after having served as the Leader of the Conservative Party and a Member of Parliament for a decade. In 2021, Erin ran to be the Prime Minister of Canada in the general election held amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenging circumstances of the election, Mr. O'Toole won the popular vote and advanced a series of policies that continue to resonate in Canadian politics today.

Hon. Erin O'Toole is well-known as the former Conservative Leader and Minister of Veterans Affairs in the Harper government, but he is also a former RCAF officer and a founder of the True Patriot Love Foundation. His focus will combine all of these experiences in a discussion about the men and women of the RCAF past and present. He will offer a particular examination of the evolution of attitudes towards mental injuries from service as part of a wider look at the operational challenges facing the RCAF today.

Hon. David Pratt is Principal of David Pratt & Associates, a government relations and strategic consultancy firm located in Ottawa which he founded 12 years ago. Mr. Pratt was an elected representative at the municipal, regional and federal levels for 16 years. He was Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs from 2001 to 2003. He also currently serves as the Honorary Consul for Sierra Leone in Canada. He became Canada's 36th Minister of National Defence in 2003 in the Government of Prime Minister Paul Martin. As Minister, he initiated several major military procurements. After politics, he spent four years as a Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross where his focus was improving relations between the Red Cross and all levels of government. He wrote and helped draft legislation to renew the mandate of the organization.



Dr. Richard Goette is an air power academic and Canadian air force historian. He is an associate professor in the Department of Defence Studies at the Canadian Forces College (CFC) in Toronto. In addition to writing a biography on "the father of Canada's modern air force," Lieutenant-General Bill Carr, he is conducting research on air power issues related to the RCAF as a professional military institution, professional military education, command and control, maritime air power, air mobility (airlift and Search-and-Rescue), "soft" air power, and the Arctic.

This presentation will examine how Canadian Armed Forces unification had a largely negative effect on Canadian air power, resulting in what was arguably the lowest point in Canadian air force history. Unification eliminated an independent Canadian air force and replaced it with a CAF "air element" consisting of the personnel and units that directly supported or engaged in what was deemed "air" operations. Contrary to air force practice of unity of effort and centralized command and control of air power, the air element was fragmented and dispersed amongst the various new CAF commands, with no central authority for Canadian air power. Maintaining and advancing air power capabilities were impaired, as defence funding cuts led to disproportionate reductions to air element programs compared to the land and maritime elements. With the absence of air force unity of effort and centralized control, air power professional development, doctrine, and culture also continued to suffer post-1968, and morale amongst air personnel declined significantly. Senior air generals' reaction to these developments will also be discussed. The paper will examine how these officers, concerned with the absence of a common voice on air matters, ignorance of the basic tenets of air power, and the subsequent growing lack of understanding of the proper use of air power, began a successful campaign to consolidate Canadian air power under CAF Air Command in 1975.

Banquet

Keynote 2: “The Canadian Airman”

Billie Flynn, CD, MBA, MSc

Thursday Nov 14 | 7:00 p.m. | MacHall Ballroom



Billie Flynn stands as one of the world's foremost aviation experts and 5th Generation test pilots, with unparalleled expertise in advanced aircraft technologies, combat leadership, and global defense.

Career Highlights: Lockheed Martin (2003-2020): As F-35 Senior Test Pilot, Flynn played a pivotal role in developing the F-35 Lightning II program, the largest defense program in history. He designed and performed the first F-35 airshow demonstration at the 2017 Paris Air Show and was instrumental in securing the F-35 as the backbone of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Led testing for the advanced Eurofighter Typhoon in Munich as part of a 4-nation consortium. Canadian

Armed Forces (23 years): Retired as Lieutenant Colonel after a distinguished career including: First “pipeliner” pilot selected for the CF-18 Hornet (1984), Commanding Officer of 441 Tactical Fighter Squadron, Led Canadian Task Force Aviano in Operation Allied Force, flying 25 combat missions over Kosovo, Awarded Battle Honours from Queen Elizabeth II, the first for a Canadian unit since WWII, USAF Exchange Test Pilot: Conducted critical research with USAF and NASA on thrust vectoring aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base (1990-94).

Panelists Day Two

Panel 5: RCAF Technical and Social History

Friday Nov 15 | 8:00 a.m.



Dr. James Fergusson is a Senior Research Fellow of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at the University of Manitoba, a former Director of the Centre, and recently retired Professor in the Department of Political Studies. He has written extensively on issues concerning Canadian Defence Policy, with a focus on NORAD and the RCAF. He is also the co-author along with Andrea Charron of *NORAD: In Perpetuity and Beyond* (MQUP, 2023) and the author of *Canada and Ballistic Missile Defence 1954-2010: Déjà vu all over again* (UBC, 2011). He served tours as Honourary Colonel of the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Studies and 2 Canadian Air Division.

Dr. Adam Coombs completed his BA Hons in history at Carleton University and then his MA and PhD in Canadian history at UBC. He worked for five years at Library and Archives Canada as a government records archivist before joining the Directorate of History and Heritage at Department of National Defence as the RCAF historian in July of 2023. In addition to his current work on the maritime air section of Vol.4 of the RCAF official history, his research interests include the history of hockey in the Canadian Armed Forces and the experience of Canadian pilots during the First World War.



In 1948 the RCAF Flyers represented Canada at the first post-war Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. The team went undefeated at the Olympics to win gold and returned to a hero's welcome in Ottawa. While 1948 would be the high point of the RCAF's hockey history, it marked neither a beginning nor an end. The importance of hockey to the service men and women of the air force continued past 1948, into the Cold War. For many remote towns with RCAF stations during this period hockey was an important part of the entire community's social and cultural life. This paper examines the role of hockey in the social and cultural life of remote RCAF stations and communities during the early Cold War period. It analyzes how hockey was not only an important recreation activity for service members but also the role the sport played in the social life of their communities. Overall, it aims to demonstrate how this interaction between civilians and military shaped life in these remote RCAF outposts.



Dr. Allan English served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Armed Forces for 25 years. He taught courses related to air warfare, theories of war, and command and leadership to senior and general officers at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto from 1998 to 2014. He was Co-Chair of the Department of Aerospace Studies there from 2001 to 2005. In 2017-18 he designed and taught a graduate course on Canadian air warfare for the War Studies program at the Royal Military College of Canada. His latest works include an article “The 2024 Defence Policy Update and its Predecessors: Why the CAF is in a ‘Death Spiral’” in *Canadian Military History* (2024). He is a Professor of History at Queen’s University where he teaches a course on Canadian military history.

Today’s RCAF, like the rest of the CAF, is in the midst of a personnel crisis. Finding solutions to this crisis has been called “an unprecedented challenge”; however, there are historical precedents. During its fourfold expansion in the 1950s the RCAF faced similar challenges and met them successfully. A key to the RCAF’s ability to recruit and retain the workforce it required was the “air force community,” consisting of servicemembers and their families, that formed around the infrastructure and amenities the RCAF provided at its stations and that supported its members. This presentation will tell some of the story of the women, both in uniform and air force spouses, that were a powerful force in creating and sustaining that community.

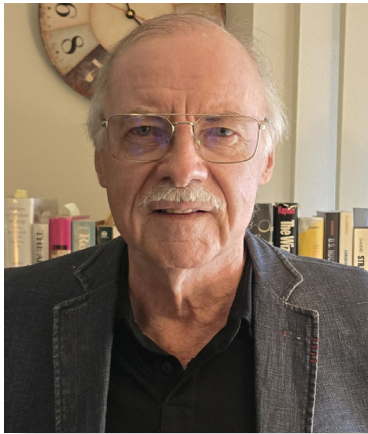
Panel 6: Air Operations Post Cold War

Friday Nov 15 | 9:35 a.m.

Dr. Sebastian Ritchie is an official historian at the Air Historical Branch (RAF) of the Ministry of Defence. He obtained his PhD from King’s College, London, and lectured in history at the University of Manchester before joining the Air Historical Branch. He is the author of several official histories covering RAF operations in Iraq, the Former Yugoslavia, Libya and Afghanistan, and has also lectured and published widely on aspects of air power and air operations, as well as airborne operations, in the Second World War and post-war periods. His published books include *Industry and Air Power* (1997), *Arnhem: Myth and Reality* (2011), *The RAF, Small Wars and Insurgencies* (two volumes, 2011), *The RAF and Airfield Air Defence since 1933* (2023), and multiple studies of RAF operations in the post-Cold War era. He also maintains the historical blog, *Project Overlord: The RAF and the Campaign to Liberate Northwest Europe, 1944-45*.



One of my tasks over the past 28 years has been to write official histories of the role of airpower in campaigns involving the UK since 1991. Canada has been involved in many of these campaigns as well. One of these was Operation Unified Protector, the NATO-led operation mounted over Libya in 2011 to prevent the repression of the civilian population by the regime of Muammar Gaddafi. In this paper, I shall consider Unified Protector from a coalition perspective, providing a brief outline of key events before investigating some of the main air power lessons at the tactical and operational levels, and the operation's enduring relevance to air warfare.



Dr. Bob Bergen is an award-winning former journalist and author of *Scattering Chaff: Canadian Air Power and Censorship during the Kosovo War*, winner of the 2019 C.P. Stacey Award for Best Canadian Military History Book. As a journalist he covered Canadian military operations in Egypt, Cyprus, Cold War Europe and Croatia and Bosnia. As a Research Fellow with the University of Calgary's Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies, he observed Canadian military operations in Afghanistan in 2007 and authored *Censorship, the Canadian News Media and Afghanistan*. He developed and taught the Canadian Military Journalism scholarship course at the University of Calgary from 2002 to 2019.

On March 18, 2024, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine estimated that Russia's invasion which began February 24, 2022, had resulted to date in 10,582 civilian deaths and another 19,875 wounded. On July 17, 2024, the United Nations Secretary-General's Chief of the Israeli-Hamas war estimated that, to date, more than 38,000 Palestinian civilians had been killed since Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel that killed 1,195. By the two previous wars' standards, Canadian Air Force pilots dropping of nearly 500,000 pounds of high-explosive munitions during the 1999 Kosovo air war was exemplary, as the targeting of every bomb dropped was reviewed by military lawyers to minimize civilian casualties. This paper examines the Laws of War and the three conflicts in detail.

Dr. Richard Shimooka is a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, focusing on defense policy and procurement in Canada and the United States. Prior to that he was a senior fellow at the Defence Management Studies Program at Queen's University.



From 1980 onwards, the Canadian Air Force's combat aircraft firmly entered into the digital computer era with the introduction of the CP-140 and the CF-18. Yet their procurement was only the first step in maintaining their capability. Over the next forty years the Royal Canadian Air Force has employed different approaches to maintain these platforms' relevance, to varying success. This presentation will examine these efforts, focusing primarily on the CF-18. The air force's attempt to manage technology, covering areas such as intellectual property, industrial benefits and interoperability, had major consequences on aircraft operational capability and these lessons remain relevant for the future.

Panel 7: RCAF Servicewomen

Friday Nov 15 | 12:30 p.m.



Dr. Sarah Hogenbirk is an independent settler scholar who specializes in the fields of Canadian gender history, and war and society. She obtained her PhD in history from Carleton University in 2017. Her work has been published in international and Canadian collections including *Making the Best of It: Women and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland during the Second World War* (2020). She has researched various projects for museums such as the Canadian War Museums and the federal government. Currently, she is working on a chapter on women veterans for the Canadian War Museum's *In Their Own Voices* Legacy Book project.

Leading Aircraftwoman Alice Lovina Anderson, a member of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation in Ontario, numbers among the roughly 44,090 Canadian Second World War dead. Anderson served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division) and died from tuberculosis. Historians have largely overlooked Anderson and the thirty-six other airwomen honoured in the *Second World War Book of Remembrance*. Building upon Anne Gafiuk's memorial website to Canadian women who died during the war and my past work, my paper will use Anderson as a case study to examine airwomen's wartime service, deaths, and the commemoration of their deaths. While few airwomen died, analyzing how their deaths were handled reveals much about the intersection of gender, race, and war, and nuances our understanding of military sacrifice.



Dr. Karen Davis has served as a non-commissioned member and officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, and as a civilian in the Department of National Defence. As a CAF member and senior defence scientist, she led numerous domestic and international research initiatives related to gender, leadership and culture in the military. Now an independent scholar, she continues to explore the social relationships and gendered experiences of military women and their collaborators. Karen holds a Master of Arts in Sociology from McGill University, and a PhD in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada, with a focus on gender, war and society.

This presentation explores both the challenges and opportunities impacting women in the RCAF as they transitioned into the unified Canadian Armed Forces and took on expanding roles throughout the latter decades of the 20th Century. Although much of this experience parallels that of their army, navy, and air force sisters, particular attention is given to the ways in which RCAF women were leaders in the struggle for social change in the Canadian military.

Erin Gregory is the Curator at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in Ottawa. She has a Master of Arts in Canadian History from Memorial University and a Bachelor of Arts in History and English from McMaster University, as well as a post-graduate diploma in Cultural Resource Management from the University of Victoria. In her over 10 years at the museum, Erin has curated six mid to large-sized exhibitions, the most recent being The RCAF and the Cold War, as well as a suite of historical video games called Ace Academy. Her areas of research and interest include gamification in museums, Canadian aviation in the First World War, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, women in Canadian aviation, the history of air traffic control in Canada, the Avro Arrow, and the history of human space flight.



The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) was forced to reckon with an expansion of its employment of women in the wake of the Canadian Human Rights Act. For Air Command, this meant allowing women to train as pilots, navigators, and flight engineers for the first time in what was called The Servicewomen in Non-traditional Environments and Roles (SWINTER) Aircrew Trial which ran from 1979 to 1985. The trial was not designed to assess not necessarily the capability of women in near-combat roles, but the socio-behavioural impact of their integration into these units which led to problematic evaluations and statistics, media attention, and avoidable difficulties for trial participants. This paper aims to explore the history of the SWINTER Aircrew Trial, its challenges and the ways in which the New Few made room for themselves in the cockpit.

Panel 8: The North

Friday Nov 15 | 2:05 p.m.



Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer is a professor of Canadian Studies at the School for the Study of Canada, and a Tier 1 Research Chair in the Study of the Canadian North at Trent University. One of Canada's foremost experts on Arctic history and contemporary Northern policy, Professor Lackenbauer's research explores the evolution of Canada's domestic strategies for the North and its international relationships with other Arctic and non-Arctic states. Together with his team, he is also investigating how northern communities have shaped, and been shaped by, different understandings of the region. Ultimately, they hope to encourage evidence-based policy-making that transcends traditional academic boundaries and disciplines and is animated by a strong commitment to social justice.

"Will Canada remember that the Royal Canadian Air Force first removed the veil of secrecy from our treasure-laden Northland to mark the opening of an epoch-making period of development? Or that immeasurable wealth was conserved by aerial forest protection and that invaluable photographic and survey work was accomplished with greater dispatch than was hitherto dreamed possible?" Flight Lieutenant Edward P. Wood used this quote from a March 1934 editorial in Canadian Aviation to introduce the "Northern Skytrails" series in the new RCAF service publication The Roundel in November 1948. Wood's goal was to ensure "that the R.C.A.F.'s northern saga will be remembered" – from aerial surveys, to the Hudson Strait Expedition of 1927-28, through the Second World War's Northwest and Northeast Staging Routes, to early postwar Arctic resupply missions. Lackenbauer's paper will culminate with the RCAF's role in the construction of the DEW Line: an Arctic mega-project of unprecedented scope and scale that represented the apex of Cold War military modernization in the Canadian North

Dr. Jeff Noakes has been the Second World War Historian at the Canadian War Museum since 2006. As curator of Gallery 3: Forged in Fire: Canada and the Second World War, he is responsible for historical content and questions relating to the Second World War. He is also the curator responsible for the William James Roué Collection at the Canadian Museum of History. His areas of research include military service and identities, maritime history, and the Arctic.



The United States Air Force Strategic Air Command's refuelling base programme brought additional American military activity to Canada and a further militarization of the North that followed closely on projects such as the Distant Early Warning Line. Unfolding at a Cold War peak in the late 1950s, the programme provided bases to support aerial tankers that would refuel nuclear-armed bombers headed for targets in the Soviet Union. While technological developments led to the scaling back of an initially ambiguous program, four bases were ultimately built. This paper will examine the military, strategic, and diplomatic discussions surrounding the bases, as well as their construction, and will touch on some of their broader implications and lasting impacts.



MGen Patrick Carpentier (ret'd), originally from Trois Rivières, Quebec recently retired from the Canadian Armed Forces as a Major General. Through his 38yr career MGen (Retd) Carpentier commanded at the Squadron, Wing and Formation levels. Most recently he held the positions of Deputy Commander of the Alaskan NORAD Region (2013-15), Commander Joint Task Force North (2018-21), Director of operations of NORAD (2021-23). He served 6 years in the North and Arctic, 7 years in Europe, and 17 years in the United States. over his 5 AWACS tours he flew in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq amassing over 3400 flying hours and 186 combat and combat support missions. MGen Carpentier received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the

University of Manitoba and holds a Master of Science degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the NATO Tactical Leadership Flying Course, the Canadian Forces Joint Command and Staff Program, the Canadian Security Studies Program and the United States Air Force Air War College. After 20 military moves, MGen (Retd) Carpentier and his Wife are happy to have retired in beautiful Southern Alberta.

Panel 9: Canadian Air Power

Friday Nov 15 | 3:50 p.m.

Dr. Andrea Charron is Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, and Professor of International Relations at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. She holds a PhD from the Royal Military College of Canada (Department of War Studies). Dr. Charron worked for various federal departments including the Canadian Privy Council Office in the Security and Intelligence Secretariat before beginning her academic career. She writes extensively on Arctic security, NATO, NORAD and Canadian defence policy. She is coauthor of *NORAD: In Perpetuity and Beyond* (MQUP, 2022), coeditor of *The Legacy of 9/11: Views from North America* (MQUP, 2023) and several others on sanctions.



Col Christopher “Morty” Morrison (RCAF) is a CH146 Griffon helicopter pilot with the RCAF. He has a Bachelor of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Royal Canadian Military College and a Master of Defence Studies, Royal Canadian Military College. He has received Meritorious Service Cross, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, Canadian Force Decoration, Chief of Defence Staff Commendation (2) and the Commander Canadian Special Forces Commendation. He is currently a Visiting Defence Fellow at the University of Manitoba.



Dr. Brad Gladman is the Operational Research and Analysis Branch Head at the RCAF Aerospace Warfare Centre, leading a team of defence scientists providing analysis and advice to the RCAF. His leadership in this role has earned him an Assistant Deputy Minister (S&T) commendation, and his work on the RCAF Strategy resulted in a Commander RCAF commendation for outstanding professionalism and dedication. He had a background in commercial and military aviation before completing Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees at the University of Calgary. In 2001, he earned a PhD in military history from the University College London.

As the air and space operating environments continue to evolve, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) has acknowledged that it needs to modernise its institution and capabilities to continue its ability to contribute to the defence of Canada, be a strong and reliable partner in continental defence, and contribute to international peace and security. This paper describes the advice given to senior RCAF leadership on how the currently discordant RCAF can be streamlined, functionally organised in a similar way to key allies, and more resilient in the context of the evolution of precision warfare and the reemergence of Great Power competition. In particular, it sets out the institutional change goals called for by the RCAF strategy, a series of guiding principles against which options for change were assessed, and makes recommendations for a phased approach to RCAF change that would allow the institution to function effectively while it evolves into one better able to meet the challenges ahead.



Dr. Rob Huebert is a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He is also the interim Director of the Centre for Military Security and Strategic Studies; a senior fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute; and a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. Between 2010 to 2015, he served on the board of the Canadian Polar Commission. Dr. Huebert has taught at Memorial University, Dalhousie University, and the University of Manitoba. His area of research interests include international relations, strategic studies, Arctic security and sovereignty, the Law of the Sea, sea-power, maritime affairs, and Canadian foreign and defence policy.

Canadian Air Power has been a key element of the protection of Canada almost since the invention of the air plane. The RCAF has been a key instrument of defence in both World Wars, the Korean War, the Cold War and the post Cold War environment. Yet it is not clear that Canadian leaders have ever fully understood what is Canadian air power. As we move into an increasingly dangerous geopolitical environment, there is an increasingly possibility that current Canadian leaders will be called upon to direct the RCAF to defend Canada. How then is modern Canadian Air Power to be understood? What does it mean and how can it best be used to protect Canadians?

Notes

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