

RCAF MUSUEM – AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROJECT

Minutes & Action Items - 12 December 2005

Meeting held at Weir residence
1 Dorthy Dr. Trenton, ON K8V 5P5

AGENDA

Agenda for this very first meeting is attached. Note the agenda, and these minutes, have been prepared for a varied audience of active and retired Air Traffic Control members. Hence, the terms, names, and positions will be kept as generic and as self explanatory as possible.

ATTENDEES

David Weir
Nelson Lyon
Gerry Britt
Ralph Thistle
Capt David Penley (former ATC & Tech)
Capt Craig Rogalsky (Active ATC)
David Wilson

Regrets

Doug Chase
Barry Cockerline
Ray Payette

All of these active or retired ATC personnel now currently reside in the Trenton area.

BACKGROUND

David Weir and Nelson Lyon were approached by MGen (retired) Bourgeois of the RCAF Memorial Museum to see if active and retired ATC personnel would like to coordinate and sponsor ATC displays in the new multi-million dollar museum in Trenton. It is expected that this will be an ongoing project that will take approximately two years to complete - with an eye to turning it over to the museum to maintain. More information about the new museum is available at <http://www.rcafmuseum.on.ca/>

The displays could take many forms. For example, they could be, interactive audio/visual displays, retired equipment could be configured in a work environment, a history of ATC could be available by a recorded narrative and enhanced by photographs, a website could be built to house, and make available to everyone, the history of the profession – most

importantly this website could be turned over to the museum for stewardship, outdoor equipment such as a Portable Tower and Radar Trailer could be available to view, and perhaps even a commemorative cairn for ATC could be erected. Pictures of existing Cairns already in place at the air park outside the museum can be viewed at <http://www.davidweir.com/rcafmusuem.htm>

To confirm whether there was enough support for such an ambitious project, numerous emails and calls were made to retired ATC personnel. The overwhelming majority of respondents were in favour of the project and indicated a sincere interest to assist in what ever way they could. For example, donating a uniform or memorabilia, providing a written history or pictures of the profession, donating funds for the display, or providing volunteer labour in the Trenton area or even doing work from afar. It should be noted that the museum has confirmed that donations will be tax deductible.

In addition, Weir and Lyon met with MGen Hussey (ATC) in Kingston to determine if he would also support the project. He, and his Special Assistant LCol Harris (ATC), were strongly in support of the project. Moreover, they pledged their assistance in obtaining older equipment for displays and promoting support of the project forces wide. MGen Hussey suggested that a parallel project for the Air Weapons Control (AWC) profession may also be relevant in the future - in which case the ATC project could reflect its history from inception until the ATC/AWC amalgamation in 1997.

General information about ATC history, assorted pictures, and retired/active ATC personnel contact information is available at <http://www.rcaf-atc.org> This high quality and most informative website was built and maintained by the late Ren L'Ecuyer – a former Air Traffic Controller who volunteered many a long hour to preserve our history and foster camaraderie amongst active and retired controllers.

PROMOTING THE PROJECT NATIONWIDE

It was decided that we should investigate the possibility of getting nationwide ads in all the base papers and the RCAFA magazine to solicit support from active and retired Air Traffic Controllers.

ACTION WEIR/PENLEY

It is hoped that each base/station can stand up a similar arrangement to that of Trenton's retired and active controllers. An arrangement whereby a local working group of retired controllers can coordinate support from their local base through an active Air Traffic Controller OPI. This liaison could take on many functions. For example, gathering photos, equipment (possibly from units or museums), and fundraisers for displays, an ATC cairn etc.

ACTION WEIR/ROGALSKY

CONTACTING OTHER LOCAL INTERESTED PERSONNEL

The following committee members will contact local personnel as noted below. The personnel will be encouraged to attend our next meeting and possibly take an active role in our project. All attendees will promote the project to any other active/retired ATC personnel they come in contact with.

Gerry Britt - Dick Beaulieu, Larry Nancarrow, Art Kirschner

Ralph Thistle - Ron Gipp, Bob Larocque

Craig Rogalsky - Capt Carl Carboneau of 8 ACCS

Dave Penley - Les Yetman, Brian Meads

ACTION ALL

ATC CAIRN

It was decided to investigate the possibility of a cairn in the museum's air park to represent the Air Traffic Control Branch. If this part of the project is to move forward, a contest could be used to help design the cairn and to promote the project nationwide.

WILSON/WEIR

EXTERIOR DISPLAY

After much discussion it was deemed most worthwhile to solicit volunteers to look into recruiting local retired and active technicians to refurbish the portable ATC trailers presently located in the air park. In addition, support from 8 ACCS (Trenton Mobile ATC Unit) will also be encouraged for this part of the project.

PENLEY/ROGALSKY/BRITT

INTERIOR DISPLAY

The collection of equipment for a simulated Tower environment has already started with the collection of consoles. The console obtained from the ATC School in Cornwall, as well as others from the local Air Cadet Program, are in storage at Mountainview Airport (satellite of Trenton) It is hoped that further equipment may be forthcoming from other locations so a complete and excellent quality display will be available for the public to view in the museum. It is also hoped that a simulated Ground Control Approach (GCA) display can be made available.

LYON/WEIR

PERSONNEL & PICTURE DATABASE

Craig Rogalsky was given numerous photographs of personnel and equipment obtained from the ATC School in Cornwall. He will attempt to categorize and cross reference these items so that they may be searchable online and via an electronic database in a museum. It is anticipated that as the project goes forward we will be inundated with large amounts pictures. Pictures of not only personnel and equipment but also of courses, events etc While this resource not may be of great interest to the general public, it is felt that retired members and their families will derive pleasure in reliving their past through this invaluable resource.

ROGALSKY/WEIR

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES

To get maximum exposure for our project the minutes for this meeting, and subsequent meetings, will be posted to www.rcaf-atc.org As well, they will be distributed to MGen Hussey, MATCA, and Wing Air Traffic Controller Officers (WATCOs) nationwide.

WEIR

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 12:00 on Tuesday 17 January 2006 at the RCAF Memorial Museum in Trenton. All attendees and any other interested personnel are encouraged and welcome to attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 14:30

Minutes prepared by
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Agenda for First Meeting

12 December 2005

1. Background
2. Purpose and timeline of the project.
3. Interior Display.
4. Exterior Display
5. Cairn
6. Website
7. Personnel/Course Pictures & Database
8. Regular Force Participation
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting