

# SAM FOUNDATION NEWS



VOL.2, NO.2

AUTUMN 1992

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Members of the Shearwater Aviation Museum Foundation will be called to order

AT 0830 HRS on SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 1992

IN THE CHIEFS' & WARRANT OFFICERS' MESS,

WARRIOR BLOCK, CFB SHEARWATER

### THE AGENDA

1. Call to order and welcome,
2. Approval of the agenda,
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 5th AGM,
4. Business arising from the Minutes,
5. Report of the Secretary,
6. Treasurer's Report, Financial Statement,
7. Report of the President,
8. PROJECT 75 Briefing -- Col. Sandy Kerr
9. Museum Director's Report,
10. Election of Directors & Officers,
11. Appointment of Auditor,
12. Appointment of Nominating Committee,
13. Presentations & Memorials.
14. New Business,
15. Notice of Date, Place & Time of next AGM,
16. Adjournment,

### NOTES

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

### INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report that 1991/92 (FY92) saw many improvements and few setbacks. Activities raised a few ghosts of previous problems and introduced new ones. However, these caused extra work, rather than worry, and they led, eventually to a comfortably workable routine; one flexible and secure enough to permit compensation for inevitable 'highlights'. This is pretty well what I set out to do once I had found out what I had got myself into when I joined the Foundation just two years ago. Now that the real challenges have been tamed, doubtless not perfectly, I can hand over to another, as I must, without compunction.

One item worthy of mention was the introduction of GST, accounting for it, and setting up our claims, as a Registered Charity, for our entitled rebates of 50% of it. This seemingly small item introduced some annoying permanent changes in traditional methods and workload for both the Treasurer and the Secretary, as known well by businessmen everywhere.

Other improvements were minor important or useful ones such, for example, as the assignment of member numbers. The long process of finding, organizing and recording the Foundation's essential data and records on computer discs, as appropriate, was completed about February '92. The advantages of computer recording are known well enough to need no repetition here. However, I have also filed hard copies of all records for permanence and greater availability.

### MEMBERSHIP YEAR FY92 HAS ENDED.

31 AUGUST each year marks the expiry of all but LIFE memberships and those paid in advance. Please check the top line of your mailing label. That line designates your membership number, a letter indicating your member category and the month and year of your membership expiry. For example, those marked "AUG92" and before, are due now. Please use the enclosed Renewal Form to forward your fees and donations for FY93 in the member category of your choice.

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### SOME CLARIFICATION

The reason our official year ends on 31 August each year is so that the Annual General Meeting can be held during the Shearwater International Air Show to accommodate the greatest number of members.

After June, each year, the fees paid by new members cover the rest of the current year AND the full following membership year to 31 Aug. And so, probably because our new start was very late in '91, some members, perhaps most, whose labels are designated "AUG91" may have intended their fees for FY92. To correct this, we have kept those names on the mailing list, and overdue fees received now, unless obviously enough to cover both FY92 and FY93, will be credited to FY93.

To those whose labels show "AUG93" we say "Thanks much! Your fees are already working hard to help to build the museum's new quarters!"

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS - FY92

As mentioned, some 55 members did not renew for FY92, but we enrolled 48 new members, some for FY93 as well. This is a net loss of 7 members for the year. However, the correction mentioned above should make up for this.

To date there are, by count, 239 members for FY92, some of whom are also paid up for FY93.  
40 LIFE members, 2 Patrons, 38 Sustaining and 159 Regular members.

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

Because these reports are being published before 31 August, with the Official Notice of the AGM, exact financial details are not available, but will be distributed at the AGM. However, a quick look allows me to estimate membership and donation income for the year at ca.\$21,000., interest income ca.\$2,166., and operating expenses of some \$2,663. To accumulate and earn interest until used for new housing for the museum, there is ca.\$43,000. invested in Guaranteed Income Certificates which, when they nearly all mature in FY93, will have earned over \$6,000. for SAMF. We may not see those good rates again soon.

### WHAT MAY WE DO WITH THE MONEY?

As a "Registered Charity - Public Foundation" we MUST, by law, use EIGHTY PERCENT of all tax-receipted income ONLY for our official charitable purpose, which is simply "to provide support, primarily financial, to the Shearwater Aviation Museum." That's it precisely. Until we get large enough to make significant economies of scale, in our operating expenses, we must economise assiduously to stay within that 20% allowed us. When we fail, overspent funds must be recovered, using that 20% and other allowed income, within 5 subsequent years.

One of the major projects completed in '92 was my very detailed analysis of just where we stood in that respect, and I found that there is a fair amount to be recovered, a legacy of much reduced membership before FY91 and disproportionate spending even into FY91. Rebuilding of the membership and income base could not start before late '91, as mentioned earlier, so the problem is still with us.

That explains why we cannot yet invoice each member for his annual fees, nor can we yet send out more than two newsletters each year, as we have been asked to do. Equally obviously, continuously increasing postage cost is a very serious constraint about which we can do very little.

Paul J. Brunelle, Secretary/Treasurer

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

One year ago, my report to SAMF AGM included an expression of optimism that SAMF would ultimately achieve its objective ---- "TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROPRIATE FACILITY FOR THE SHEARWATER AVIATION MUSEUM" ----. My frustration level is increased, but my optimism is not diminished.

Last year I said "No one is so naive as to believe SAM's new home will open its doors tomorrow, therefore interim arrangements are needed to (a) protect some of SAM's aircraft, especially the Swordfish; (b) provide desperately needed workshop and display areas for the museum; (c) assure ready access to the museum outside the base secure area, and (d) provide suitable space wherein the museum could effectively carry out its educational role."

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#### NEW HOUSING FOR SAM

During 1992, plans for converting the CANEX building for use as an interim site for SAM developed into PROJECT 75 (in commemoration of the first flight at Shearwater by Lt(USN) Richard Byrd 75 years ago) which will see substantial upgrading of it to become a permanent first stage of a new site for SAM. The cost will be about \$500,000., \$150,000 of which has already been committed by the Shearwater Base Fund. Funds for the remainder of the work will come from sources not considered accessible by SAMF. The Swordfish, Tracker and general artifacts will be housed and displayed in the converted building scheduled to open August 25, 1993 with Admiral Byrd's daughter cutting the ribbon.

Col. Sandy Kerr, Shearwater's Base Commander, and the Shearwater Museum Director, LCol. Brian Akitt, will be presenting to you a detailed briefing on Project 75. Their briefing is essential background to my report which I will move for adoption following a suitable period of discussion.

#### IMPACT ON SAMF

The impact of all this activity on our existing plan for a New Home for SAM is considerable. It would be irresponsible for us to continue pursuit of construction of a \$2.4 million facility across the road from a building converted so as to last 40 years. These recent developments represent an ideal opportunity for SAMF to down-size and realign its goal by planning for stages TWO and THREE of Project 75, i.e. an add-on "shell" attached to the CANEX building (to house and display the remaining aircraft) and later conversion of the shell to a fitting home and display area. Land to the northwest of Project 75 is confirmed available for this plan. Aesthetically, the site is at least equal to the one currently earmarked for the new home; funding the redefined project in two stages should bring forward the day when the remaining aircraft can be brought in and displayed off the base and the total cost should be less.

#### FUND RAISING

I am pleased to report that Admiral Harry Porter has agreed to chair the SAMF Fund Raising Committee, and that he comes to this position with substantial experience and credentials. The committee will be targetting corporations, governments, Foundations as well as organizing special projects e.g. car raffles, dinners, etc. As you will appreciate, timing for certain features of this program will require careful planning in order that a clear co-ordinated operation is presented to potential contributors. Admiral Porter will speak re this item when my report comes to the discussion stage.

#### COOPERATION WITH ACAMS

The ACAMS issue is not resolved nor do I now expect that it ever will be. ACAMS has declined invitations to be part of SAM or enter into a cooperative arrangement (or even engage in discussions of the issue) with the result that the provincial Department of Tourism continues its reluctant stand to support either museum. The result of course is that SAM, ACAMS, and the public especially are all losers. Further, the current and forecast state of NS Government finances certainly does not inspire a feeling of confidence that much support will come from that sector. However, efforts in this area will continue.

#### MEMBER FEES STRUCTURE

During the year, I requested Vice-President Harold Northrup to review the SAMF membership dues structure. His committee report recommended no changes be made, stating that "money received for membership will never build our museum" and that the need is for more members to assist in raising funds for this project. Harold will be available to discuss this matter later in relation to costs of fund-raising generally. Also requiring discussion are the difficulties presented by Revenue Canada restrictions and a disappointingly low renewal rate of memberships in SAMF.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report includes a proposal which would recognize two colleagues who distinguished themselves in World War Two. It will be presented for consideration of this meeting (See below).

I announce Paul Brunelle's retirement as Secretary/Treasurer of SAMF with deep regret. He has made a substantial contribution to our Foundation, being a tireless, capable and dedicated individual. I have truly enjoyed and valued his advice and support as we have dealt with many difficult and frustrating events. I wish, also to express our thanks to Col. Sandy Kerr, LCol Mark Aruja (now a Col. in Winnipeg), Gord McLaughlan and SHEARWATERS generally for their incredible support for both the Museum and our Foundation. At the same time I extend a sincere welcome to LCol. Brian Akitt as he assumes the duties of Museum Director.

Doug Peacocke, President.

### MOTION FOR AGM NEW BUSINESS

#### BACKGROUND

Sometime ago I discovered in a book "Corsair" written by Barrett Tillman, an American author, some information about a man who served for some years in SHEARWATER. Commander Donald Sheppard, DSC, was a squadron pilot, LCdr (Flying) and Executive Officer over a number of years. Though I served with him, hunted and fished with him, and caroused with him, I had not realized that the reason for the Distinguished Service Cross was that he was an Ace of the Second World War by virtue of destroying five Japanese aircraft while a fighter pilot with the British Fleet between 4 January and 4 May, 1945.

It has been pointed out to me that another officer with a similar distinction and who likewise served a number of appointments in SHEARWATER was Cdr. W.H.I.(Bill) Atkinson, DSC. He was likewise a squadron pilot and he commanded VS880 for a period. Cdr Atkinson's exploits include becoming an Ace by shooting down five Japanese aircraft while a Hellcat night fighter pilot in FORMIDABLE in the same Fleet over more or less the same time span. See Stu Soward's comments in his book, "A Formidable Hero."

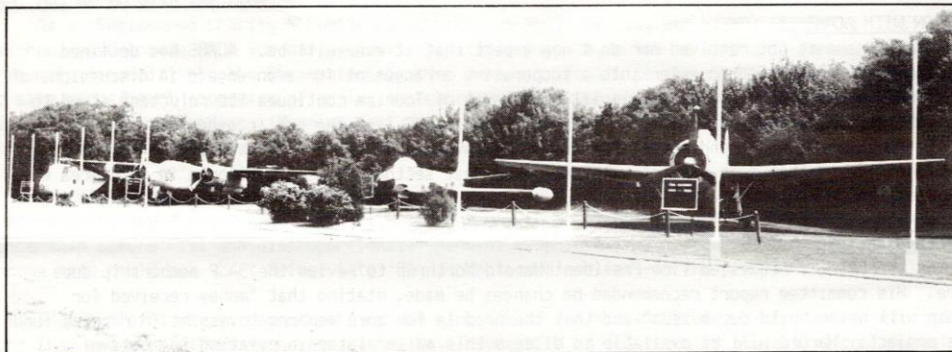
Both these gentlemen are the souls of modesty, so much so that their feats are almost unknown to even their close friends. I would like to correct this omission by proposing a "Hero's Corner" or similar modest memorial to these two gentlemen within the walls of the Shearwater Aviation Museum. Therefor I wish to move the following:

#### THE MOTION

WHEREAS Cdr. D.J.Sheppard, DSC and Cdr. W.H.I. Atkinson, DSC, were both "Aces" in the Second World War while serving in the RCNVR and later served with distinction in SHEARWATER,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Foundation promote and fund a suitable display honouring their contribution to Canada and SHEARWATER. Further, that the details be determined by the Curator in concert with the officers of the Foundation.

R.V.Bays



THE GATE GUARDIANS, CFB SHEARWATER

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