

34th Canadian Military History Colloquium

The Royal Canadian Air Force at 100

3-4 May, 2024

Draft Programme

FRIDAY 3 MAY

8:00 – 8:45 | Senate & Board Chamber | Conference Registration

8:50 – 9:00 | Senate & Board Chamber | Opening Remarks

9:00 – 10:00 | Senate & Board Chamber | C.P Stacey Plenary Address
David A. Wilson, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto

10:00 – 10:15 | Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:45 | Session 1

Session 1A | Senate & Board Chamber | **The Second World War in the Skies** | Chair: Paul Johnston
[Royal Canadian Air Force History and Heritage]

The RCAF and the Battle of the Atlantic: Why Did it Take So Long to Acquire the VLR Liberators?
Christopher Bell

Through the Eyes of a Young Officer: Aerial Reconnaissance in the Mediterranean
Richard Goette [Canadian Forces College]

"Border Line Pilots": RCAF Aircrew and No.22 OTU
Wes Cross [McGill Remembers]

Session 1B | Paul Martin Centre | **The RCAF and the Cold War** | Chair: Isabel Campbell

The Post-War RCAF Auxiliary
Sandy Babcock [Independent Scholar]

"So How Well Did We Do?" An Assessment of the St. Laurent Government's Air Defence Policy, June 1950 to June 1957
Matthew Trudgen

Mushrooms of Intelligence: The RCAF and Canada's Nuclear Cloud Sampling Program in the Cold War
Matthew Wiseman [University of Waterloo]

Session 1C | Arts 1C17 | **Bomber Command** | Chair: Randy Wakelam

Bomber Command: The RCAF's Greatest Triumph
Roddy Mackenzie

Flight Sergeant Peter Dutchak: A Case Study in Hard Luck
Patrick Dennis

Operation MARATHON and Code Name 'Sherwood': Memoirs from Those That Lived It
Robert Chapman [WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society]

11:45 – 12:30 | Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 | Session 2

Session 2A | Senate & Board Chamber | **Roundtable: Remembering Their Faces: Outlining Ethical AI Use at NAFMC To Build Public Engagement** | Chair: Valerie Wood [Ingenium Canada – Canada Aviation and Space Museum]

Stephen Adams

Jennifer Dunn [National Air Force Museum of Canada]

Hailey Graham [National Air Force Museum of Canada]

Session 2B | Paul Martin Centre | **The Early Cold War** | Chair: Sean Maloney [Royal Military College]

Louis St. Laurent and the RCAF: Canadian Defence Policy Objectives in the Early Cold War
Joanne Archibald

Sitting Ducks: The F104G Nuclear-Only Role in Europe in the Early 1960s
Isabel Campbell

Flying on Ice: Hockey in Northern RCAF Stations During the Cold War
Adam Coombs

Session 2C | Arts 2C17 | **The Second World War From Mobilization to the Front** | Chair: Tarah Brookfield [Wilfrid Laurier University]

Flames on the Leopold: The Attack of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade Over the Leopold Canal and Into Occupied Netherlands 6 – 13 October 1944
Arthur Gullachsen

The Dashed Hopes of the 26th Army Tank Regiment: “The Grey and Simcoe Foresters Are No More”
Dave Alexander [Independent Researcher]

Canadian Battalion Commanders of the Second World War
Matthew Barrett [Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada]

2:00 – 2:15 | Coffee Break

2:15 – 3:45 | Session 3

Session 3A | Senate & Board Chamber | **Early Cold War Planning and Strategy** | Chair: Brittany Dunn
[Canadian War Museum]

The RCAF Returns to Britain, Postwar

Carl A. Christie

*First Steps to Atomic Partnership: Canadian Support to Strategic Air Command in the Early Cold War:
1946-1952*

Sean Maloney [Royal Military College]

Canada, the Paris Plan, and an Air Division: NATO Commitments 1950-1953

Paul Johnston [Royal Canadian Air Force History and Heritage]

Session 3B | Paul Martin Centre | **Experiences in the Second World War** | Chair: Matthew Barrett
[Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada]

Sailing Through Shadows: A History of Emotions of Sailors in Convoy Operations, 1939 - 1945

John McConnell [Wilfrid Laurier University]

Exploring Morale in First Canadian Army

Geoffrey Hayes [University of Waterloo] & Elizabeth Spence [Wilfrid Laurier University]

The Conscientious Objector Experience in the RCAMC and CDC, 1943-45

Rosemary Giles [Western University]

3:45 – 4:45 | Session 4

Session 4A | Paul Martin Centre | **Museum Depictions of the RCAF** | Chair: Richard Mayne [RCAF History and Heritage]

Rising to the Challenge: The RCAF in the Second World War
Alex Fitzgerald-Black [Juno Beach Centre Association]

Evolving Representations of the Royal Canadian Air Force During the Cold War at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum
Valerie Wood [Ingenium Canada – Canada Aviation and Space Museum]

Session 4B | Arts 1C17 | **Depictions of the Air War** | Chair: Jeff Noakes [Canadian War Museum]

Remembering the Forgotten Ace: The RCAF's Commemoration of William Barker
Brad St. Croix

Canvas in the Clouds: Visual and Material Documentation of the RCAF
Sarafina Pagnotta

6:00 – 7:00 | Senate & Board Chamber | Book Launch & Cash Bar

7:00 | Senate & Board Chamber | Banquet & Keynote

Richard Mayne, Chief Historian and Director of RCAF History and Heritage

SATURDAY, 04 MAY

8:30 – 9:00 | Senate & Board Chamber | Conference Registration

9:00 – 10:30 | Session 5

Session 5A | Senate & Board Chamber | **The RCAF and Peacekeeping Operations** | Chair: Mathias Joost

On the Wings of Hope: The RCAF and Humanitarian Peacekeeping Operations, 1945-1967

William March

Herald to the Inconvenient Realities of Peacekeeping, Attack on RCAF Buffalo Flight 51 (116 Air Transport Unit) on August 9, 1974

Robert Smol

“It Was Like Nothing Anyone Had Ever Experienced” : The RCAF and the Kabul Evacuation, Aug-Sep 2021

Mike Bechthold

Session 5B | Paul Martin Centre | **Perspectives on the First World War** | Chair: Graham Broad [King’s University College]

“Those Wild Women Are Making a Man of Me”: Borderlines of the Military Masculine Identity During the First World War

Aly Firth [Wilfrid Laurier University]

What To Do About William Rankin: Industrial Accidents and the Trial of Henry Paquette

Kyle Pritchard [Wilfrid Laurier University]

Session 5C | Arts 1C17 | **Individuals in the Second World War** | Chair:

Wilf and Rocky: Flying and Combat Stress in Two World Wars

Jeff Noakes [Canadian War Museum]

Canadian Zelig: The Curious Life and Decorated Career of Lawrence Cosgrove

Michael B. Pass [University of Ottawa]

Campbell Clouston and Operation Dynamo

Nicholas Herten-Greaven [Herten-Greaven Consulting]

10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 | Session 6

Session 6A | Senate & Board Chamber | **The Ever-Relevant Past** | Chair: Richard Goette [Canadian Forces College]

“The Ground as a Primary Source”: Battlefields and Education
Howard G. Coombs [Royal Military College of Canada]

Technology and War – Ends, Ways, and Means of Learning
Mike Hennessy [Dept. Defence Studies CFC]

Historical War games and the Classroom: Some Considerations For Their Use
Craig Mantle [Canadian Forces College]

Session 6B | Paul Martin Centre | **Preparation and Operations** | Chair: William March

The RCAF’s Inter-War Warrant Officers Class 1 – More Than Just Warrant Officers
Mathias Joost

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same – 100+ Years of Aircraft Engineering and Maintenance in the Canadian Military
Terrence Leversedge [Kestrel Publications]

Determined to Deliver: 435 Squadron in Burma 1944 - 45
Norma Graham

Session 6C | Arts 1C17 | **(Re)Fighting the First World War** |

Representations of Officers in Canadian Education: Sir Arthur Currie and the Western Front, 1917
Colton Enslin

A Self-Contained Military Force: The Story of the Canadian Corps Tramway Companies on the Western Front
Bradley Shoebottom [University of New Brunswick]

12:15 – 1:00 | Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 | Session 7

Session 7A | Senate & Board Chamber | **Effects of War on Communities and the Environment** | Chair: Adam Coombs

St. Vincent's Iron Harvest: The History of the Meaford Tank Range
Bram Fookes [University of Guelph]

Mobilizing Military History? Fighting Climate Change With the Second World War Metaphor
Alex Souchen [University of Guelph]

A Great Wounding: The Socio-Environmental Trauma of Fighter Jets on First Nations Land in Cold Lake, Alberta
Tamara Lorincz [Wilfrid Laurier University]

Session 7B | Paul Martin Centre | **The World Wars in Western Canada** | Chair: Eric Story

Shell-Shocked the Film: A Historical Film's Rebirth
Cam Telch [Mount Saint Vincent University]

A Vested Interest: British Columbia Great War Veterans' Communities in the Second World War
Scott Sheffield [University of the Fraser Valley]

Wartime Censorship of the BC Federationist: An Experiment in a Cubist Analysis of Liberal Hegemony and Press Censorship
Curtis B. Robinson [Brandon University]

2:45 – 4:00 | Closing Remarks