

14 May, 2015

Chair and Members,
General Issues Committee,
Hamilton City Hall,
71 Main Street West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Chair and Members:

On behalf on the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (www.cahs.ca), I am pleased to advise that Hamilton will be the site of the 52nd National Convention and AGM of the CAHS. The convention will be held 17-21 June at the Courtyard Marriott. It will be the first to be held in Hamilton by the CAHS since 1984 and will undoubtedly be an exciting and informative event for aviation enthusiasts.

The 800-member CAHS is an all-volunteer, registered charitable organization dedicated to promoting public awareness and preservation of Canada's unique and rich aviation heritage. In addition to nine Chapters across Canada, the CAHS produces an authoritative, award-winning quarterly publication, the *CAHS Journal*.

This year's convention will attract experts in civilian and military aviation, authors, historians, photographers, researchers and more. We have budgeted for 75 attendees, coming from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and elsewhere, including possibly the United States.

We have an impressive number of presenters and anticipate the convention will build on the success of the 2014 conference in Regina, which involved booking of at least 92 hotel room nights. This year's convention has added appeal with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum "Skyfest" on Father's Day. We have arranged alternative accommodation at Mohawk College Residence & Conference Centre. The CAHS is offering a variety of merchandise themed "*Hamilton 2015*" for convention attendees.

On behalf of CAHS President Gary Williams of Regina and the convention committee, I would like to thank Tourism Hamilton for its much-appreciated assistance and support. I would also like to recognize our generous initial sponsors, led by the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, based in Ottawa and the RCAF Office of Air Force History and Heritage at CFB Winnipeg.

Corporate sponsors to date are led by CAE Inc., a Montreal-based global leader in simulation technology, John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport and uFly Simulator Inc. of Mississauga, along with numerous other contributors.

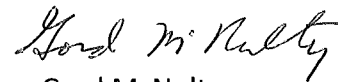
The theme of this year's convention, starting with a meet and greet reception at 447 Wing RCAFA in Mount Hope, is "Celebrating Canada's Aviation Industry." The keynote banquet speaker will be CANAV Books publisher Larry Milberry, a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. Distinguished speakers are a tradition in Hamilton. The 1984 convention, held in conjunction with the Canadian Warplane Heritage, featured Air Vice Marshal J.E. "Johnnie" Johnson, Britain's leading Second World War fighter ace.

We are promoting a spouses' full-day sightseeing tour of Hamilton on June 19. Attendees enjoyed a two-hour sightseeing tour at the 2012 CAHS convention in Saint John, NB. We had hoped to arrange or negotiate the use of an HSR trolley bus, but were advised that operators and equipment would not be available during the peak season. Three companies made proposals and we have advertised a tour proposed by Paterson Tours on the CAHS electronic newsletter.

With its remarkable aviation history, Hamilton is an ideal place for this convention. Hamilton was home to some of the earliest aerial events in Canada. In 1861 a huge crowd gathered to watch an American, Professor Thaddeus Lowe, and a passenger, ascend in the balloon "Enterprise" for a flight from the Crystal Palace to Twenty Mile Creek. Hamilton's Eileen Vollick became Canada's first female pilot in 1928. Gerald W.A. Bell, a native Hamiltonian, was Canada's first black airman. Those are just a few of many highlights.

Convention registration is well under way. The committee is looking forward to a memorable conference and making Hamilton the best place for Canada's community of aviation historians to gather. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gord McNulty".

Gord McNulty

Member of the CAHS 2015 Convention Organizing Committee