



**NB AVIATION MUSEUM & SABRE LEGACY PROJECT**



The New Brunswick Aviation Museum, a provincially incorporated, not-for-profit, charitable organization, is being established at the old CFB Chatham air base to capture and preserve the military and civilian aviation stories of New Brunswick.

### **SABRE LEGACY PROJECT**

**Background:** The Canadair F-86 Sabre was the premier fighting aircraft of the 1950s and early 60s. As part of Canada's contribution to defend Europe during the early years of the Cold War, 12 Squadrons of F-86 Sabres were eventually established at Wings (Bases) in France and Germany. The majority of pilots who flew these aircraft conducted their initial training on the Sabre at 1 (Fighter) Operational Training Unit (OTU) at Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Station Chatham, NB.

In 1959 a special aerobatic team was created to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight in Canada and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCAF. The team was to fly the F-86 Sabre and it was to be formed at RCAF Station Chatham. This was the first time that Canada had a *national* aerobatic team. This now legendary team was named the *Golden Hawks*. They called Chatham 'home' for 4 of the 5 years they existed before moving to Trenton, Ontario in 1962.

When the F-86 Sabre was phased out and the CF-104 Starfighter was first brought into service as the new Canadian front line attack aircraft in Europe, pilots again came to Chatham to conduct low level flight training at the Sabre Transition Unit (STU). The last pilot to die in a Sabre in Canada was Group Captain William Robert (Bob) Cole. He was conducting a routine training flight while serving as the Commander of RCAF Station Chatham when he crashed near Mount Carleton in October 1967.

When the Sabre Transition Unit in Chatham had its final closing ceremonies on November 29, 1968, the Commander of Air Defence Command, Major-General M.E. Pollard talked highly of the Sabre. In his speech (copied from M. Lee's book, *Chatham: An Airfield History*) he said,

for the first time in forty years the Canadian Forces will have no air superiority fighter in service, old or new. Its (the Sabre) departure closes an era. Siskins, Hurricanes, Kittyhawks, Spitfires, Mustangs, Sea Furies, Banshees, Sabres - this is the roll call of the great fighter aircraft in which Canadian fighter pilots trained and fought. Only the fighter pilot can really know the fighter aircraft for what it is. A graceful, living thing, instantly responsive to the slightest touch, yet an instrument of shattering power, unique amongst man's creations, its full measure is revealed only to the men who fly alone - one with their machines. Now we, who know, say farewell to the greatest fighter of all - the Sabre.

The "*greatest fighter of all*" played a very important role in Canadian aviation history and New Brunswick was an integral part of the story from beginning to end. The Sabre story is *our* story and it is why we are so passionate about capturing it from the people who flew and maintained it. As the pilots and ground crew involved with the Sabres are now in their late 70s or older, the Sabre Legacy Project is being initiated by the New Brunswick Aviation Museum (NBAM) to capture this fascinating history before there is no one left to tell the story.

**Sabre Legacy Project Mandate:** To conduct video interviews with former F-86 Sabre pilots to capture their stories of training at 1 (Fighter) Operational Training Unit at RCAF Station Chatham, NB, activities in Europe and any other Sabre-related events including exchange duties and Korea. The acquisition of Sabre-related artefacts including photos, logbooks, badges/crests, flight suits and other flying gear, publications and manuals, etc... via donations for future Museum exhibits will also be conducted.

**Finance:** Funding for the Sabre Legacy Project will be obtained via donations and corporate sponsorships. Donors will be recognized on the NBAM Facebook page, in any exhibit where information gathered during this project is used, and in the Museum on a special recognition wall.

**Donation Levels for the Sabre Legacy Project:**

Platinum: \$5,000.00 and above

Gold: \$2,500.00 - \$4,999.00

Silver: \$1,000.00 - \$2,499.00

Bronze: \$500.00 - \$999.00

Patron: \$250.00 - \$499.00

Friend: \$100.00 - \$249.00

Supporter: \$10.00 - \$99.00

**Excess funds raised will be used to create exhibits and displays relating to Sabre operations and to obtain an F-86 Sabre aircraft for the Museum.**

Cheques can be made payable to *New Brunswick Aviation Museum, Inc* and sent to:

New Brunswick Aviation Museum  
1753 Rte 118  
Doyle's Brook, NB E9E 2H8

**A charitable tax receipt will be provided for all donations over \$20.00\*\***

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship or making a donation, please contact the NBAM Executive Director, Kevin Anderson at [nbamdirector@outlook.com](mailto:nbamdirector@outlook.com) or by phone at (506) 625-4925.

**NEW BRUNSWICK AVIATION MUSEUM**

We are also looking for donations to support the creation of the New Brunswick Aviation Museum. The main option we are currently pursuing is the acquisition and refurbishment of # 1 Hangar in Chatham as it is an original WWII hangar and was the maintenance hangar for many years after the Station re-opened in 1949.

The company that currently owns it is asking \$300,000.00 for the building and paved area surrounding it. As it is the closest hangar to the highway, it would be ideal for our Museum. The federal Heritage Branch currently has funds available to help with restoration of WWII buildings (up to \$500,000.00 to cover 50% or less of the required work) which is another reason why we would like to obtain this hangar. Any donations to help support the acquisition of this building or to help with the Sabre Legacy Project will be greatly appreciated!

**Donation Levels for the New Brunswick Aviation Museum:**

**Founder:** \$500,000.00 and above

**Benefactor:** \$100,000.00 - \$499,999.00

**Builder:** \$50,000.00 - \$99,999.00

**Partner:** \$25,000.00 - \$49,999.00

**Patron:** \$10,000.00 - \$24,999.00

**Friend:** \$1,000.00 - \$9,999.00

**Supporter:** \$10.00 - \$999.00

The Museum will have a special recognition wall established to thank everyone who has contributed to the establishment of the Museum.

For those unable to contribute at this time, **planned giving options** may be something for you to consider. "Planned giving" refers to any major gift that involves financial or estate planning. Such gifts can provide important benefits both to you and to the Museum. The different types of planned gifts can include bequests, charitable trusts, gifts of life insurance policies, gifts of retirement plan assets, and gifts of tangible personal property. As we are not experts in financial planning, any gift of this nature should be discussed with a lawyer or financial planner.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Kevin