

BRIAN W. DARLING, CD

Mr. Brian W. Darling, CD was born in England in 1940. While in grammar school in Ilford, Essex, he was a member of the Essex Regiment Army Cadet Corps. In 1953, his family came to Canada, settling in Saint-Laurent, Québec. From 1954 to 1959, he was an air cadet in 592 (Canadair Community) Squadron. During that time he attended summer camps at RCAF Stations Clinton and Greenwood and in 1958 was awarded a Flying Scholarship, earning his cadet wings at the Montreal Flying Club.

Mr. Darling served for thirty-two years in the Air Force Reserves starting in 1961 when he enrolled in the RCAF Primary Reserve (Education Branch) as a Pilot Officer and rejoined 592 Squadron as its Supply Officer. Between 1961 and 1974, he occupied various positions, including several terms as Commanding Officer of both 592 and 588 (Canadair) Squadrons.

In 1974, Mr. Darling transferred to the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve (Air Reserve) and joined 401 (City of Westmount) Squadron as the Personnel Administration Officer in the rank of Captain. After completing STAR I (Staff Training Air Reserves) at Canadian Forces Staff School, Toronto in 1978, he was promoted Major and was transferred to 1 Air Reserve Wing in 1979 where he took up the duties of Wing Personnel Administration Officer. He returned to Staff School the following two summers as a member of the STAR I directing staff. In 1984, he completed the final phase of the Staff Training Reserves (STAR II) at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, Toronto. On returning to his unit, he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed Chief Administrative Officer of 1 Wing, subsequently Senior Staff Officer Support (SSO SP) in 1 Tactical Aviation Wing. In 1991, he attended the National Security Studies Course at the National Defence College, Kingston. He transferred to the Supplementary Reserve in October 1993.

Mr. Darling has been active with the Air Cadet League of Canada for more than thirty-five years. Between 1974 and 1988, he was a member of the sponsoring committee of the Canadair Air Cadet Squadrons and for a short period in the late 80s he was the Chairman of 622 (Frontenac) Squadron which was then sponsored by the Air Reserve Officers' Mess at St. Hubert. In 1988, he was elected as a Director (Squadron Advisor) of the Provincial Committee of Québec and the Ottawa Valley of the Air Cadet League of Canada. From 1997 to 2005 he was the Regional Coordinator for the West Island Region, responsible for eight squadrons. He continues to be a member of the Québec and the Ottawa Valley Provincial Committee.

Mr. Darling has been a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association (RCAFA) and the Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC) since 1976. In March 1993, he was appointed Honorary Québec Group President RCAFA, for a two-year term. He is the founding President of 394 (West Island) Wing AFAC. In May 1995 he was elected Vice-President of Québec Group, and from May 1997 to April 2005 was Québec Group President and a member of the National Executive Council of the Association. He was elected National President of the Association in October 2009. He is a trustee of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust which, inter alia, provides Pilot Training Achievement Awards to graduated air cadet pilots across Canada. Mr. Darling is also the AFAC representative on the Veterans' Affairs Canada Veterans' Week Working Group.

In 2002, he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his volunteer work to the Air Force Association of Canada and in the same year he received the Air Cadet League of Canada's Certificate of Merit for meritorious service to the Air Cadet movement. In October 2005 he was awarded the Association's Meritorious Service Award.

Mr. Darling belongs to a number of other organizations including the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) (London, England); the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS); the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI); the Air and Space Museum of Québec; and the Royal Canadian Legion. He is a Director of the Lakeshore Legion Housing Association, which oversees the management of the Seniors and Veterans Residence "Manoir Cavagnal" in Hudson, Québec. He served for several years on the executive of Pointe-Claire Branch No. 57 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

In civilian life, Mr. Darling is retired from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, where he worked in technical, information technology and administrative positions for 34 years.

He is married to Patricia Wood of Dorval, Québec. They have a married daughter, Karen, and a granddaughter, Abigail, living in Toronto, and a son, Kevin, residing in Pointe-Claire. Mr. Darling and his family have lived in Pointe-Claire, Québec since 1967.

(Current as at 1 Nov 09)