

RCAFA Trust Briefing to AFAC AGM
Halifax , NS , October , 2004

Good morning/afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen .
The RCAF Association Trust is a fully owned subsidiary of the Air Force Association of Canada , created to support our organization's charitable programs . I am delighted to provide this update on the Trust activities , on behalf of Trustees Bill Church , Ted Mahood , and Tommy Thomas .

During Fiscal Year 2003/2004 the Trust disbursed approximately \$65,000.00 to 35 worthy historical and air related charitable projects . Roughly 70 % of these Trust grants resulted from designated donations from Wings and individuals . The remaining 30% are discretionary grants made possible by the generosity of individual Association members in response to our National appeals.

During the past 15 years , the RCAFA Trust has disbursed over \$836,000.00 of which \$12,000.00 have been disbursed to date , in the current fiscal year which began on July 1st , 2004 .

Museums , commemorative projects and Cadet units continue to be major beneficiaries of Trust grants. It has been observed that many of our grants end up in Ontario and this is true . However, I must point out that the majority of National Institutions are in that Province and that Trustees have no discretion on designated donations of which the majority originate from Ontario Wings .

I am pleased to report that of the four discretionary grants disbursed to date in this fiscal year two have gone to Quebec , including a grant to the 306 Wing Pipe Band , and one each went to Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia . The former is in support of the Saskatchewan War Memorial and the latter supported the outstanding performances of the 440 Productions Association which continue to remind Canadians of our wartime heritage .

The Air Cadet 50th Anniversary Trust Fund of the Air Force Association of Canada continues to be a significant and ongoing success story .

The Air Cadet Trust Fund now has a capital investment of \$184,000.00 and since 1991 , 288 Continuation Flying Training Awards have been presented by Association members to worthy Air Cadets who have achieved wing standard during the Air Cadet summer flying training scholarship program . Funds are available for 25 more CFT Awards in 2004 comprised of twenty Association , four AFAC/ Virginia Mitchell and 1 426 Squadron Association awards. That will bring our total awards since 1991 to 313 .

Once again , I wish to express sincere appreciation to George Mitchell of 441 Wing , Barrie , for his outstanding support to this program ,in memory of his dear wife , Virginia . George's generosity has also made possible two annual \$500.00 awards , one each ,to the top male and top female graduates of the Flying Scholarship course . I had the honour of presenting an ACL appreciation award to George ,on Battle of Britain Sunday , in Barrie .

The RCAFA Trust is now preparing to launch another National Appeal for discretionary funding . Regretfully , very few of our members include the Trust in their annual charitable donation programs . Therefore we live from appeal to appeal . The forthcoming appeal has been delayed during the personnel transition currently underway at our NHQ and in recognition of the workload of our Treasurer who is also the Administrative Officer and Membership Coordinator for the Association . Susan Longhurst is a very busy lady and we very much appreciate and rely upon her support .

A highlight later this year is a \$1,000.00 grant to the Fondation Aerovision Quebec in support of the induction ceremony at the Quebec Air and Space Hall of Fame . Of major significance is that Bill Longhurst , the late husband of Susan , is a 2004 inductee . Susan will make the grant presentation on behalf of the Association in the presence of her daughter and Quebec Group President ,Brian Darling .

I would be very remiss not to officially recognize , at this time , the very outstanding contributions , in time, money, effort and encouragement made by Bob Tracy , to the RCAFA Trust , over a period of fourteen years . Bob served as our Secretary , until last year and was instrumental in launching three annual appeals which resulted in net contributions of approximately \$60,000.00. Throughout his tenure as Executive Director Bob retained a significant supporting role in the Trust activities and his counsel was invaluable .

We welcome Walter Chipchase as a valuable member of the Association and Trust team . Walter has already indicated his desire to be fully involved in the Trust activities and I am confident that between Walter and Susan the affairs of the Trust at the National Headquarters are in excellent hands .

Next , I would like to add my tribute to long time Trustee , Ed Walker . We worked together on the Trust since 1991 and Ed was always a respected colleague who could be relied on to provide sage counsel and to maintain dogged pursuit of matters dealing with RCAF and Air Force Heritage . We miss Ed but we will always remember him .

Trustees are pleased to welcome Tommy Thomas to the Board . Tommy has been actively involved in Trust deliberations since 1 June and like the rest of us is pleased to be serving on your behalf .

Finally ,we would certainly welcome your support . We do not ask Wings to assist us with discretionary funds . They have enough on their plates with staying afloat and financing individual projects . We certainly appreciate having these projects processed through the Trust whereby we assist by providing individual tax receipts and the Association is fairly recognized for charitable activities from coast to coast .

However , we do request that you ,individually ,consider an annual undesignated donation to the Trust.

If we received \$20.00 from every member , on an annual basis , we could eliminate costly appeals and readily satisfy the numerous charitable requests which are worthy of our consideration and which serve to achieve the aims and objectives of our Association . Between 500 and 700 donors participate in our National appeals and most of these are repeaters .

To date , members-at-large have been the prime contributors in response to our appeals.

On the positive side, one Wing member makes an annual donation of \$1,000 and we bless him for that .

Regretfully , our records indicate that the majority of Association members have not contributed one dollar to the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust . Your Trustees would be sincerely grateful for your participation in the Association's National charitable programs .

I have distributed copies of RCAFA Trust disbursements . Please , take these back to your Wings and help us to acquaint the membership with the diversity , and merit , of Trust activities .

Thank-you for your patience .I will be delighted to answer any questions related to the RCAFA Trust and ,of course , I am always open for business .

Ron Button ,
Chairman , RCAFA Trust