



**THE PAST COMES ALIVE
AT HANGAR 5**
A CASE FOR SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

It has been said by many an important figure throughout history that if you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you are going. Likewise, it is important to study the past in order to define the future.

Bringing the past to life is core to what the Saskatchewan Aviation Museum (SAM) is all about.

As one person described it, visiting SAM is like taking a walk forward into the past and entering immediately into the storied history of aviation in our province – bringing to life stories that instantly capture the imagination and ignite ones' curiosity. These are mouth to mouth tales preserved in the memory of men and women who once breathed life into the telling of them, inspiring future generations of aviators. So too, they are the tour guides that will take you on a journey through the museum.

Collecting and preserving Saskatchewan aviation history and artifacts makes this museum one of a kind in our province. The importance of aviation to Saskatchewan is undisputable. And the sky is the limit in terms of its future program offerings and potential impact on the community and lives of SAMs' patrons, here and beyond.

Many charitable organizations and smaller non-profits dependent on volunteers and revenue through admissions experienced a drastic decline in revenue during the recent pandemic, largely because of an inability to hold fundraising events. For SAM it meant closing its doors for only three months. Some museums closed their doors permanently. But the aviation museum is resilient, is here to stay and is building for the future.

You are invited to join in investing in that future.



"Every pilot and aircraft engineer has a story. We aim to share an experience that inspires that story."

– Brian Eikel,
SAM Executive Director

THE BEGINNING

The year 2007 was pivotal in the development of SAM. This was when a forward-thinking group of individuals formed the Saskatchewan Aviation Historical Society, became incorporated as a non-profit, and the Saskatchewan Aviation Museum was born. The vision then remains the same today – to showcase the rich history of aviation in Saskatchewan. The next steps in the years following were spent with founding board members rolling up their sleeves and going to work to launch SAM.

It took time for a visionary project of this magnitude to get off the ground. The building and renovating of Hangar 5 began in 2017. The collecting and displaying of significant historical aviation artifacts and accompanying programming followed, and SAM, the flight ready living museum officially opened on May 1, 2018.

Fast forward to 2024 and SAM remains as the only provincial museum solely dedicated to collecting and preserving aviation artifacts related to Saskatchewan.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Aviation is not only a vital transportation tool but is of great societal and economic importance. It is the connector between the north and south of the province. Bush flying helped to open the north to exploration and resource development. In the north the commercial value and crucial role aviation plays in trapping, wildlife management, mineral exploration, tourism, fishing, forest management, life saving medical evacuations, and supporting Indigenous life cannot be underestimated. In the south it is the link to servicing many aspects of agriculture, the mining industry and travelling to other cities throughout the world, to name a few crucial contributions.

“My many years flying for Norcanair in the north eventually led to developing Points North Landing, opening up a whole new opportunity to be able to haul freight and support not only the mining industry but many northern communities in the far north with no access by road.”

– George Eikel,
Retired Bush Pilot & Co-owner of Points North



“Saskatchewan has a rich civilian and military aviation history. I felt it was important to document this, remembering our past and educating future generations.”

– Tom Coates,
Founding Board
Member & Donor

THE FLYING BIRDS

For the curious a visit to SAM is to discover hands-on, through direct contact, aircraft that have shaped Saskatchewan's and Canada's aviation history. The museum's collection includes both civilian and decommissioned military aircraft from a variety of eras beginning circa WWI. Of the museum's acquisitions some aircraft are owned, some are on loan, some are restored, and some are in the process of being restored.

No one airplane is a centrepiece in the Exhibit Hall and among the many planes restored are the Tiger Moth, Harvard, Chipmunk, Cornell, Vimy Flight Memorial Nieuport XI, Douglas DC-3, CT-133 Shooting Star, Cessna 180, Cessna Skymaster, Tracker, sail plane, gyrocopter, Kristeva, and an ultra-light. Of these, the Tiger Moth, Cornell, Chipmunk and Harvard are restored and potentially flyable, but the Tiger Moth is the only plane that is airborne during the warmer months and is a source of self-generated revenue for the museum.

Rides in the Tiger Moth are very popular, letting the imagination take flight and giving a bird's eye view of the contribution to the war effort they made as trainers.

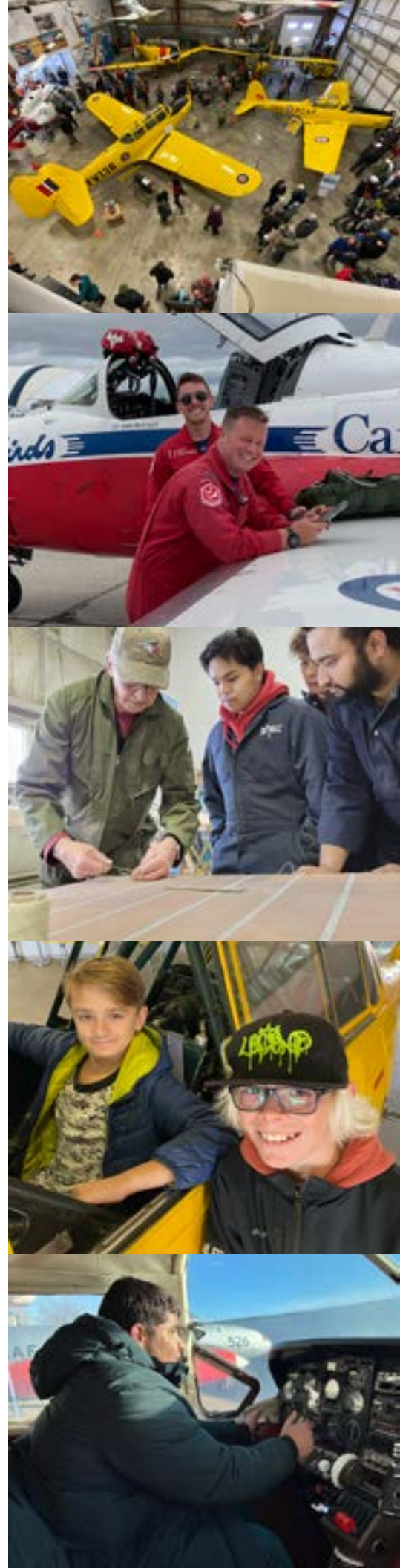
A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE

The volunteer corps is the heart of the museum and immediately upon entering SAM one feels the welcoming atmosphere and sense of camaraderie, as they "take you under their wing" and guide you through the exhibits. There are many program offerings.

Throughout the year the place is a buzz with many different and fun day events drawing new audiences to SAM. There are events such as BBQ Fridays, Family Day, Snowbirds Day, Aviation Days or Open Cock Pit Days. And then there are the weather-themed parties such as Freeze Up and Break Up parties.

So too, community groups and various businesses host events at SAM. Events such as an Air Cadets Reunion, Immigration Canada's Citizenship Ceremonies, Sports Club Awards, Saskatoon Radio Club or Merlin Ford's New Vehicle Launch, to name a few.

The guided tours offered are a boon to places such as retirement and care homes – SAM ensures mobility challenged residents can visit and take a trip down memory lane since the main exhibit hall is fully accessible.



A CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS

A core goal of SAM is to educate and inspire students from preschool to college age through its learning centre. Children learn best by doing and much of what school groups experience at the museum is hands-on.

Depending on the schools' needs, learning modules may offer a half-day or full-day program. Lessons taught complement the student curriculums for science, social studies, and history for elementary grades 1 to 8. At the high school level, the museum complements subject material in science, math, physics and careers. All programming supports the learning outcomes of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math).

A key element for teenagers is to open them up to ideas about career choices. For some their passion about aviation may lead to it becoming their purpose and one day becoming their profession. There are many employment opportunities in the industry, be it as a pilot, steward, luggage handler, in the control tower, or as an engineer or mechanic.

Exploring these aircraft and artifacts show students that the reason a lot of today's automation and why flying seems so advanced is because pioneers had to be creative and ingenious in order to develop the flying fundamentals of how things are done today.

[I say to kids visiting the museum] "The sky's the limit. So maybe you want to be a pilot, maybe you want to be a maintenance engineer, or maybe you want to be an air traffic controller or a flight service specialist even ... it's a case of what is your interest, what do you like, dream big and don't think that there isn't anything you can't do."

– Shelley Jensen,
Retired Air Traffic Controller
& SAM Tour Guide

"For school groups coming to SAM there is an instant 'wow factor'. A visit here is so novel for them. They can be hands on, touch the switches, smell the oil. None of them have ever been up close to aircraft before where they can climb into an open cockpit or learn to take off and land through our flight simulations."

– Jim Jelinski,
Retired School Principal
& Past Board President



THE FUTURE AT HANGAR 5

Through the leadership and teamwork of its staff and volunteer board of directors the aviation museum is dedicated to growing its audience and is taking prudent measures to ensure its sustainability through solid business, strategic and operational planning. At this point in history the volunteer board is evolving and is largely a hands-on operational board. The plan is to work towards adopting a governance model over time.

In the long term the museum's goal is to expand its square footage by purchasing adjoining properties as they become available. With added square footage, the museum will be able to expand displays, add aircraft, and develop classrooms and meeting spaces. This will allow for expansion of education programs and aviation related classes.

In the short-term the goals for 2024 are the additional ownership of more hangar space as well as renovating the existing structure to support ongoing restoration projects, the education program, archival collection, and to promote inclusion, accessibility and sustainability.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Aviation is one of 12 top GDP businesses in Saskatchewan.
- The equivalent of the entire population of the province passes through Saskatoon's Diefenbaker Airport every year.
- Saskatchewan was one of the first air ambulance operators in the world.
- The first team of fire-fighting smoke jumpers was formed in our province.
- Don Bateman, who is from Saskatoon, invented a ground proximity warning system and because of this was honoured by President Obama.
- CF – JDO Exhibit tells the tragic story of a family's quest to recover their loved ones long lost plane that disappeared "into the mist" in 1959.
- Reg "Crash" Harrison, at 102, who survived four crashes and 19 missions while overseas, still visits the museum to share his remarkable stories as a WWII bomber pilot.
- During WWII and before fighting Nazi Germany or Imperial Japan in Spitfires and Lancasters, pilots learned to fly in a Tiger Moth and allied pilots from across the British Commonwealth came and trained in Saskatchewan.
- SAM has a well-equipped research library of a technical nature for use by high school, Sask Polytech, SIIT and University students.
- SAM offers ground school training for a Private Pilot License (PPL).

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT & NEXT STEPS

The Saskatchewan Aviation Museum is a member of Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) and a non-profit charitable organization. SAM's funding comes from granting agencies, charitable donations, sponsorship, gift shop revenue, special events, raffles, membership, and admission fees.

The board of directors and fundraising committee has committed to giving to the 2024 fundraising initiative with 100% participation. While a portion of the fundraising goal has already been raised, the partnership and investment by individuals and corporate support is required to reach our 2024 fundraising goal of \$300,000.

Your investment whether as a sponsorship, donation or in-kind support will ensure the aviation museum continues to thrive and serve not only the aviation community but its visitors from near and far.

You are invited to participate wholeheartedly.

For more information and to answer your questions, contact:

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"I am 100% impressed with what I am seeing from your organization. The Harvard Project was one of the most interesting and original ideas I have seen in a long time ... Well done, [as a donor] I feel taken care of."

– Greg Yuel,
Owner Kreos Aviation & Donor

The Saskatchewan Aviation Museum:

- is a Benevity approved non-profit charitable organization.
- is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), has charitable status and adheres to the ethical standards in the AFP's Donor Bill of Rights.
- works with the Saskatchewan Aviation Council (SAC), Transport Canada and the Canadian Aeronautical Preservation Association (CAPA).
- belongs to the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) and adheres to the recently revised Standards for Saskatchewan Museums to ensure that it is a place that upholds inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility.
- is a member of North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA).
- delivers programming to, and partners with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT).



The Promise:

Spend an hour with us and allow
your dreams to take flight

Vision:

An interactive place where aviation comes alive

Mission:

The place where schools, families, and aviator
buffs gather, learn, experience and grow

Follow us on



We acknowledge we gather on Treaty 6 Territory where many feet have walked the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Stoney, Nakota, Dakota peoples and homeland of the Métis. Respectfully we recognize the significance of their historical, current and future relationships with Saskatchewan Aviation.

**Saskatchewan
Aviation Museum**
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