



### **COPA Flight 101 Lindsay**

Kawartha Lakes Flying Club Meeting Minutes February 5, 2020

Attendees: 23

Start 1900hrs

End: 2100hrs

Bob Burns welcomed those present. He, then, explained that future plans for CNF4 include 8 new hangars (various sizes) will be constructed this year and - - by the way, all the hangars are spoken for to date.

A parcel of land, on the property, is to be leased and tenants will build their own hangars there. Malcolm will send out a notice presently.

Geological test holes and permits have been obtained. Kudos to Loomex!

Mark Moore, KLFC member and KLMA Advisory Committee member, gave a presentation on the set-up and use of proposed future VASI/PAPI lights installation. Mark stressed the safety factor making his proposal essentially necessary. With the proposed two story retirement complex being located near the turn from base to final for 31, it becomes critical for pilots to be accurate at night or in rain to safely fly over this *what could become an obstruction*.

Lisa Davidson and Malcolm Cook from Loomex are analysing the possibility of installation.

Mark says they are striving to have the taxiway system extended to the far end of 31 to prevent possible runway incursions by impatient pilots wanting to set-up their take-off from 31.

COFFEE

Bob Burns introduced Tony Nelson - former President of the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society. Tony has been researching the **British Commonwealth Air Training Plan** for over 25 years. Tony is also a long time member of Toastmasters International which put him in good stead to relate the fascinating details of the subject at hand this evening.

Tony began by asking if we had ever read a book called "Behind The Glory" - by Ted Barris. The book has relevant contents as to the BCATP

*Salient points to consider regarding BCATP are:*

- \* From 1936 to 39 there was awareness of impending conflict and political fallout remembering world war one conscription.
- \* To organize and rally troops (and/or recruits), Lord Riverdale visited Ottawa December 17, 1939 whereupon he worked toward setting up training facilities in Canada far from the conflict.
- \* The existing 22 flying clubs were subsidized and thus began the expansion of facilities.
- \* By August of 1939, we had 3000 RCAF members. Expansion rate was 850/month!
- \* Australia and New Zealand concentrated on elementary flying training.
- \* **American** and British recruits were adding to the ranks. **America** was neutral at the time and volunteers crossed the border for various reasons such as the heroism, travel and with the depression barely easing - - to be housed fed, clothed and the chance to travel, it was attractive.

To invite more Americans, believe it or not, a recruiting station was set up in the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City.

\* Regarding the facilities in Canada, **8300 buildings were constructed in 18 months!** 750,000 blueprints were drawn and worked on to produce these buildings. Where would you find such expediency these days?

\* The fleet in the early part of the program included 702 Tiger Moths and Fleet Finches, 720 Harvards and 1368 Avro Ansons.

**NOTE** - After the December 7th, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour, the BCATP grads amounted to **6129!**

\* 17900 women signed on to help with the war effort. This bode well for dissipating the stereotypical "stay-at-home" homemaker image.

\* The well-known "Link Trainer" was a valuable tool for turning out pilots capable of handling night and poor weather flying. This apparatus was manufactured by Singer. Yes, the sewing machine manufacturer. Some aircraft were manufactured, in part, by companies like Canada Car (rail equipment), General Motors (automobiles), etc. A well concerted effort on our part. Yay Canada.

\* The legacy that BCATP left was in the form of the aerodromes built, buildings erected, etc. Most of these airports still exist and are serving the public today. Thank you so much Tony.

Thanks Rick Carpenter for videoing Tony's presentation.

Compiled by Jim Baldwin - Sec. *Kawartha Lakes Flying Club*