



Lancaster tail stinger restoration a challenge, from start to nearly finished

**Dave Saulnier,
Greenwood Military
Aviation Museum**

The constellation Orion, named after the Greek god of hunting, is now centered in the southern evening sky. That's a sure sign we're deep in the clutches of winter - but winter also means the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum volunteers have resumed working on the tail gun turret for its Avro Lancaster, "*Gutless Gert*."

It seems an impossibly short five years ago the Fraser-Nash FN20 turret was removed to undergo a complete rebuild to suit the rest of the aircraft. It's been an elusive goal. Several changes in the work team, a lengthy pandemic shutdown, and a contract to build a second turret for another museum have all taken their toll on the timeline.

The original wartime turret was removed and scrapped after the war, when the air-

craft was converted to a photo reconnaissance role. In the years after its final retirement from service, the first replica turret was built using an authentic external frame, wooden internal structures and four replica Browning .303 machine guns. Some 30 years later, the Plexiglas had become cloudy and scratched, and the plywood internals had rotted to the point they no longer held the guns securely in place. It all needed replacing to bring things up to snuff.

The first challenge after moving the turret to the museum workshop was to devise a way to replace the internal structures with something more durable than wood: more easily said than done because of the complex castings involved. Luckily, the first big break came when the Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor, Ontario, offered to mill reproduction gun supports and gun cradles in exchange for a replica cupola



André Jean, test fitting two Browning .303 replicas to the tail turret.

Submitted



Replica gun barrels being machined at A&J Automotive & Machine, Wilmot.

(the glass and metal dome). The lion's share of work since 2017 has focused around reproducing the CAM cupola as accurately as possible, and experimenting to form Plexiglas windows for both turrets.

The second big hurdle was to replace two of the machine guns confiscated to build the upper turret several years ago. This turned out to be a task that would involve many

local players. Once drawings had been made at the museum, A&J Automotive & Machine were contracted to machine-turn the tapered barrels and mill the cooling slots, while final turning and threading operations were done at volunteer Stanley Boates' private machine shop. Then, Eastern Manufacturing & Design was hired to cut the main side plates from 1/8" steel using a CNC



Dave Saulnier with the scratch-built FN20 tail turret.

Submitted

plasma cutter. Finally, restoration team member André Jean designed and fabricated all of the remaining castings and internal parts in ABS plastic using his 3D printer. Jean has been a valuable volunteer since 2019, using his computer aided drawing (CAD) and 3D printing skills to recreate dozens of obsolete parts for both the Lancaster and Expeditor projects.

As for the tail turret, it's

expected to be reinstalled on *Gutless Gert* in time for the upcoming tourist season. Orion, with his primitive sword and shield, will be long gone by then, but we're pretty sure he'd give this tail stinger his nod of approval.

The museum is always on the lookout for additional volunteers eager to donate a few hours a week. Contact the front desk at 902-765-1494 local 5955 for information. ➔



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This Aurora Block IV aircraft is now being used to conduct full crew training for the long range patrol fleet. These Maritime Operational Aircrew Training (MOAT) students and instructors are the first to conduct flying-phase training on the updated aircraft.

Block IV flight first for full crew training in modern-day Aurora

**Captain Jarrett Bond,
404 (Long Range Patrol
and Training) Squadron**

February 3, 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron marked yet another milestone for the CP140 Aurora Block IV modified aircraft. The Block IV updates are part of the

ongoing Aurora Incremental Modernization Project (AIMP). Experienced aircrew from 404 Squadron were the first to fly a full, crew training mission on the modified airframe.

For the past several months, Block IV aircraft have been seen flying around Greenwood, distinguishable

from its Block III counterpart by the large “hump” on the upper fuselage. These have been Pilot Proficiency Flight (PPFs), dedicated to training flight deck crew. The flight February 3 was a huge step forward in the project, as the back-end tactical crew was on board to put the new equipment through its paces


in comp
mission.

The aircrew successfully carried out tasks with the Block IV aircraft to simulate both how to employ the Block IV in operations, and how to train on the new systems. This achievement was a very important step in the progression of the Block IV



project, as it cleared the way for 404 Squadron to use the Block IV for the full scope of crew training.

The use of the Block IV aircraft in this manner now positions the long range patrol fleet to maintain and train its personnel for this new equipment, until a more modernized aircraft becomes

available under the Canadian Multi-Mission Aircraft program in the 2035 timeframe. 404 Squadron instructors will train their ab initio students exclusively on Block IV aircraft moving forward, bolstering the squadron's force generation efforts and shaping the future of the LRP Fleet's Block IV aircrew. ➔



the Aurora

 The Aurora News
 CFB Greenwood Aurora News

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Circulation | Circulation: **4,500 Mondays** | **Lundis**
Agreement No. | Numéro de contrat : **462268**
Fax: 902-765-1717


Website | Site Web : **www.auroranewspaper.com**
The Aurora, PO Box 99, Greenwood NS BOP 1N0
 L'Aurora, C.P. 99, Greenwood (N.-É.) BOP 1N0

Location | Emplacement : **61 School Road, Morfee Annex**
 61 School Road, Annexe Morfee


Mail subscriptions: annual \$107 plus tax, weekly \$2.28 plus tax.
 Abonnements par correspondance: 107\$ par année plus taxes, 2,28\$ par semaine plus taxes.

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December 3, Master Warrant Officer Matthew Whyte was awarded a Commanding Officers Commendation in recognition of his leadership, innovative spirit and improvements made to MOAT course delivery; he led his AESOp instructors to successfully reduce the NASO MOAT by 6 days; and, in addition, his initiative to upgrade MOAT delivery processes and infrastructure has improved centralized lesson plan access and version control, and promises to modernize the student learning experience and enable greater innovation in instructional delivery. The commendation was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Joshua Christianson, left.



December 3, Warrant Officer Christopher Dempsey was presented a Commanding Officer's Commendation, after quickly became an integral member of Maintenance Standards and using their superior attention to detail to quickly identify infringement issues with both fleet and CF Common Authorization codes, as well as courses that were missing from the 2 CAD course catalogue. As a direct result of their diligence and meticulous work ethic, Dempsey has prevented years of setbacks and is most deserving of this commendation. The award was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Joshua Christianson.



January 25, 14 Mission Support Squadron's Aviator Kennedy, left, was promoted to the rank of aviator (trained) by his father, Warrant Officer Ken Kennedy, 144 Construction Engineering Flight in Pictou. The senior Kennedy was handed the parade and the promotion by Officer Commanding Construction Engineering Captain Burgher.



The recent performance by the 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron Air Weapons Training & Standards cell has been truly exceptional. In addition to delivering over ten weapon-related courses, this small group of professionals developed new training plans, courseware and training aids, while also supporting EX Cutlass Fury, Explosives Ordnance Disposal and ACA response. Their planning and execution of a highly successful Weapons Symposium & Certification Board has enhanced CP140 air weapons safety, and brought credit to 404 Squadron. December 10, Lieutenant-Colonel Joshua Christianson, far left, with Chief Warrant Officer Jean Plamondon, far right; presented the Air Weapons Load Standards Cell with a Commanding Officer's Commendation. Accepting the commendation were, from second left to right, Master Corporal Richard Russell, Corporal Justin Hawboldt, Sergeant Nicholas Hendsbee, Corporal Andrew Ayers and Master Corporal Justin Hayes.



During a period of prolonged short staffing, 404 (Long Range Patrol and Training) Squadron's AVN Training cell maintained a superior level of training and continued to provide the CP140 fleet with qualified and knowledgeable technicians. With their professional ethos and unwavering loyalty, they not only adapted to the challenge before them, but were able to complete training in a condensed schedule. They have become a true example of service before self. December 3, Lieutenant-Colonel Joshua Christianson, left, presented the entirety of AVN Section with a Commanding Officer's Commendation. Accepting the commendation were Master Corporal Adam Foley, Master Corporal Megan Trace, Master Corporal Geoff Saunders and Corporal Matthew Brown.



February 2, Lieutenant-Colonel Torn Goldie, commanding officer of 405 (Long Range Patrol Squadron, centre; was presented with a Wing Commander's pennant in recognition of his time as the acting 14 Wing commander over the past six months, as Colonel Brendan Cook deployed. Cook, left, with Wing Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Proulx, made the presentation. Master Corporal M. Bazinet





George St-Pierre is considered one of the greatest mixed martial arts fighters, is the author of *The Way to Fight*, and founded the GSP Foundation.



JUNO Award and Canadian Screen Award-nominated singer-songwriter Peter Katz



Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe specializes in resiliency, navigating stress and change, and personal wellness.

Submitted

George St-Pierre set to inspire military teens in virtual symposium

**Peter Mallett,
The Lookout**

World-famous mixed martial arts champion George St-Pierre has come aboard as a presenter in a two-day online inspirational symposium for teenagers of military families.

The ultimate fighting champion and motivational speaker from Saint-Isidore, Quebec, will be among four keynote

speakers at the Virtual Teen Conference, Level Up, March 19 and 26. Level Up is organized by the national Personnel Support Programs (PSP), and registration for the event is free through CAFConnection.ca/levelup.

"In the past two years, the world has changed and we have reinvented the ways we live, the ways we learn, and the ways we work," says

Ryan Cane, senior manager PSP Recreation Program and Community Services. "Level Up is a virtual experience designed to connect, inspire and help teens become their own champions."

Level Up participants will have the opportunity to discover new passions, voice their concerns, and take action

through various breakout sessions held throughout the two days, says Cane.

Each symposium will last approximately four hours, starting at 8:45 a.m. (Pacific). The March 19 symposium is entitled *Mental Health and Resiliency*, and March 26 *Make Your Own Path*.

Cane says teens will draw inspiration from St-Pierre and the three other guest speakers, Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe, Peter Katz and Olympian Cassie Sharp.

St-Pierre, 40, overcame a difficult childhood and schoolyard bullies. Today, he is considered one of the greatest fighters in mixed martial arts and retired as reigning welterweight champion in 2013. He is also the author of New York Times bestseller *The Way to Fight*, which shares lessons learned in his rise to the top. He founded the GSP Foundation to reduce bullying and encourage youth participation in sports.

Hanley-Dafoe, an award-winning psychology and edu-

cation instructor, specializes in resiliency, navigating stress and change, and personal wellness.

JUNO Award and Canadian Screen Award-nominated singer-songwriter Peter Katz will inspire his audience to create their own path by overcoming obstacles and finding success in whatever they desire.

Sharpe dominated the competition at PyeongChang 2018 to win gold for Canada's first Olympic medal in women's ski halfpipe. After taking the lead on the first final run, she laid down an even better second run, earning a score that couldn't be beaten.

The Level Up itinerary also includes inspiring words from teens, subject matter experts, and interactive and recreational activities. It will be delivered through Zoom. The platform may also be used to assist those attendees who need closed-captioning through the Wordly software application. ➔

Notice of standing court martial

Master Corporal C.R. Russell shall appear before a standing court martial at 10 a.m. Monday, March 21, at Camp Aldershot, Building 60, 3 Halifax Street, Kentville. Lieutenant-Colonel L.-V. d'Auteuil, military judge, will preside at the court martial.

This proceeding is open to the public. Inquiries regarding attendance procedures should be directed to Captain Joshua O'Keefe at 902-678-7930 local 2102 or joshua.o'keefe@forces.gc.ca. ➔

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