

Book Reviews & Testimonials

A Tradition of Excellence – Canada's Airshow Team Heritage

Second Edition Testimonials

◆ **Amazing stuff, Dan, and congratulations hardly begin to give you the recognition you deserve for this accomplishment. It is magnificent all the way. Your first 27 pages (of the updated section) just blow me away.**

**Larry Milberry
CANAV Books
August 4, 2007**

◆ I would like to congratulate you on your book release ... Great job! The book is interesting and filled with fantastic photographs.

Paul Houle
Toronto, Ontario
September 8, 2007

◆ **We've received our book and WOW!! It is definitely going to be one of the most enjoyable reads and keepsakes in our household. My husband is a helicopter pilot and an avid aviation buff. I haven't seen him since the book arrived but know he's hunkered down somewhere in the house. He'll surface every once in a while to show me some pictures and very excitedly explain what he just read. The detail, the history, the pictures! Thanks for sharing this remarkable, well written, well researched documentation of Canadian aerobatics history.**

**Vicki & Phil Clay
October 5, 2007**

◆ It is a tome of extraordinary information, well written and presented ... it is one of my treasures...

Gerry Gelley
Florida
October 17, 2007

◆ **Wow, what a book!**

**Mark Tibbetts
Puslinch, Ontario
October 16, 2007**

◆ Great book – fantastic value!

Grahame Goodson
Hong Kong, Peoples Republic of China
December 13, 2007

◆ **It is a very attractive book and I am impressed by the way it provides a wide-ranging history of military aviation in Canada, from a different perspective... Congratulations on your excellent book!**

Chris Hargreaves
Editor, The Canadian Aerophilatelist
Ottawa, Ontario
March 31, 2008

◆ I received my second book many weeks ago and can't tell you how thrilled I am to have it. Thanks for taking the time to personalize it for me... The book is truly outstanding and is a prized possession for me. My hat is off to both of you for such a wonderful accomplishment.

Gord Ball
Langley, British Columbia
April 16, 2008

◆ **This is a memento that will stay in our family for generations. This is truly fantastic. I know writing can be both so rewarding and so difficult so my hats off to you.**

Claude Berrardelli
Radio-Canada, Montreal, Quebec
September 25, 2008

◆ Wow, beautiful with elegant illustration. I will take some time to digest the subject material. Thanks for the great scholarship.

Dr. Charles E. Hawtrey, MD
University of Iowa,
Iowa City, USA
October 24, 2008

Please see additional 29 pages of reviews and testimonials below:

The following book reviews and testimonial messages were received following the publication of the first edition of *A Tradition of Excellence – Canada's Airshow Team Heritage*:

Media Reviews

◆ This is not just a splendid book, it is a spectacular one ... It can only be described as a labour of love, a fastidiously researched and profusely illustrated account of the history of Canadian air force and navy aerobatic teams over the years ...

Dr. James A. Boutilier
Professor of Military History
Veritas Magazine, RMC Club of Canada

◆ **Canada's Aviation Blockbuster of the Year – A Spectacular Presentation ...**

Airforce Magazine

◆ The quality of Dempsey's book lives up to the Snowbirds' tradition of excellence... A monumental book sure to gladden the heart of any aircraft buff...

Sidney Allinson,
Victoria Times Colonist

◆ **Magnificent...Clearly a labour of love...**

Mary Lou Finlay As it Happens - CBC Radio

◆ For aviation enthusiasts, nothing matches the thrill of an airshow: the precision flying, the daring aerobatic manoeuvres and the powerful machinery have drawn thousands of people to Canada's airshows for over 80 years. Of course, the Snowbirds are a household name, but their excellence is drawn from a long tradition of other Canadian teams, from the RCAF's Blue Devils, Golden Hawks and the Golden Centennaires. Former Snowbird Lieutenant Colonel Dan Dempsey's thorough compilation of the history of Canadian air military and civilian teams is collected in 700 pages that are rich in detail of text and enlivened with 1,700 fabulous photographs that make this hefty book a page turner as well as a collector's item ...

The Globe and Mail

◆ **It's a wonderful book ... a gap in our history now superbly covered. A Tradition of Excellence is a well-researched, well-written, beautifully illustrated book to delight all those who have, over the past 70 years, thrilled to the flawless aerial ballets at countless airshows. For older readers, it will bring back some stirring memories of fast, noisy aircraft doing incredible things close to the ground. For younger readers, it will be an opportunity to delve into the past to see how the air force established those traditions of airshow excellence ...**

Bob Merrick, COPA Flight

◆ Outstanding...Highly recommended to our listeners...

Sterling Faux, Corus Radio Network

◆ **This book is *unarguably* the definitive history of Canada's airshow demonstration teams ... Dempsey has left no stone unturned researching this book, and the collective stories are all backed up with hundreds of gorgeous illustrations and photographs ... This book goes a long way towards promoting the continued tradition of aerial demonstration in Canadian aviation and is an essential addition to the library of any Canadian aviation aficionado ...**

Aviator Magazine

◆ This book was well publicized before hand and a long time coming, but the lengthy gestation period was worth the wait and the results are spectacular. It weighs in at over eight pounds, so strengthen your coffee table.

The author is an ex Snowbirds leader and obviously a devotee of excellence in the publishing field as well. The book is well researched, reads well, and is replete with quality images. Photos and avart illustrations abound. For example, there are over two dozen repros of works by nine CAAA members alone, many in large scale format, and an exceptionally fine set of colour profiles by Peter Mossman (some 42, covering 14 pages).

The narrative runs from the earliest days of the RCAF up to the present, and much of the knowledgeable commentary is provided by airmen who were part of the numerous teams, and by the solo performers as well. This gives the reader a rare insight into the technical and highly professional side of demonstration flying; it also conveys equally well the immense pride these people took in their work and the emotions of patriotism and camaraderie that inspired them and which still stir memories of what was for many "the best years of our lives".

The book was printed by Friesens of Manitoba, and apparently no expense was spared in the production standards. While the price of this opulent offering is necessarily high, it definitely delivers full value for the cost. And, hey, what keen aviation artist wouldn't gladly forsake a night of fine wining and dining with a companion just to have such a volume in his/her library?

In a year of outstanding aviation books, this one stands out most strongly – but don't waste time in obtaining one, because it is not likely to ever be found on a 'remainders' table and is surely destined to become a collector's item.

Don Connolly - Aerial Views
Canadian Aviation Artists' Association

◆ **Rich in spectacular photography, wonderful illustrations, and detailed research, the book is exceptional in every way. It's a collector's item for young and old alike ... It's no exaggeration to say that Dempsey has done a flawless job in his first book. His enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism shine through on every page. He finishes with an eloquent appeal for the preservation of the Snowbirds and the replacement of the 1960s-vintage Tutors with new aircraft ... The book is an excellent investment. It will provide many hours of enjoyment and a new appreciation of why the Snowbirds and their predecessors should justifiably be regarded as national treasures.**

Gord McNulty
The Hamilton Spectator

Canada's Airshow Team Heritage

☆☆☆☆☆

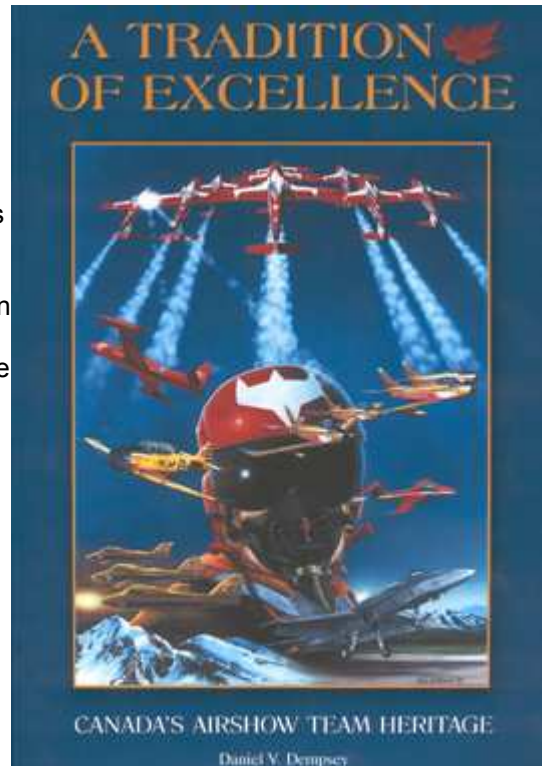
Reviewed by
Mark Proulx10" X12"
Hard Cover
734 Pages
ISBN 0-9687817-0-5

Canada has had a long and proud tradition associated with its military precision aerobatics teams, which began over 80 years ago. In 1919, WW I flying ace LCol. William Barker lead the first public display of formation flying in Toronto using "war trophy" Fokker D. VII's. Today, Canada's Snowbirds continue to amaze millions of spectators around the world in their 9-ship formation of CT-114 Tutors. This new book, entitled A Tradition of Excellence, brings that history to life as it explores the past.

Daniel V. Dempsey, who is uniquely qualified to undertake such a massive task, writes this extensive work. He flew with The Snowbirds in 1980 and 1981 as Snowbird 9, one of the team's two solos. He would go on to lead the team in 1989 and 1990 through their 20th anniversary and 1000th official performance. The book has taken almost six years to

complete and is the first work to completely detail scores of Canadian military demonstration teams. To ensure total historical accuracy sources were contacted throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. Countless hours were spent gathering photos, locating and interviewing dozens of former team members about their experiences.

The hard cover book, published by [High Flight Enterprises](#), is printed on thick, high quality glossy paper. Slightly more than 700 pages are lavishly illustrated with over 1700 black and white and color photographs, many never before seen. Photos abound of F-86's, CF-101s, CF-104's and CF-5's just to name a few. Peter Mossman, an illustrator from Toronto, Canada, provides the color profiles for 42 different aircraft near the books center section. The profiles are superbly done, depicting each aircraft in their highly polished state, as would be the norm for an airshow aircraft. Many of the aerial manoeuvres are illustrated from such famous groups as the Golden Hawks and Golden Centennaires. Various Snowbird formations have been flown through the years, with each being shown in overhead views. The book includes complete photo coverage of all prints currently completed.





BARKER'S FOKKER TEAM • RCAF SISKINS
 803 SQN (RCN) SEAFIRE TEAM
 417 (F) SQN MUSTANG TEAM
 CENTRALIA HARVARD AEROBATIC TEAM
 CFS VAMPIRE TEAM
 RCN SEAFIRE EXHIBITION FLIGHT
 RCAF BLUE DEVILS
 416/420/424 (F) SQN MUSTANG TEAMS
 CENTRALIA "EASY ACES" AEROBATIC TEAM
 31ST SAG (RCN) DEMONSTRATION TEAM
 413 (F) SQN SABRE DEMO TEAM
 410 (F) SQN AEROBATIC TEAM
 441 (F) SQN AEROBATIC TEAM
 439 (F) SQN AEROBATIC TEAM
 1 WING AEROBATIC TEAM
 3 WING FIREBALLS AEROBATIC TEAM
 2 WING SKY LANCERS AEROBATIC TEAM
 4 WING SKY LANCERS AEROBATIC TEAM
 445/423 AW(F) CF-100 DEMO TEAMS
 SILVER STARS • 431 (F) SQN AERO TEAM
 PRAIRIE PACIFIC TEAM • LANCERS
 VF 870 BANSHEE TEAM • RCN GREY GHOSTS
 1 FIS AERO TEAM • RCAF LETTERS TEAM
 RCAF GOLDEN HAWKS • RED KNIGHT
 BALD EAGLES • GOLDEN GIGGLES • RED RAVENS
 GIMLI SMOKERS • CHIPMUNK SMOKE EATERS
 GOLDBLOCKS • VIKING SMOOTH
 VU 32 T-33 DEMONSTRATION TEAM
 CDN ARMED FORCES GOLDEN CENTENNAIRES
 BOBCATS • COUGARS • ALQUETTES
 LARKS • SKYLARKS • WARLOCKS
 409 AW(F) DEMONSTRATION TEAM • HAWKS
 6 ST/R STARFIGHTER TEAM • DEADEYE ZIPS
 ALBERTA ARROWS • RED INDIANS
 TIGER ROMEDS • 1 CAG STARFIGHTERS
 434 TAC (F) SQN SCHOONER BLUENOSERS
 SAGUENAY MANICS/EXPOS/POGOS/QUEBEC
 CDN FORCES CF-5 DEMONSTRATION TEAM
 1 CFFTS COBRAS • RUT ZULUS
 JESTERS • 2 CFFTS FORMATION TEAM
 MUSKET GOLD • VU 33 T-33 DEMO TEAM
 GOPHER GREENS • DRAGONFLIES
 HUMMINGBIRDS • LAZER BLUE FLIGHT
 RED HERRINGS • TRACER REDS
 BLACK KNIGHTS • SILVER STARS
 FIS VIKINGS • RAVENS • HERITAGE FLIGHT
 CF-5 SOLO DEMO • CF-18 SOLO DEMO
 SKYHAWKS • SNOWBIRDS

This book is a perfect blend of photography and text. The author gives a history of each group chronicled with photos of pilots, groundcrew, squadron crests, patches and aircraft. I am sure that this book will offer months of pleasurable reading as there is so much information supplied to the reader. It contains an extensive listing of each of Canada's military airshow teams. Information includes the years and aircraft flown with serial number, base location and each pilot with their assigned positions. Of course, praise is also given to the ground crews that have kept the Snowbirds flying throughout the years with a listing of each of their names and the duties they performed.

I feel confident stating that this book has resulted in the most complete history ever written on Canada's airshow teams. For anyone interested in Canada's flying history or military precision aerobatics in general, this high quality book as an absolute must for your reference library. I highly recommend it without hesitation. Modellers will find the color photos and side

profiles extremely helpful. Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Dan Dempsey is to be complimented for undertaking such a huge task and writing a book in what I am sure is a true labour of love.

© [Mark Proulx](#) 2002

Individual Testimonials

◆ Fabulous ... Two days of skimming and now I've got to start reading. I can't imagine the time & effort this has taken. The finest aviation book I've seen ... Congratulations, many times over.

Bob Hallowell
Comox, British Columbia
25 Oct 2002

◆ **What a monster!!! I'm overwhelmed, she's a thing of beauty ...**

James W. Jones
Ottawa, Ontario
28 Oct 2002

◆ Received the "package" today. In a word: WOW!!!

Vic Johnson
Ottawa, Ontario
28 Oct 2002

◆ **The book is truly magnificent!! Congratulations once again on the wonderful achievement represented in "A Tradition of Excellence."**

F.R. Sutherland, LGen (Ret'd)
Bath, Ontario
30 Oct 2002

◆ I'm totally blown away at the whole book ... Brilliant effort!

Graham Wragg
Gibson's Landing, British Columbia
30 Oct 2002

◆ **I received my copy this afternoon and have been scanning through it for the past two hours. It's going to take a lot of reading ... It was well worth the wait. Please accept my congratulations on a superb effort.**

Ernie Saunders
Abbotsford, British Columbia
28 Oct 2002

◆ Let me add to, what I am sure, are the many congratulatory messages on your achievement. It really is a magnificent book. It should be compulsory reading for today's Air Force so they can appreciate what a tradition they have to live up to & realize what it was like to serve in the heyday ... Once again, congratulations on a wonderful achievement.

Bill Gladders
Comox, British Columbia
26 Oct 2002

◆ **Great job Dan! I'm going to have to bring it home from work before I get fired. My boss keeps catching me reading it. I can't stop. I'm sure you are glad it's over but it's obvious from the final product that it was a labour of love.**

J.R. Roulston
Comox, British Columbia
28 Oct 2002

◆ Congratulations, it is a magnificent piece of work - I love it. I can almost smell my cockpit again when looking at all those pictures; and so many that I have never seen before. This is going to give me many happy hours of perusing. It was worth the wait.

Tony Brett
Royston, British Columbia
29 Oct 2002

◆ **All I can say is "Wow" ... I knew it was going to be good but this masterpiece is wonderful by each and every standard. It's such a superb effort ... in keeping with your own "tradition of excellence" BZ!**

Col Terry Leversedge
Ottawa, Ontario
1 Nov 2002

◆ The book is fantastic beyond my wildest dreams. The depth of the material and wonderful story told is something you must truly be commended for. Never have I seen such a complete work on such a complex subject ... How you managed to do such a great job while still maintaining your flight schedule is beyond me ... Kudos, kudos, kudos on your magnificent work.

David O'Malley
Ottawa, Ontario
1 Nov 2002

◆ **I received my copy of your book in excellent condition. What can I say? You must be feeling a sense of pride and accomplishment. Really well done!**

Garth Dingman
Bath, Ontario
3 Nov 2002

◆ Just wanted to send a note to let you know that I received the book and what a book it is. You have done a fantastic job and should be very proud, it will be something I treasure forever ...

Wade Konecsni
Manotick, Ontario
4 Nov 2002

◆ **Received my copy a couple of hours ago and haven't been able to put it down. It is superb. Even with the rave pre-publication comments I had received from people such as Dave O'Malley, it is still more than I expected. You can be justifiably proud of your work.**

Russell Bennett
Halifax, Nova Scotia
4 Nov 2002

◆ Wow! What a fantastic book ... It took a few evenings just to work through the pictures. Now I am starting on the narrative. It is obvious so far that it was a labour of love for you.

Kevin Psutka
Ottawa, Ontario
5 Nov 2002

◆ **We received your book today. We dropped everything and sat down to leaf through it and before we knew it 2 hours had passed. It is absolutely awesome ... the pictures are fabulous ... What a monumental achievement ... You and Ruth must be so proud of this valuable resource which you have so cleverly and beautifully put together. Every aviation enthusiast must have this marvellous book. Congratulations ...**

Rich & Jay Thistle
Wasaga Beach, Ontario
5 Nov 2002

◆ Have received and reviewed what can only be described as the most fantastic tome of aviation history that I have had the privilege to own. I attended a mess dinner last night at the RCAF Mess and it was the topic of discussion from the top down.

Dave Thom
Manotick, Ontario
6 Nov 2002

◆ **You have done an outstanding, fantastic, incredible job on the book. I can't believe the amount of research you must have done. When did you find time to do anything else in 7 years? You must have needed a huge staff as proof readers, layouts etc. (I'm sure your wife must have been a part of this work). There are so many names of old jocks I have known. Sure brings back a lot of memories of the good times and achievements. I never realized there were so many aero and demo teams in existence over the years ... Again congratulations on a magnificent job. There will be a lot of reading and reminiscing this winter. Thanks for the memories ...**

Chuck Keating
Red Deer, Alberta, 6 Nov 2002

◆ Words fail me ... You have set a new standard Dan. There is NOTHING like this in existence. Anywhere. Period ... Please accept my most sincere congratulations on an absolutely magnificent accomplishment.

Christopher J. Terry, President & CEO
Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation
Ottawa, Canada.
8 November 2002

◆ **Congratulations Dan - A truly magnificent book.**

Jack Phillips
White Rock, British Columbia
9 Nov 2002

◆ I just want to thank you for inviting me to the book launch. It was a most interesting and enjoyable gathering. I also want to thank you for your generous recognition of Canadian Naval Aviation. Over the years we have been kind of the poor country cousin so it was gratifying to be acknowledged. I joined the RCAF in '42; switched to the RN Fleet Air Arm in the early spring of '45 and finally to Canadian Naval Aviation in Sep '45, so my loyalties are widespread ... Your book is truly a masterpiece and I trust that it will meet with the high commercial success that it deserves. BRAVO ZULU!

Pat Whitby
Kanata, Ontario
10 Nov 2002

◆ **I picked up my book the other day. I have one word for it: magnificent! You've done a wonderful job of organizing a huge amount of visual and textual data that grabs your attention and won't let you go. Your extensive use of personal, 'original source' accounts combined with dazzling photographs breathe real life into the histories, while your clear prose masterfully stitches it all together ... A Tradition of Excellence establishes a new benchmark in Canadian aviation publishing.**

John H. Laidler
Courtenay, B.C.
11 Nov 2002

◆ Congratulations on the book. What a wonderful collection of pictures, words and stories ... great work.

Jim Gregory
Pierrefonds, Quebec
12 Nov 2002

◆ **I am continually delighted with the photos you've unearthed. It's an incredible piece of work ...**

Bob Brown
Chilliwack, British Columbia
15 Nov 2002

◆ Just a short note to thank you very much for the opportunity to attend your book launch last Friday. It was a class event, and I enjoyed it very much. Your book is outstanding, but knowing you for as long as I have, I expected nothing short of that. The speakers on Friday certainly said some very nice things about the book and the author, and every word of it was well said and true ... Thanks, and congratulations once again on a magnificent achievement.

Ron Carter
Aston, Ontario
12 Nov 2002

◆ **I'll keep this short as I'm sure your inbox is full of congratulations. In my case the book arrived at 1230, and except for a quick dinner break I didn't look up until 2200! Right back into it today. Good thing that I'm retired!! Outstanding Dan, absolutely outstanding.**

Bob Hill
Penticton, British Columbia
15 Nov 2002

◆ I have never ever been so pleased with a book in my life as this one ...I simply cannot say enough about this book. Although I have only run through it briefly, all I can say is WOW - and how! Yes Dan, it did bring back a lot of memories for me as well as a lot of faces. I kid you not, I have a big lump in my throat as I e-mail this to you. The quality of the paper, and above all the cover - this has to be the book of books. This is above and beyond ... I was simply flabbergasted when I opened the carton. My sincere congratulations on a job well done.

Hank H. Siemens,
Okanogan Falls, British Columbia
15 Nov 2002

◆ **Your book has arrived safely and is outstanding ... an absolutely dynamite book. You should be very proud of yourself ...**

Bill and Nancy Johnson,
Seattle, Washington
16 Nov 2002

◆ I was so excited and pleased to receive my copy a couple of weeks ago. The book is an amazing piece of work and your personal inscription at the beginning is much appreciated. As a photographer I always get a real kick out of seeing how other people use my photographs. I really like the images used and how they appear in the book and I feel privileged to have such a sizeable representation in the Snowbirds section. Great work ...

Garry Cotter
Squamish, British Columbia, 17 Nov 2002

◆ **Your book is in a class of it's own! You obviously poured your heart and soul into it. You found a way to capture and present the essence of what it was to be in the CAF. I'm blown away. Thank you so much for providing a means to convey to our children and grandchildren, wives, friends, et al, of what it was like to be a part of our rich air force heritage.**

Al Camplin
Chilliwack, British Columbia, 18 Nov 2002

◆ May I congratulate you Dan for the outstanding piece of work "A Tradition of Excellence" represents. The thousands of hours required to research, collect and organize the information really paid off. The book certainly re-enforced my pride in our Air Force, its people and our country. Once again, congratulations.

Jacques Thibaudeau
Pierrefonds, Quebec
19 Nov 2002

◆ **The book is huge and simply awesome. You can tell that you put a lot of work and effort into this one. There are so many beautiful pictures! In addition, I noticed some autographs for the Golden Hawks (1963) - this got me very excited. Thank you so much. This book is a must ...**

**Jules Plamondon
Cold Lake, Alberta
20 Nov 2002**

◆ I am very impressed at the quality, detail and scope of 'A Tradition of Excellence'; thank you for your effort and also for bringing back some great memories!

Frank Bergnach
Mississauga, Ontario
20 Nov 2002

◆ **What a fabulous book and history of our airshow teams. You have indeed produced the best book that I have ever seen. I'm sure all who see it will be very proud. It will take a while to digest if fully ... Congratulations – it is a blockbuster. Thank you ...**

**Doug Marshall
Kelowna, British Columbia
20 Nov 2002**

◆ Received my copy of your book yesterday. Only wanted to have a quick look at it last night ... it was impossible, I just could not put it down. WOW !!!!! Simply a remarkable piece of work. Now I can understand why it took you a "bit longer" to complete. Congratulations for an impressive achievement ... and thanks for allowing us to go through this "memory lane". The special copy #433 also made my day ... my wife saw the young fighter pilot come back into me sitting at the corner of the kitchen table !!! Again, congrats. Je suis des plus impressionné.

Richard Brosseau
Laval, Quebec
21 Nov 2002

◆ **What an incredible book! Congratulations on an outstanding piece of work. The detail and pictures are fantastic. I was still reading last night when I realized everyone else in the house had gone to bed! Again Dan, a super job.**

**Bob Singleton
Mission, British Columbia
21 Nov 2002**

◆ This book is absolutely gorgeous with every piece of information, history, colour photos, artwork and more, beautifully printed on fine art paper ... No stone has remained unturned! Well done, Dan - the wait certainly has been worthwhile.

Adrian Balch
Wilts, England
21 Nov 2002

◆ **Dan, I have been enjoying your book very much. I always thought that you would produce a book worthy of a prominent display in any home but I think that you have surpassed even your own goals and set a new (possibly unreachable) standard in the world of aviation literature. Your family must be very proud of your achievement and extremely happy that you're finally finished! My parents are very impressed with their copy of the book. My Dad is enjoying the book very much and all my Mom could say was 'WOW'. Again, a job well done.**

**Bjorn Kjaer
Hong Kong, China
22 Nov 2002**

◆ We received the book ... and Chester hasn't been able to put it down for two days. What a special keepsake this will be for us, as it brings back many fond memories. Thank you again for all the time and effort you spent on putting it all together ... A Tradition of Excellence is superb ... Time seems to stop once the book is opened. What a tremendous piece of work!!

Chester and Judy Glendenning
Langley, British Columbia
23 Nov 2002

◆ **The book is just fabulous and will provide me with hours of entertainment this winter ... Your book, and the purpose for which it was written, deserve all the attention I can help send that way.**

**Mick Nordeen
Vancouver, British Columbia
25 Nov 2002**

◆ It really is beautiful! The books arrived yesterday and we have spent several hours turning the pages. Photography is fabulous, the stories captivating, the printing superb ... All of you have reason to be proud of what has been accomplished. The book will be treasured by many through the years, especially those most intimately connected to the subject matter ... I trust it will go a long way to accomplish the most important part of the purpose for its publication.

Oscar and Martha Sommerfeld
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
26 Nov 2002

◆ **What a job you did - I compliment you. This is truly spectacular work ... Thanks for bringing airshow aviation to our hearts, so we never forget!**

**Maj Bob Painchaud
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
27 Nov 2002**

◆ Congratulations on an excellent job. The amount of work, communication, coordination and thought that has to go into something of that scope is very much appreciated by all ...

Ed McKeogh
Montreal, Quebec
27 Nov 2002

◆ **IT IS FANTASTIC!!! A really SUPERB job. I don't think anyone can top this one. You should be extremely proud of your masterpiece. I can't put it down. It covers my whole area in aviation since I was a kid, bicycling out to St. Hubert to see the Golden Hawks, watching probably all the Red Knights, lots of memories with the 104 - my absolutely favorite aircraft. And of course the Snowbird section ... Thank you Dan! This book just adds to the immeasurable respect you have in the aviation community.**

Bob McIntyre
Montreal, Quebec
27 Nov 2002

◆ What a marvelous piece of work, you must be very proud of yourself for creating such a masterpiece ...

Ben and Arlene Van Ruiten
Winnipeg, Manitoba
27 Nov 2002

◆ **All I can say is WOW! It is a fantastic accomplishment and I am sure it will be very well received ... Well done - the product was well worth the effort and the wait.**

Jim Reith
Langley, British Columbia
27 Nov 2003

◆ Now I know why it took seven years to complete ... It is very thorough and covers almost everything that ever happened as far as demonstration teams are concerned since aviation started in Canada. Thank you for all the work that you did in putting the book together ...

Speedy Fast
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
28 Nov 2002

◆ **Your book is truly superb. What a contribution you have made to the pride in heritage of our Air Force ...**

LGen David Huddleston
Shelburne, Nova Scotia
28 Nov 2002

◆ I am impressed, I will have weeks of pleasure!

John Spronk
Abbotsford, British Columbia, 30 Nov 2002

◆ **What a book! It was like "old home week" just skimming through it. Thank you so so much for all your hard work. It is a treasure that Myrna and I will read and reread over and over again. Thanks again Dan.**

**Jack and Myrna Kingscote
Whitehorse, Yukon
30 Nov 2002**

◆ Just a note to tell you how much I admire your perseverance and dedication in completing what is an outstanding work. I am learning more from the book than I ever expected ... it is a pleasure to read! There is a vast amount of history waiting to be explored... Congratulations!

Terry Lyons
Regina, Saskatchewan
1 Dec 2002

◆ **Many thanks for the copies to my son and I. You must be congratulated for an excellent project result. Your hard work and attention to detail will be long remembered.**

**Denis Gauthier
Demorest, Georgia
1 Dec 2002**

◆ I congratulate you for the magnificent book you have produced. I expected you would do the subject proud, but this was beyond my expectations – it is indeed superb. I have already found that the hours go by once I open the covers. Not only is it good-chronicled history of our aerobatic and formation teams but it's instructive and entertaining. It's also great for our military ...

George Miller
Langley, B.C.
2 Dec 2002

◆ **It is quite the most awesome piece of aviation literature I have ever seen ... The quality of the book itself and the paper, etc. are outweighed by the quality - and quantity - of the information it contains ... and the mind-boggling array of excellent, rare and previously unpublished photos too ... It is a simply staggering piece of work, and if there is any kind of Nobel Prize for Aviation Literature, then this should win it absolutely outright!**

**Gary Siddall
London, England
8 Dec 2002**

◆ It is a totally amazing book ... I was totally shocked when I opened it up ... I look forward to sitting down and actually reading this book from cover to cover.

Denis Fontaine
Bath, Ontario
11 Dec 2002

◆ **It is overwhelming. Truly overwhelming ... You can be very proud of this mammoth accomplishment.**

**Bill Stewart
Moncton, New Brunswick
12 Dec 2002**

◆ All that I can say in a word is "Fantastic." What a book! You must have put thousands upon thousands of hours work into this book. The pictures are incredible. It took me close to three hours just to look through the book, page by incredible page. This book is one of the best aviation related books I have seen. I have approximately 600 aviation books so I speak from experience ... It should be a part of any aviation enthusiast's collection.

Neil McGavock
Mississauga, Ontario
12 Dec 2002

◆ **It is a remarkable achievement in all respects. The appearance, scope, picture coverage and detail all reflect a dedication that deserves the highest accolades. It's unusual in our business for guys to put pen to paper... this work of yours fills an important gap in the history of Canadian Aviation. As I look through the book I am reminded of so many people that I knew and I'm sure that a lot of the material, so personal for me, will also be of interest to thousands of others who did not have the opportunity to know the players first-hand. It will be treasured by everyone who is lucky enough to get a copy ...**

**Baz Lawlor
Hugelsheim, Germany
12 Dec 2002**

◆ It's fantastic!!

Peter and Martha McKeage
Gander, Newfoundland
13 Dec 2002

◆ **The book is well written, very informative and will take me a long time to thoroughly digest. Thanks again, "well done".**

**Bill Holloway
Surrey, British Columbia
13 Dec 2002**

◆ What a magnificent and thorough documentation ...

Bud Granley
Seattle, Washington
13 Dec 2002

◆ **It is more than a book, it is a work of art ... I am extremely impressed and am sure that it is the penultimate work on demonstration flight in Canada ... thank you for the effort that you put forth to bring us this fine work.**

Wayne Brown
Markham, Ontario
17 Dec 2002

◆ "The Book" is an incredible piece of work! Impeccable research combined with descriptive and vivid writing will make it a memorable read for all. For those lucky enough to be included in the contents, it is a fascinating, memory-stirring experience. You have done us all proud, Dan, and made an important and lasting contribution to the aviation record in Canada.

Mike Matthews
 Richmond, British Columbia
 21 Dec 2002

◆ **Without a doubt, the best written, most in-depth book of its type anywhere! This book is a must for any aviation enthusiast who wants to learn anything and everything about Canadian Air Force formation teams. Its 700+ pages are full of rare photographs and first-hand accounts from the pilots who flew with these fine teams. The author, Daniel Dempsey, led the famed Snowbirds in 1989-1990 and his love for, and dedication to, this unique aspect of Canadian aviation has done all past, present and future team members proud!**

Dale Hackett
Rothesay, New Brunswick
21 Dec 2002

◆ Thank you very much for the great book. It's beautiful, you should be very proud of your accomplishments ...

Sharon French
 St. Albert, Alberta
 24 Dec 2002

◆ **Let me express my sincere congratulations ... You have published an outstanding book of the highest quality that exceeds the standards promised ... I was amazed at the size of the book and impressed by its quality. The accomplishment of producing such an impressive work, in your "spare time," is an inspiration to all of us ... As far as I am concerned, your book is the new baseline ...**

John Corrigan
Oshawa, Ontario
26 Dec 2002

◆ Congratulations!!! The book is superb. It is fun to read and full of fantastic photos and stories. (it is also just about the heaviest book I own). You did a fantastic job and you should be very proud ... You have done our fliers proud.

George Quigley
 Chatham, Ontario
 29 Dec 2002

◆ **The book is a glorious tribute to every Canadian who contributed not only to aviation excellence, but who set themselves apart in a quest for human perfection ...**

**Rafe Tomsett
Riverside, California
30 Dec 2002**

◆ It is truly wonderful!

Fern and Linda Villeneuve
Carrying Place, Ontario
30 Dec 2002

◆ **Your book is, without doubt, a most outstanding accomplishment, a valuable resource and a really good read ... I have dedicated much of my spare time, for 25 years, to doing my bit to preserve Canada's aviation heritage and particularly the memory of those people who created it. Your book, without question, is a worthy tribute to all of your aerobatic colleagues. You should be very proud. My congratulations and compliments to you.**

**Dr. John Christie
Halifax, Nova Scotia
30 Dec 2002**

◆ The book is eye-watering!!!

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Meeker, USAFR
Miami, Florida
31 Dec 2002

◆ **What a wonderful piece of work! You must be very proud. Congratulations ...**

**Patrick Ouellet
Anchorage, Alaska
2 Jan 2003**

◆ Impressive work indeed, I will savour the joy of reading it ...

Ken Lin
Toronto, Ontario
2 Jan 2003

◆ **You have done us all very, very proud ... A first class job and one which will truly put you in the class of the Milberry's and others ...**

**Eric Matheson
Hong Kong, China
6 Jan 2003**

◆ I just had to pass along my thanks for your book. It is beyond my expectations and is indeed a classic. Congratulations.

Bob Smith
Vancouver, British Columbia
6 Jan 2003

◆ I've read about half of your magnificent book so far and am enjoying it immensely. I think you have done a spectacular job and I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations ... The book sits in the center of my coffee table and I've been reading it almost daily. Several friends have browsed through it and commented on it's excellence ... I hope you are now enjoying the recognition you so richly deserve. The title of your book says it all ...

Walter Scott
St Augustine, Florida
6 Jan 2003

◆ 'The book' is a work of art. You have done a great job, congratulations and thanks.

Henry Van Keulen
Ventura, California
18 Jan 2003

◆ Everyone who sees the book is amazed at the amount of work you put into it. The quality and level of detail are beyond praise. It will be the reference book on the subject for all time and in my view surpasses, by far, anything done by other professional writers ... I am sure

you have received a flood of compliments on what is truly not only a "Great" work but a classic in it's field. The Fraternity owes you a debt which could never be repaid ...

Alexander Young
North Port, Florida
8 Jan 2003

◆ Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on a fantastic effort. The book brings back a lot of great memories ... I'll always treasure it.

Stephen Snider
Warkworth, Ontario
14 Jan 2003

◆ Your "A Tradition of Excellence" is an incredible piece of work... To distill thousands of words (hundreds of thousands, I expect) and an amazing collection of photographs into such a professional and attractive package shows a rare talent and one which has contributed a novel package of knowledge to Canadian history... Congratulations. You have made us all prouder to have served in such times. I still, even as an old sweat, thrill and marvel at what our Snowbirds do and what they symbolize in this unmatched nation ...

Bill Carr, LGen (ret'd)
Stittsville, Ontario
14 Jan 2003

◆ I don't think any Canadian aviation book surpasses A Tradition of Excellence in visual appeal ... I'm impressed by how vivid the photos are in reproduction. Even the historic images that have appeared before can barely be recognized because they're so crisp. Scenes from the 1950s look as good as shots from two and three years ago. And there's 700 pages of them ... Thank you for your momentous contribution to the bookshelves and coffee tables of Canadian aviation fans.

Mark Munzel
Vancouver, British Columbia
20 Jan 2003

◆ **I am one of the fortunate and privileged number to have this wonderful book. Congratulations to all who had a hand putting it together. It is a masterful piece of work ...**

**Chuck Vrana
Cambridge, Ontario
23 Jan 2003**

◆ Your book is terrific. I am particularly enjoying the stories from the Royal Canadian Navy pilots, some of whom I had the pleasure of knowing during my time, and who get so little publicity in Canada. So little of your material has been published, and it is great to see so many fresh stories from an experienced point of view by an experienced pilot and author. I forgot also how many people I know who were involved with teams of one kind or another over 30 years ...

Wayne Ralph,
White Rock, British Columbia
23 Jan 2003

◆ **Many congratulations for a job well done ... I'm still amazed at how fantastic the book is and I am totally thrilled at the result. I can't remember seeing a better aviation book either in Canada or the U.S., and I consider it a great addition to the history of aviation ... I am extremely impressed with the accuracy of the Avro information. Every single fact is totally accurate and perfectly presented ... and I have seen a lot of books about Avro which have a lot of inaccuracies. I was thrilled to see that Avro was not excluded. Again, a Great, Great Job!**

**Brian Willer
Toronto, Ontario
26 Jan 2003**

◆ The quality is outstanding and the research is impressive. I can't imagine any airshow or military buff not wanting a copy ... you may be assured that I will be showing my copy with pride ...

Graham Miller
Hong Kong, China
25 Jan 2003

◆ **A fantastic book ... I am at a loss for words in describing its contents. Surely worth the wait ...**

**Michael Chomiak
Lethbridge, Alberta
29 Jan 2003**

◆ I've had a chance to only have a cursory thumb-through of the book and my immediate reaction from first taking it out of its packing box was, and is, "WOW!!!!!!" This is clearly a labour of love, and I can only begin to imagine the thousands of hours you must have spent putting it all together. Congratulations on a superior and outstanding volume; I know that I will be spending many hours reading and re-reading the historical background of our Air Force display teams. The personal recollections of the numerous individuals which you have also included are but icing on the cake ...

Doug Moore
Nanose Bay, British Columbia
26 Jan 2003

◆ **Your book surpasses every expectation. It also takes me back to the early- or mid-60's, when a new, glossy "Life" hardcover would arrive at my parents' home. I'd spend hours paging through, with that new-book aroma simply a part of the experience ... Thanks to you and to your publishing team for a tremendous work of the kind few could accomplish.**

Janet Mackintosh
Vancouver, British Columbia
28 Jan 2003

◆ It is absolutely wonderful ... You've created a treasure for us and I'm sure for thousands of others as well. Your hard work is very much appreciated. Well done.

Barb Beardsall
Aurora, Ontario
28 Jan 2003

◆ **What an important contribution to the history of the Air Force you have made! Congratulations on an outstanding effort ...**

BGen Jim Hunter
Colorado Springs, Colorado
29 Jan 2003

◆ I cannot believe the amount of work you must have done to put this outstanding book together. For that and your signature - many thanks.

Rocky Van Vliet
Carrying Place, Ontario
30 Jan 2003

◆ **Thank you for such a great book - it will be treasured. You have done us a great service ... It is so comprehensive that no follow up could do justice. Thank you for all your dedication.**

Pete Trott
Madeira Beach, Florida
4 Feb 2003

◆ We think your book is awesome and truly appreciate the work that you put into it. When I first received it, I couldn't put it down. I have told everyone that I know what a great book it is ... thanks again for writing it.

Bill and Judy Carter
Sherwood Park, Alberta, 5 Feb 2003

♦ **Wow! The book is awesome, a real journey through Canada's real-life aviation history. The photos and illustrations are first class and exciting ... I will treasure and enjoy it for many years.**

**Kelly Oltean
Edmonton, Alberta
6 Feb 2003**

♦ The book is absolutely amazing ... truly, and you can be certain my copy will be on my coffee table for all to see.

Beverley Barker
Barrie, Ontario
6 Feb 2003

♦ **Congratulations seems immensely inadequate ... Your book is the instant standard against which any future and similar publications will be tested – if ever ...**

**Eric and Elma Sommerfeld
Coquitlam, British Columbia
6 Feb 2003**

♦ Simply put I think your book is magnificent. I have read it and then re-read it and it has pride of place on my coffee table so that everyone can admire it. Speaking as an enthusiastic "Ten Year Canadian" with prior RAF service, and subsequent United and Northwest experience, I often wonder if Canadians realize just how

good they are at flying in general and flying fighter type aircraft in particular. In my next life if I come back as a fighter pilot I will demand a Canadian as my wingman. Best of luck and a sincere thank you ...

Tom Murray
Olympia, Washington
8 Feb 2003

♦ **What an absolutely superb book. My heartiest congratulations, sincere compliments, and undying admiration to you for all the hard work that you put into it. I cannot believe how much ground you covered. You've done outstanding work at recognizing our great ground crews. I consider it an honour and privilege to have contributed to the book ...**

**Rae Simpson
Trenton, Ontario
9 Feb 03**

♦ I would like to congratulate you for such a wonderful work that is "A Tradition of Excellence - Canada's Airshow Team Heritage". I am enjoying every page of it ...

Professor Rudnei Dias da Cunha
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
17 Feb 03

◆ **A truly wonderful book that I have thoroughly enjoyed reading. Anyone who has ever marveled at the skill, grace and daring of our demonstration teams (and solos) will enjoy this marvelous, marvelous book ... The devotion to flight held by Mr. Dempsey and all the others quoted in the book is so clear and so evident – finishing the book gave me the same feeling of pride whenever I've seen our demonstration pilots and teams "show their stuff" ...**

**Sean Steele
Victoria, British Columbia
23 Feb 03**

◆ What a fantastic achievement ... Many thanks, kind regards and congratulations on a truly superb project.

Kit Adams
Brackley, England
23 Feb 2003

◆ **This is the greatest aviation book in my collection ... I have enjoyed reading every word and story in it. Truly a masterpiece ...**

**Colin Kunkel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
25 Feb 2003**

◆ Congratulations on a most delightful and educational read. I spent some 32 years in the RCAF/CAF as an aircraft maintainer and am ashamed to admit that I knew so little about the pre-World War II flying achievements other than the household names like Billy Bishop. Since retiring in 1978 I have been aware of the achievements of the precision flying units, but pretty much

ignorant of the political difficulties endured by these units in achieving their tremendous success ... I congratulate you on a magnificent job of putting it all together ...

Art Kendall
St. Albert, Alberta
26 Feb 2003

◆ **Congratulations on a wonderful book that has caught the imagination of many generations. All of the superlatives have already been used up ... The accuracy is absolutely phenomenal. No matter where I start, the middle, the end, or at the beginning, I can't put it down for hours. Sometimes I read it forwards, sometimes I read it backwards; sometimes I read it upside down. Must be the old Snowbird 9 in me! Nevertheless the enjoyment is fantastic and I know I am going to get many years of satisfaction out of your book ...**

**Laurie Illingworth
Brockville, Ontario
3 Mar 2003**

◆ The book is tremendous! The amount of work you put into creating it must have been unbelievable. I will spend many hours enjoying it. Thanks for keeping the tradition alive...

Vince Jandrisch
Vancouver, B.C.
5 Mar 2003

◆ **I just want to add my congratulations for a job extremely well done. A Tradition of Excellence is a masterpiece that begs to be read slowly and not skimmed hastily. It's like a bottle of the finest Scotch. You don't guzzle it, you sip it in small quantities and savour every wonderful drop.**

**Ron Vollick
Belwood, Ontario
5 Mar 2003**

◆ Just wanted to let you know how much I am enjoying your wonderful creation. "A Tradition of Excellence" is, by far, the most comprehensive study of airshow teams in our day. You have given us all an opportunity to remember the "Glory Days!".

Steve Charbonneau
Granby, Connecticut
5 Mar 2003

◆ **The book certainly has brought back many happy memories for me...seeing some of the people that were stationed at Gimli (such as S/L Bliss and S/L Lett and others) was a real treat... Many thanks for one of the most memorable days of my life getting to meet not only yourselves but other former members of the Snowbirds out at Royal Roads University. I am forever grateful.**

**Ed Bateman
Victoria, B.C.
5 Mar 2003**

◆ Congratulations on the publication of this beautiful book. We are very impressed with the quality of the photographs and the amount of time and research that you have put into its production...

Janet Hynes
Middleton, Nova Scotia
5 Mar 2003

◆ **What can anyone add to the well-deserved accolades already pouring forth? I was absolutely astounded, to put it mildly. The first look at the book itself, even before opening it, was electric. It does not matter where one opens the book, it is absolutely fascinating reading and holds one spellbound. Where on earth did you get so much detail????? And the unquestionable authority of every single word, date, occasion, event, photograph makes this a truly remarkable work... Every single pilot, navigator and ground crewman who were ever associated with airshows will find this book absolutely essential reading. Thank you again, Dan, for a most wonderful book which will be treasured as long as I live. Yes, as your comment said, it brought back glorious memories and sheer delight at seeing again and reading about many of the flyers who shared those memories with me. As a**

SPAADS photograph once said under a lovely photo of a Sabre in flight..."those were the days, my friend"... And you have brought them back.

Tony Gunter-Smith
Whitney, Oxfordshire, England
5 Mar 2003

◆ The book is "brilliant", using the most popular current superlative. I am enjoying showing it off.

Col Charlie Neel, USAF (Ret'd)
Colorado Springs, Colorado
6 Mar 2003

◆ **I have thoroughly enjoyed going through your "tome" on the Airshow Teams. It's an excellent piece of work and a valuable addition to our Air Force library. Bravo Zulu!**

Don McNaughton, LGen (ret'd)
Perth, Ontario
7 Mar 2003

◆ I am more than impressed. In fact, I am totally gobsmacked. What a wonderful achievement. It is an unbelievable 4 kilos of brilliance. You deserve the highest accolade for book publishing that there is... The book will take pride of place on my bookshelf. Many, many thanks and congratulations.

John Murray
Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland
8 Mar 2003

◆ **The book is an extraordinary volume of aviation history...it will enjoy a place of particular prominence in my library of special memories.**

David Kinsman, LGen (ret'd)
Orleans, Ontario
9 Mar 2003

◆ The book is well researched, reads well, and is replete with quality images. Photos and avart illustrations abound... there are over two dozen repros of works by nine CAAA members alone, many in large scale format, and an exceptionally fine set of colour profiles by Peter Mossman (some 42, covering 14 pages). In a year of outstanding aviation books, this one stands out most strongly – it is surely destined to become a collector's item...

Don Connolly
Aerial Views - Volume 8, No 1, 2003
Canadian Aviation Artists' Association

◆ **A super "thank you" for a wonderful book... You must be very pleased and very proud to put out such a "Masterpiece". Capturing and documenting the Canadian aerobatic world for future generations of airmen and women to admire and reflect upon is a legacy you can be proud of. Thank you again for the "Aerobatic Team Bible" number 185 ... it will be passed on to the next generation of Charlebois airmen...(my son and two grandsons so far)**

Gil Charlebois

Madoc, Ontario
26 April 2003

◆ Let me congratulate you for this marvelous milestone in the history of aviation in Canada. And what is pleasing in it, is the fact that it is on probably the best and beautiful utilization of military aircraft. BRAVO ET FÉLICITATIONS !!

Daniel Robert
 Pintendre, Quebec
 20 April 2003

◆ **Don't know much about airplanes,
 Know even less about airshows,
 And even less about flight-demonstration teams.
 But I know a masterpiece when I see one and your book is one! Congratulations on your labor of love.**

Robert Newlin
Washington, D.C.
8 May 2003

◆ I was thrilled to get a personalized copy of your book as a gift... I truly treasure it. It's always open on the coffee table and I have great difficulty not stopping to read just one more page. My air traffic control career in the air force was practically all Air Defence Command or the Wings in Europe...all fighters...with all the situations that fighters can bring. Your wonderful book has brought it all back. I truly was lucky to have lived through that exciting time in the air force and I wouldn't change a minute of it... Sometimes when you are involved with the actual events you don't see the big picture. You have filled in that big picture for me in a very skilled way. Thanks again for the time you have taken to make my copy so special...

Gerry Cotter
 Whistler, British Columbia
 11 May 2003

◆ **I want to thank you for the labor of love that you put together over the last few years. I've spent some time with the book and it truly is astounding ... It is a wonderful advertisement**

for air shows generally and Canada's air show heritage specifically and we'd like to do all that we can to help spread that word and your books.

John Cudahy, President, International Council of Air Shows
Leesburg, Virginia
18 Sep 2003

◆ My congratulations on a fine piece of work.

Ian Hammond
 Red Deer, Alberta
 26 Sep 2003

◆ **I've just delivered your inscribed books to my German friends and they are absolutely thrilled. It's great to see how much they appreciate the tome even though their personal experience is limited to our presence in Soellingen. It helps them understand just how super our Air Force was and why we are so proud of our past. So, again many kudos ...**

Baz Lawlor
Huegelsheim, Germany
4 Oct 2003

◆ It is a wonderful book and anyone with a flying heritage, no matter how limited, should own it ... I strongly recommend it.

Ron Vollick
 Belwood, Ontario
 3 Oct 2003

◆ **The book is everything you promised it to be. There are names, faces and places that once again remind me of the glory days of the RCAF. Thank you for your time and effort along with all those who helped to bring this piece of Canadian aviation history together into one magnificent book.**

Jim Jotham
Arnprior, Ontario
15 Oct 2003

◆ Thank you for your great book. It is truly a work of art...

Gary Flath
 Courtenay, British Columbia
 17 Oct 2003

◆ **I'm in possession of your book which, believe me, I enjoy very much during the quiet times I reflect upon my military career. A career I enjoyed every minute of the 38 years I served ... BZ on a great book.**

Jon Main
Nova Scotia
25 Oct 2003

◆ Congratulations on the success of your book - it is amazing!

Joanne Jacobson
 Courtenay, British Columbia
 6 Nov 2003

◆ **Your book is absolutely superb, and virtually sets a new standard for publications of this type. It's people like you that donate so much of their lives in time, energy and expertise, that help to keep a high profile for Canada's aviation heritage ... Per Ardua Ad Astra**

Bob Tracy, Publisher, Airforce
Ottawa, Ontario
30 Oct 2003

◆ Your book is a magnificent history ... I really admire the tremendous work you have done in putting the book together. The research involved is obvious and the energy you have put into gathering everything, sorting it out and publishing it in such an attractive, readable form is truly a credit to your tenacity... It's great!

Boyd Webb
 Sorrento, British Columbia
 9 Nov 2003

On reviewing your book I was very impressed with the scope and detail you have included in your work. It is a masterpiece review of Canadian aviation air displays and I am sure you have a winner in this publication. I am pleased that I could contribute in some small way to this excellent piece of work.

**Les Price
 Salt Spring Island, B.C.
 2003**

This is an amazing piece of work and really worth every penny.

Daniel Soulaine
 2003

I was amazed, it is an absolutely fantastic book... I can see that I have hours and hours of enjoyment ahead of me as I read through it. It is a book I will treasure and I congratulate you.

Shaun Crump
 London, England
 2003

◆ Congratulations on your excellent book. I am absolutely stunned by the amount of information that you collected and delighted with your extensive use of aviation art. I can't pretend to say I've read the whole book but it stays on my coffee table ... I pick it up often.

**Brian Croft
 Vancouver, British Columbia
 15 Nov 2003**

◆ Every time I pick up this book, I'm amazed by it. I always find something new each time I look into it ... The book is such a positive impact on the airshow industry, we feel that it is well worthy of being on our website ... We had the pleasure of hosting the Snowbirds this year at Millville, NJ for the first time. Having the history from your book helped us to promote the team better in our media as well as to give them more of a sense of "home" in Millville while they were our guests.

David Schultz
 Millville, New Jersey
 24 Nov 2003

◆ CONGRATULATIONS on your book, it is marvelous. Well done to you and your production team! The forward by Gen Sutherland says it all ... I learned quite a bit about early air force teams, and the real highlight for me were the memories those photos brought back, people I have not seen in many years ... The research is phenomenal, I specially enjoyed the letters by Fern Villeneuve and George Miller; and the last compliment I have is - it is the best book for the collection of photos and prints that I have seen anywhere – a masterpiece.

**Jim Turner
 Ottawa, Ontario
 20 Dec 2003**

◆ Your book is outstanding! It brings back lots of memories of the many airshows I have attended.

Ron Lapp
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Dec 2003

◆ **I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your wonderful book, *A Tradition of Excellence: Canada's Airshow Team Heritage*. I am still in the process of reading it but so far it's great to see how flight has evolved throughout the years: first with the very beginnings of flight itself, new aircraft, and then the first couple of airshows. In comparison with the launch of airshows over 80 years ago to today's performances, it is amazing to see the transformation that flight has made in Canada.**

Marta Korz
24 Dec 2003

◆ I just have to mention that your book is a BIG hit with all visitors to our house. Most, being Canadian, express great surprise that Canada (read RCAF/CF) could produce such excellence. No news to you and me ...

Greg Bruneau
Kingston, Ontario
26 Dec 2003

◆ **Can I say how much I enjoyed your book on the aerobatic and display teams of the RCAF. A truly magnificent piece of work, of which you must be immensely proud ...**

David Watkins
England
23 Feb 2004

◆ The book is everything that I heard about and more. I have just about every book written on the RCAF, but this one tops them all ... A truly magnificent accomplishment. Thank you so much for the warm endorsement and kind words. I shall treasure this book to the end.

Paul LeBlanc
London, Ontario
12 Jul 2004

◆ **The book was well worth the wait. It's excellent ... I am in it all the time. Thanks for your efforts on this magnificent publication ...**

Rob Arsenault
Greenwood, Nova Scotia
21 Jul 2004

◆ It was an honour and a pleasure to meet you at the Cold Lake Airshow ... I think people like us do a valuable service when we research the story of those who have gone before - especially in the military, so that future generations will know and understand what others have done for them. Your book is wonderful and you are to be commended for all your effort and the legacy you have provided to those men who flew for Canada ...

Michael Hurst
 Taipei, Taiwan
 29 Jul 2004

◆ **I will you known that on today's date the books reached me in the best condition ... At first look the book seems to be a must in "Canada Aerobatic Teams" story. No other work may be greater than this. This night will be the "night of the great eyes or that of the open eyes" . . . there are 45 years that I collect books, pictures and things about aircraft, only military. Many thanks from my friend Alvise Castellani too. Best wishes for you ...**

**Gianni BON
 UDINE, ITALY
 4 Aug 2004**

◆ You have created a masterpiece in *A Tradition of Excellence*, the likes of which I have never seen. It was certainly worth the wait... Thank you.

John Vincent
 Cold Lake, Alberta
 23 Aug 2004

◆ **Your book is just super and I have not put it down since purchasing it ... I have been an aviation enthusiast as long as I can remember. I have also been very fortunate and consider myself lucky to have met or to have called friend many people noted in your book. People like Will Chabun, Tony Edmunson, Dave Scharf and the late Frank Hanton are friends. I was thrilled to have met Duke Warren , Joe Schultz, Grant Nichols, Ed Rozdeba, Claude Thibault and Bud Granley to name a few ... Your book has really kindled an interest in this subject with me. It is rare that I am this passionate about a book.**

**Marlon Schultz
 Regina , Saskatchewan
 24 Aug 2004**

◆ Thank you so much for the beautiful, beautiful book, *A Tradition of Excellence*. I really cherish it and I so appreciate your long endeavor to a beautiful finished product...

Julie Clark
 Cameron Park, California
 28 Sep 2004

◆ **It's just fantastic! I have found some pictures of the F-104 that will really be of great utility. When finally, within 6 - 7 months, the model will be finished, I'll send you a few pictures. The "note" you have personally written for me has been very appreciated, thanks very much! In my personal aviation library, this book is absolutely the best... and the biggest!**

**Klaus Schillumeit
 Clarens, Switzerland
 22 Nov 2004**

While I have not read it all, those portions I have read are simply marvelous. You are to be congratulated for what you have done to make the public aware of what it takes to be an aerobatic pilot! I'm looking forward to seeing you and congratulating you in person on November 8th at the Aviation Museum.

Michael F. Doyle
Ottawa, ON
Nov 2003

Many, many compliments of compiling this great book, very nice work and very nice pictures!!!

Roger Seroo
The Netherlands
2005

This wonderful chronicle of the segment of air force history that encompassed so many magnificent men is a great tribute to your talent and dedication. Congratulations on your achievement.

Bob Rae
Alliston, Ontario
16 Mar 2006