



*Where journeys begin.*

## News Release

April 29, 2014

### Community pays tribute to Snowbirds at the Comox Valley Airport

A beautiful stained glass window dedicated to the Canadian Armed Forces Snowbirds now welcomes passengers to the Comox Valley Airport, thanks to a donation from the Old House Hotel & Spa Mayors' Golf Charity Classic.

"The Canadian Forces have a major presence in the Comox Valley and have been an important part of this community for more than 70 years," said Old House Hotel & Spa owner Roger McKinnon. "This is a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of the military to the Comox Valley and to acknowledge our appreciation for the spectacular display the Snowbirds put on for us each year."

"For several decades, 19 Wing has hosted the Snowbirds as they come to the Comox Valley each year to finalize their training leading up to the air show season," said Colonel Jim Benninger, Commander 19 Wing Comox. "Our ability to provide an exceptional training venue would not be possible without our partnership with the Comox Valley Airport and the perennial support of the residents of Comox."

The window was created by local glass artist Jan Lindstrom and depicts the Canadair CT-114 Tutor, an aircraft ideally suited for the Snowbirds' formation demonstrations. The Snowbirds train at 19 Wing Comox each year prior to the start of air show season to familiarize the pilots with over-water maneuvers and challenging topography. As a result, Comox Valley residents are treated to impressive aerial demonstrations for about two weeks every spring.

"The window is a great reminder of the long relationship that the Snowbirds have with the Comox Valley," said Major Patrick Gobeil, the Snowbird Team Lead. "We get fantastic support here and appreciate that for a few weeks each year we get to call this area home."

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For more information about the Snowbirds visit:  
[www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/snowbirds/index.page](http://www.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/snowbirds/index.page)

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