



CANADIAN AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and the **The British Columbia Aviation Museum** present

Guest Speaker Paul O'Reilly

“ Debrief - Biplanes Over Vimy 2017 ”



Paul O'Reilly will present a re-cap of his experiences getting ready for the Vimy trip, the actual flight over to the event itself, and the post flight developments for the team.

Paul joined what he thought was the Royal Canadian Navy for pilot training on 1 February, 1968 in Halifax, NS. “As I signed up I was informed I was the second person in Canada to join the Canadian Forces as the three services had been "unified" that morning! The first guy to join up was a fellow from Newfoundland who had a 30 minute head start due to the time zone change between

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. I went through flying training at Borden, Ont (Chipmunks), Gimli, MB (Tutors), and finally Portage La Prairie (Expeditors) for Wings graduation in June of 1969. My first tour was on the Tracker aircraft in Shearwater where I had hoped to embark in our only carrier, HMCS Bonaventure before she was paid off. All I got was one cat shot!! During my conversion training, Bonnie left on her final cruise so I never deployed on her.”

“Wishing to go to sea - the reason I joined up - I volunteered to begin helicopter conversion so I could fly Sea Kings. This was accomplished in 1973 and I made my first deployment in the spring of 1974. After 4 operational helicopter tours which included an exchange position with the US Navy in San Diego I was finally assigned a desk - the ubiquitous "mahogany bomber" - for several ground tours. Most memorable experiences during these sea-going tours would include the Iranian Hostage crisis, an engine out landing on a helicopter destroyer, landing on a ship in 70 foot seas, a max-range medevac mid-ocean and finding a 700 foot high iceberg at night while at 500 feet! I retired in 2002 and made my home here in Brentwood Bay, BC.”



Wednesday, September 20th. 2017 @ 7: 00 p.m.

The British Columbia Aviation Museum

www.bcam.net

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