

# Slipstream



A Bulletin for Members of  
The BC Aviation Museum

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## *Lt. Hampton Gray, VC DSC RCNVR Memorial Monu-*

On Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a momentous event took place at the BC Aviation Museum in Sidney. The installation of a Memorial Monument dedicated to Lt. Hampton Gray, legendary Naval Aviator, which was installed on the grounds of the Museum.

A resident of Nelson, BC, Hampton Gray, or “Hammy” as he was referred to, left UBC in 1940 at the age of 22, to join the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) and was sent to Britain for his naval training. During his naval aviation career, Lt. Gray was involved in a number of naval engagements, one of the most notable being the attack on the Amakusa, a Japanese destroyer. This engagement ended up taking his life when the Corsair he was flying was hit by enemy fire, plunging his aircraft into Onagawa Bay, Japan.

A third edition of his story “**A Formidable Hero**”, which journeys his life from childhood through to his final days, will soon be for sale in the BC Aviation Museum’s gift shop. It is, a truly remarkable story of a true

legendary Canadian Aviator. A highly recommended reading for anyone interested, in this era of history and the life of one of the best who flew during World War II.

Notable contributors to the design, creation and installation of the monument include Veterans Affairs Canada, Royal Canadian Legion BC/Yukon Command, Naval Association of Canada, British Columbia Aviation Museum, Stewart Monumental Works Ltd and Rusnak Gallant Design Ltd.

Several private donations were also made, one of them our museums, Peter Keith Murray. Many more names [including the 4 gentlemen pictured with the monument] are engraved on a beautiful granite bench that faces the monument as part of the Memorial.

If you have not already seen this exceptional dedication to a “Legendary Naval Aviator”, please take some time to visit the Aviation Museum to see this outdoor tribute.



*Lt Gray Monument Project Team*

*Featured in this photo are the four former Navy Members ultimately responsible for the Lt Hampton Gray Memorial Monument. From left to right:*

*Col Stan Brygadyr RCN/RCAF [retd] Project Secretary,  
Capt Terry Milne RCN [retd] Project Manager,  
LCDR Gerry Pash RCN [retd] Public Relations and Ceremonial,  
Master Seaman Joe Buczkowski, RCN [retd] Project Originator*

## *Family Day*

On Monday, February 15, 2021 the BC Aviation Museum will be open for **Family Day**. The hours of operation will be the usual 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. and admission will be by donation. We expect a larger than usual number of

visitors therefore a few extra hangar monitors and cleaners will be needed. If you can help out it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance. □