

## **POSTPONEMENT OF SALUTE TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

ST. THOMAS, ON - Following the announcement of the provincial stay-at-home order, the board of directors met immediately to discuss the safety aspects of the salute, which was scheduled for this Saturday (April 10). For the health and safety of our pilots, volunteers and the general public, we have decided to postpone our event until Saturday, May 15, 2021.

While we remain confident that the 'salute' is a safe event for all involved, it would be a disservice to the essential workers that we are honouring if we were to proceed with the event during a stay-at-home order. We are at a critical moment of the pandemic. There is a record number of ICU cases across the province and cases continue to rise. In postponing this event until after the end of the stay-at-home order we are not only encouraging everyone to remain safe, but also supporting the efforts of all our essential workers.

This was not an easy decision to make, especially knowing how much our communities have had to endure since the beginning of this pandemic. While the Salute is a safe and inspiring event that we could have done, the Board looked at the more difficult question as to whether we should have the event. We have chosen to stand with our workers, to promote safe practices while working to put on an outstanding event on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May once the lock down is lifted

### **The following acts are still confirmed to take part on May 15th:**

- Banner Pull (will be towing a banner behind with a special message to essential workers) – Flight Line Charters
- RCAF CC-130H Hercules
- Harvards – Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association
- de Havilland Vampire - Waterloo Warbirds
- Aero L-29 "Viper" Delfin Jet - Waterloo Warbirds
- Mixed personal aircraft – COPA St. Thomas
- Boeing-Stearman – Dave Hewitt
- Beechcraft Model 18, Canadian Queen Expeditor – Dave Hewitt
- Robinson R44 and Bell JetRanger Helicopters – Zimmer Air

We will have more announcements over the next month as we continue to build on this community event.

Over the past two weeks, we have asked residents to nominate their favourite essential worker for a chance to win a free ride in a Harvard aircraft, or tickets to the upcoming St. Thomas Air Fest in June 2022. We are pleased to announce the winners of this contest:

**Winners of Free Ride in a Harvard (rides to happen at a later date):**

Charlene Blaney - Primary Care Paramedic – Vaccinator

Erin lee Gardner - Grocery Store Clerk

Mike Lawrence – Personal Support Worker

**Winner of Family Pass to Air Fest 2022:**

Adam Scharrer – Personal Support Worker

**Winners of 2 General Admission tickets to Air Fest 2022:**

Courtney McQuiggan - Crisis Responder

Craig Hudson – Security Guard

Stacey Langohr - Personal Support Worker

Jason Pollard - Tractor Mechanic and Volunteer Firefighter

A very special THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to send in their nominations, each of those nominated are a real example of selfless service to our community. We also want to thank the pilots and the crews of the aircraft, along with our sponsors who continue to offer their support. We all look forward to looking up into the skies above St. Thomas on the 15th of May to watch a truly unique collection of aircraft and their SALUTE TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS.