



## Communiqué

### **Gilbert McCauley is back to the QAM Board of Directors**

Saint-Hubert, QC, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Québec Aerospace Museum (QAM) on January 31st, 2024, elected a new member to sit on its Board of Directors. Mr. Gilbert McCauley, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired), MSM, CD, former Commanding Officer of the 438 *Wildcats* Tactical Helicopter Squadron (438 ETAH) in St-Hubert from 2014 to 2016, now holds the position of Vice-President. A founding member and first past President of the QAM, he is delighted to return to the Board of Directors and is replacing Suzanne Benoit who recently retired for personal reasons.

The Saint-Hubert airport and our new Vice-President paths crisscrossed many times. Benefiting from a motor piloting scholarship from the Air Cadet League, he obtained his wings and his private pilot's license at the Won-Del Aviation school during the summer of 1974. After serving as a Medical Assistant with the 8th Medical Company of Sherbrooke, and a deployment with the Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, he transferred to the Regular Forces in 1982. In 1984, he earned his pilot wings at the Canadian Forces Base Portage La Prairie, MB.

Having developed his skills in helicopter operations to support the Canadian Army and Special Forces with the CH-135 *Twin Huey*, then the CH-146 *Griffon*, he has had seven flying assignments across five squadrons. He also deployed overseas to Egypt, Haiti and twice to Afghanistan, all punctuated by (too) numerous staff assignments at the Strategic, Operational and Tactical levels. Putting aside his 10,000 hours with *PowerPoint* (!), he has accumulated more than 4,500 hours of flight time, including 4,000 hours on helicopters. Given that most of his hours were flown within 50 feet above the ground, he admits to being prone to vertigo!

Among his proudest accomplishments are the introduction and development of night tactical operations with the help of night vision goggles (NVGs); the operations with the *Sperwer* Tactical Uninhabited Air Vehicle in Kabul and Kandahar and, the highlight, was the honor of commanding the Royal Canadian Air Force's 438 ETAH based in Saint-Hubert.

Considering that retirement is, in fact, but a concept after a military career spanning more than 43 years, he was seduced to join the *Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems* (RPAS, commonly known as Drones) regulatory development team at Transport Canada.

Eager to preserve our aerospace history, to promote it and to motivate our next generation, it is with great enthusiasm that, along with his proud colleagues Pierre Gillard and Éric Tremblay, he was one of the founders of the QAM. With his knowledge of military and civilian aeronautics, he is ready to continue the task of recognizing and expanding the QAM.

Mr. McCauley would like to take this opportunity to invite all enthusiasts, amateurs and professionals, whether as individuals, organizations and institutions, to join the QAM in building a museum worthy of the third Western World aerospace metropolis!

On the Board of Directors, he joins Hany Moustapha, President, Pierre Gillard, Secretary and Founding Member, Éric Tremblay, Treasurer and Founding Member and Jérémie Lepage, Director representing *La Relève, The Next Generation*. It is therefore with great pleasure that we welcome Gilbert McCauley to our organization.

About the Québec Aerospace Museum:

A non-for-profit organization, the Quebec Aerospace Museum was created at the Saint-Hubert airport in August 2018.

The main objective of the organization is to create a museum on the airport to show the general public the know-how and achievements of the aerospace industry in Quebec and Canada.

From an educational point of view, the museum will enable schools, cadets and youth movements to have privileged access to the world of aerospace, thus arousing interest in in the fields of aeronautics and space among the younger generations.

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