



# BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

*News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005*



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## THE TWO REMAINING LANCASTER BOMBERS COULDN'T BE FURTHER APART, STILL FLYING

Julie Brewer well known Aviatrix of Biggin Hill visited the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Hamilton, recently. Where she had a flight in their Lancaster (VRA). BBMF and VRA flying along the south coast of UK. For the last time

Julie writes of her recent trip to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and says she was SO lucky to get a flight in their Lancaster. VRA

The day was perfect from every aspect. The weather was glorious, the volunteers and crew made us feel so special, and the flight itself!

I am still trying to find the right words to describe it, and I am not really succeeding, she says. It was certainly a privilege, and humbling at the same time.

side, but the fifth seat was usually taken by a crew member who is there to look after the passengers. As I was there and they knew my intention was to return next year for the flight, they fitted me in and dispensed with the 4<sup>th</sup> man.



There were five seats down the port



Boarding the aircraft, then start up.





We were soon airborne along the shoreline of Lake Ontario chasing our shadow (below engine) as we fly toward Toronto City and the



famous CN Tower, then on to Pearson International Airport.

We buzzed Pearson Tower several times, and the flight engineer waved to the people in the control tower, can you imagine that at Gatwick or Heathrow.

I learnt later that nobody else is allowed to do that, or fly near the CN Tower, except the Lanc which is held in such high regard by the Canadians, and in my opinion, quite rightly so!

Following this we flew across Lake Erie down to Niagara Falls, a spectacular sight, which was awe inspiring,

We had to climb to 2,500ft because there are many sight seeing aircraft flying over the falls.

We were allowed to stand in the different crew positions, mid upper, astrodome and cockpit, the only position not accessible was the rear gunners turret for safety reasons.

Everyone had a turn at climbing over the huge wing spar to get to the cockpit and the wonderful view acquired from this position.

Whilst I was up in this area I kept looking back to see if anyone else



wished to come forward again, they declined saying they did not understand all the instruments which was great for me as I was able to look at the instruments. We were cruising at 170 knots and apart from when we over the falls remained at 1,500 feet. In all, I spent 45 mins in the cockpit area which was brilliant.

Then sadly, it was time to strap ourselves in, ready for the landing. We had a group photo with the three man crew, and also our 'Flight Certificates' were signed by them. ON top of that I got them to sign my log book, which I will always treasure. Coincidentally, I had one page left in my log book. The first entry is the Lanc and when I go back next year, hopefully, there will be more, e.g. DH82C Tiger, Fairchild Cornell and their Lysander! Also, if their Noorduyn Norseman, which arrived whilst I was there, if it is ready I shall be tempted.

Flying in Canada is about half the price of the UK.

To give an example, car petrol was 95 cents per litre, and at the same time the exchange rate was two dollars to the pound. Canadians think the flights are too expensive. I think they are too cheap.

Particularly when you consider the

rarity of these aircraft, especially the Lanc, which costs an awful lot of money to maintain these aircraft in flying condition.

What else can I say? I have been dreaming of that flight for 24 years. I took 5 videos and a 100 photo's on a flight that will live with me forever.



Two of the crew, Leon Evans and Bill Craig stroll back to dispersal.

This day was truly a wonderful experience for myself, and the others who enjoyed this flying experience and the crew signed our Flight Certificates.

Hamilton is situated 64 km from Toronto and 62 km from Niagara.

I consider myself very, very fortunate to have flown in the Lanc.

None of the crew, were at all blasé about flying it and they are all volunteers.

It is a flight I will remember for the rest of my life.



## WHEN ..... !! WE WERE KIDS



**Dave Lamb:**

*The voice of come dine with me.*

Congratulations to all born in 1930's, 1940's, 50's, 60's, 70's and Early 80's !!

First you survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, your baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

You had no child proof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when you rode your bikes, you had no helmets.

As children you would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a van-loose-was always great fun.

You drank water from the garden hosepipe and NOT from a bottle.

You shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

You ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank pop with real sugar in it, but you weren't over weight, because ...YOU WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

You would leave home in the morning and play all day, long as we were back when the street lights came on.

No one was able to reach you all day. And you were OK. You spend hours building your go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out you forgot the brakes.

After running into the bushes a few times, you learned to solve the problem.

You did not have Play Station's, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no no 99 channels on personal computers, no internet or internet chat rooms.....YOU HAD FRIENDS and you went outside and found them! And you fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no law suits from these accidents you played with worms (well most boys did) and mud pies from the dirt, and the worms did not live in us for ever.

You made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although you were told it would happen, you did not poke out any eyes.

You rode bikes or walked to a friends house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them! You played sport in a local team and not everyone got picked to play every week.

Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment, imagine that!

The idea of a parent bailing you out if you broke the law was unheard of.

They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

You had freedom, failure, success and responsibility and you learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And you are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS! You might want to share this with others who have had to luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.



## WE CHILDREN OF TODAY

Have further to go with longer roads and aeroplanes and our new smart phones, we use so well.



**THE BUGLE WISHES ALL OUR READERS  
A MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*John Bryan*

*John Willis*