

CF-THS Update

Well, as you can imagine, over the past few months or so I've been quite busy on the Viscount getting it ready for opening day May 19, 2022.

Needless to say, it's been a bit of a slog uphill, as Mother Nature wasn't all that kind to our Viscount while it was in storage.

There were a few surprises that were discovered after being in outdoor storage for the past three years. When the Viscount was finally brought inside the new museum facilities on December 10, 2021, a small team of volunteers went hard at it as they began cleaning the three years of dirt and grime that had built up while discovering all the weather-related issues along the way. The majority of damage was inside the cabin. This mostly included a cracked bulkhead wall and some of the panelling that covered the vestibule and lavatory doors. These were the big issues. The good news was only one wall was found in bad shape while the other three were okay.

However, not long after the Viscount was brought indoors, covid cases began to rise in the province, and all of a sudden work on any aircraft had come to a grinding halt. It wasn't till awhile later that rules were slackened a bit and only those deemed "essential workers" were allowed in the building so work could continue. Since I was considered an "essential worker", for a short time I was the only one working on the Viscount, so with that I began detailing one of the engine bays that would later be left open for viewing. As time went on, I was allowed one other person to help, so I reached out to my friend and colleague, Dave Peters, and asked if he would be willing to lend a hand. A couple days later, with his proof of vaccination in hand, he became the other half of a now two-man team. I was happy to have Dave on board as he brought with him his experience and skills that were acquired from restoring the BCAM's Viscount, CF-THG.

Once he was approved to enter the museum on a regular basis, Dave and I have been hard at it ever since as we attempt to make up for lost time before the opening date, May 19, 2022.

The biggest surprise turned out to be the removal of the blue UV film that was applied over the windows to protect the interior from sun's ultra-violet rays. We found the material had all but permanently fused itself to the windows and any parts of the fuselage it came in contact with. This was mostly prevalent on the "sun side" of the fuselage. It quickly became a big problem as we began to remove it and it was going to take far more time to remove than anyone had expected. Dave went straight to it and in about three weeks of steady picking and the use of a heat-gun and other detailing tools, he slowly removed all the UV film. While Dave was working on removing the vinyl UV film, I continued my work on detailing the engine bay.

Since work began in early February, much has been done. Most everything on the outside of the aircraft has now been addressed and looking pretty good. At this writing, there is an outside company doing work on the special bulkhead graphics and that should be completed soon. Dave is working on some of the finishing touches while I have taken on the task of cleaning and painting the nose wheel jack to make it more presentable for display. Tuesday past, Dave and I were able to jack up the aircraft and place proper jack stands under each leg of the main landing gear, taking any weight off the tires. Dave is currently doing some of the finer details such as placing the prop angle marks back on the hubs as they had disappeared in the sun while in storage.

There is more great news. I was contacted one day by another friend and colleague, Jim Bruce, one of Canada's foremost aviation artists. He announced that he will be donating three of his well-known Winnipeg related original artworks to our museum.

The first of the three originals, "At the Blast Fence", is a well know artwork detailing TCA Viscount CF-TGQ performing engine run-ups shortly after maintenance. The second original "Going Home" shows in great detail Transair DC-3, CF-CPV parked on the ramp at the old TCA terminal in Winnipeg taking on passengers. The third original, "Pre-Flight" shows in detail a busy ramp at the old TCA Winnipeg terminal with a head on view of a Transair DC-4 dominating the scene. All three artworks have now been received at the museum by myself and are now in safe storage in our new state-of-the-art climate controlled archives department. It was a huge honour for me to be a part of this process. "At the Blast Fence" will be on display next to the Viscount on opening day.

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