

GOLDEN CENTENNAIRES TUTOR JET DISPLAY
Feb/Mar 2022 Final

1967 marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of Canada as a nation. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Royal Canadian Air Force set up an aerobatic team, which was to perform at 100 air demonstrations across the country. The team was known as the “Golden Centennaires” and primarily flew a formation of nine gold and blue CT-114 Tutor jets. Although the Golden Centennaires were disbanded after doing 121 shows in North America (including the Bahamas for two shows), the Golden Centennaires are regarded as being the precursor of today’s Royal Canadian Armed Forces display team, the “Snowbirds” who have now been captivating North American audiences for 48 consecutive years!

Did you know that the Creston Valley has a local connection to the Golden Centennaires? Clarence “CB” Lang was the Squadron Leader of the Golden Centennaires Canadair CL-41 Tutor jet performance team. CB Lang was raised in Lister, and he and the Golden Centennaires did an aerial demonstration performance over the Creston Valley on July 14, 1967. Can you imagine the excitement he must have felt being able to lead such a demonstration in front of a hometown audience? I was one such lucky individual to have seen the Golden Centennaires show in the Creston Valley, and I marvelled at their talent and showmanship! As a former pilot myself, I will always remember their performance here.

As a tribute to CB Lang, John Huscroft of the local Huscroft family has organized and acquired a Tutor jet that has been re-painted in the original 1967 Golden Centennaires livery, and in the fall last year, he made a formal request to the Town of Creston to accommodate this large display memorial downtown (the display is approximately 32 ft. in height, 36 ft. in width, with a 60 ft.² base). Town staff provided a report that a temporary location could be made available on Town owned property near Millennium Park, and with the proper BC Engineering approvals, it is possible that it could be constructed and available for viewing this year (2022). It is my understanding that there is only one other Golden Centenaire Tutor jet on display, and that is at the Southport airport in Manitoba where they trained for the 1967 programs.

As I mentioned, this proposal is for a temporary location. Currently, Town Council and staff are in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and have proposed a “Northern Gateway” rest stop concept which would be at the Highway junction of #3 and #3A where the Golden Centennaires jet display could be relocated to permanently. The Northern Gateway concept would include a rest stop for travellers to relax at with parking, Wi-fi, EV charging and washrooms in addition to providing an opportunity for additional public development as a rest stop. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding this development!

As this article goes to print, Council is in receipt of further correspondence from Mr. Huscroft regarding the temporary location for the Tutor jet display, and will be discussing this at our January 18, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

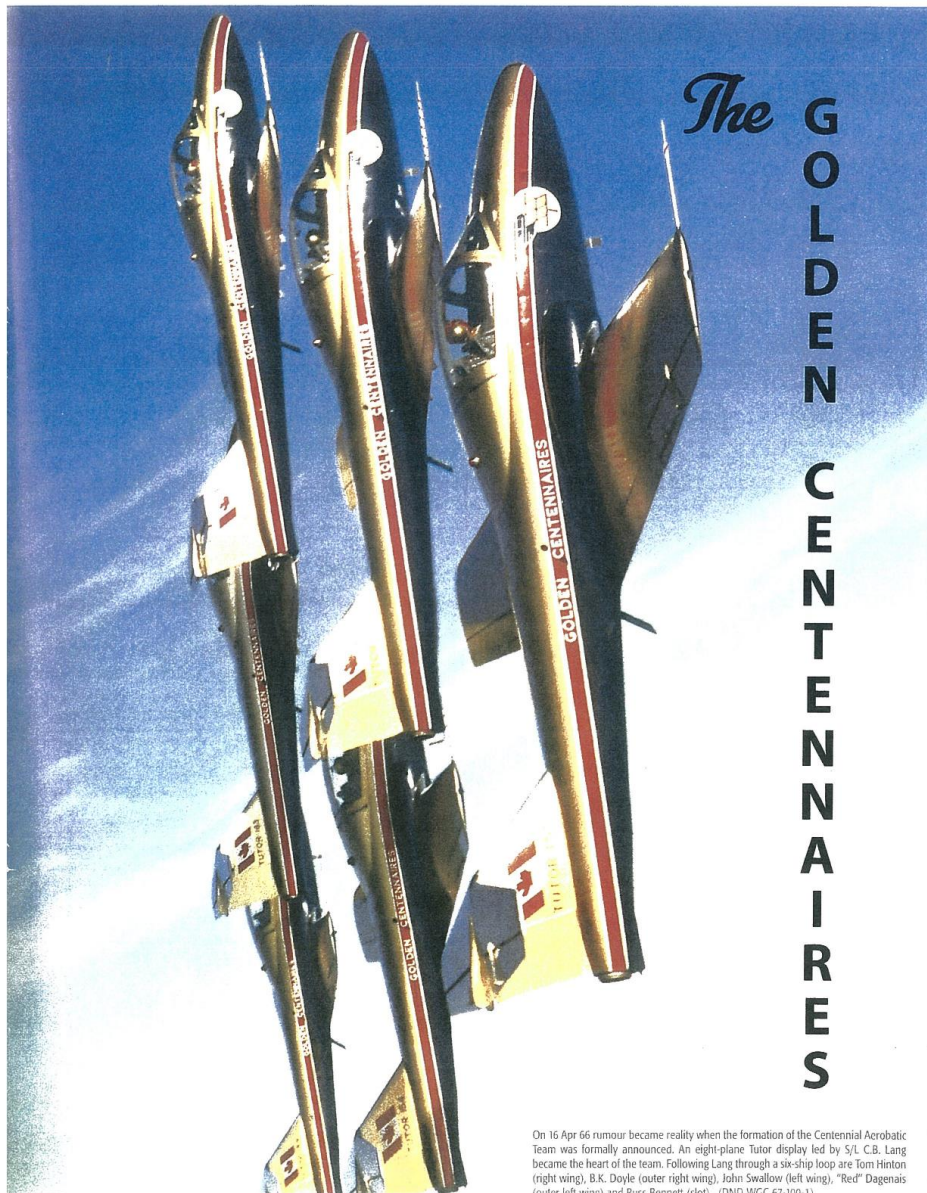
Visit our Let’s Talk Creston webpage at <https://letstalk.creston.ca/meet-our-council> and scroll down to the “Council Highlights” section to see the outcome of this discussion. We look forward to having this piece of history with a Creston Valley connection on display here in the Town of Creston!

Don't hesitate to contact me by: Visiting me at my office in Town Hall

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The **GOLDEN CENTENNAIRES**

On 16 Apr 66 rumour became reality when the formation of the Centennial Acrobatic Team was formally announced. An eight-plane T-tail display led by S/L C.B. Lang became the heart of the team. Following Lang through a six-ship loop are Tom Hinton (right wing), B.K. Doyle (outer right wing), John Swallow (left wing), "Red" Dagenais (outer left wing) and Russ Bennett (def). (DND WGC 67-100-1)