

October 9, 2025
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame Unveils 2026 Inductees and Award Recipients

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (CAHF) is proud to announce the Class of 2026. These extraordinary individuals have made lasting contributions to aviation and aerospace in Canada. Each inductee has shaped our skies in their own way through leadership, vision, innovation, and dedication. Together, they represent the heart of Canada's aviation story.

The 2026 inductees are:

- **Robert Banks** - Honoured for his pioneering contributions to human factors research in aviation, including decades of work on flight surgeon training and studies of physiological stresses in flight.
- **Donald J. Carty** - Recognized for transformative leadership and vision in the airline industry. He guided major carriers, promoted open skies policies between Canada and the United States, and strengthened cross-border cooperation in aviation.
- **Ken Molson** - Celebrated for his role in preserving Canada's aviation history through his foundational work as the first curator of the National Aviation Museum, his archival initiatives, and his dedication to capturing and sharing Canada's aviation heritage.
- **Michael Potter** - Acknowledged for his passion and dedication in showcasing aviation excellence through the founding of the Vintage Wings of Canada Foundation, the creation of VinTech Aero Inc. for the restoration and repair of historic "warbird" aircraft, and offering Canadians hands-on experiences that connect them with aviation's past and its inspiring legacy.

Together, these inductees represent the full spectrum of Canadian aviation: from science and safety, to airline leadership, to preservation of heritage, to public engagement.

The **Belt of Orion Award for Excellence** will also be presented to the **Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC)**, which has been the national voice for commercial aviation for generations. Established in 1934, ATAC has supported the growth, competitiveness, and safety of Canada's air transport sector for more than ninety years.

The 2026 Induction Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**, at the **Porter Airlines Maintenance Facility**, 280 Convair Private, Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 2E5. Porter Airlines is pleased to sponsor and graciously host this prestigious event, offering a

remarkable setting that honours the past and looks toward the future of Canadian aviation.

A Tradition of Honour

The induction ceremony is the premier gathering of the Canadian aviation community. For more than fifty years, it has celebrated the vision and courage of those who have helped shape aviation in Canada. Induction into the Hall is the highest honour in Canadian aviation. It recognizes a lifetime of achievement and a legacy that continues to inspire.

Jean Menard, Board Chair of CAHF, said:

“Our 2026 inductees reflect the very best of Canadian aviation. They are leaders, innovators, and visionaries whose work has stood the test of time. This ceremony is not only about looking back. It is about inspiring the next generation to see what is possible. We invite everyone to Ottawa in September 2026 to be part of a truly unforgettable evening.”

Celebrating Excellence in 2026

The 2026 induction ceremony will honour a new group of individuals who have advanced aviation in unique and lasting ways. Guests will hear stories of perseverance and achievement. Families will share the pride of seeing their loved ones recognized at the highest level. Students and young professionals will see role models whose work shows what is possible with vision and dedication.

John Green, Event Chair, emphasized the importance of the evening:

“Every inductee has a story that matters. Some built airlines. Some preserved history. Some advanced science. Together, they remind us that aviation is not only about airplanes. It is about people, determination, and vision. This year’s ceremony will showcase that spirit in a way only the Hall of Fame can.”

Recognizing the Belt of Orion Recipient

The Belt of Orion Award for Excellence recognizes organizations whose impact on Canadian aviation has been profound and lasting. 2026’s recipient, the **Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC)**, has been at the center of the industry’s growth and development for decades.

From advancing safety standards to supporting operators across the country, ATAC has played a vital role in ensuring Canadian aviation remains strong and competitive.

John McKenna, Immediate Past Chair of CAHF and representing ATAC, shared:

“ATAC’s legacy is one of service and leadership. For generations, it has supported the people and organizations that keep Canadian aviation moving. Receiving the Belt of Orion is a profound honour and recognition of that work.”

Be Part of History

The 2026 Induction Ceremony will not just honour four new members and a historic organization. It will celebrate the story of Canadian aviation itself. It is an evening for the entire community:

- Aviation professionals who will find inspiration in the careers of the inductees.
- Students and young enthusiasts who will see role models and be encouraged to dream big.
- Industry leaders and partners who will connect with peers and support the growth of aviation in Canada.
- Families and friends who will share in the pride of seeing loved ones recognized at the highest level.

Jean Menard summarized it best:

“This is an incredible opportunity for the aviation community and the public to come together. By attending, supporting, or sponsoring, you are helping us tell Canada’s aviation story. And you are ensuring that story continues to inspire the future.”

Event Details

- **Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2026
- **Location:** Porter Airlines Maintenance Facility, 280 Convair Private, Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 2E5
- **Hosted by:** Porter Airlines, proud sponsor and gracious host of the 2026 Induction Ceremony
- **Tickets and sponsorship opportunities:** Visit www.cahf.ca or email info@cahf.ca

Seats are limited, and interest is already high. Secure your place today and be part of a historic evening honouring those who have shaped, and continue to shape, Canada’s skies.

About Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame

Since 1973, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame has recognized more than 260 individuals and organizations whose contributions have advanced aviation in Canada and around the world. Through its museum, exhibits, and annual induction ceremony, CAHF ensures these stories of courage, innovation, and leadership continue to inspire future generations.

High-resolution photos, logos, and media kits are available upon request.

For more information, visit www.cahf.ca.

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