



ACTON BOMBER: Acton residents whose wartime bond buying earned the community the honour of having a Mosquito bomber named "Acton" are being asked to sign a petition to save the Downsview Park hangar where the bombers were made. Members of the Acton National War Finance committee, including Arlof Dills, Ted Force and Amos Mason, with War Defence Committee chair Kenneth Henderson, were on hand for the naming award ceremony at Malton airport in 1943. — *Heritage Acton photo*

Help save Acton bomber hangar with a petition

Acton residents whose wartime fundraising efforts earned them the honour of having a Mosquito bomber named in their honour, are now being asked to help save "one of Canada's original birthplaces of aviation," the Canadian Air and Space Museum at Downsview Park where the planes were built.

In 1943 the Canadian government paid tribute to Acton citizens by naming a bomber "Acton" in honour of their leadership in buying Canada Victory Bonds. Now, the government plans to demolish the heritage hangar where the bombers were built. Supporters of the Canadian Air and Space Museum, housed at Downsview Park, want Acton citizens to sign a petition to save the Museum, which they call a "national treasure."

The eight directors of Downsview Park want to demolish the original 1929 De Havilland hangar to make way for a skating rink proposed by a private organization, a move that Canadian Air and Space Museum volunteers call an "absolute insult" to the veterans who trained on, flew and were killed in the aircraft produced at the hangar complex. Museum officials, admittedly behind in their rent at Downsview, said the hangar, once designated by Parks Canada as a property of significant heritage and history, was removed from Parks Canada's list last October.

Museum spokesman Brian Munro has enlisted the help of Heritage Acton to spread the word and gather signatures on a petition asking the government to save the hangar. Munro was pleased to learn that a picture of the Mosquito bomber named "Acton" is featured as the March photograph on Heritage Acton's calendar. A write up explains that Acton won first prize in war bond sales for communities under 3,000 people. Following a presenta-

tion of the awards at Malton airport in 1943, the Acton was flown to Britain in 14 hours, 44-minutes – the first aircraft of its type to make such a flight. The plane carried out bombing missions over Germany, survived the wear and

ended up being used for training.

Munro wants Acton residents to write or call their MP, MPP and the Prime Minister and to sign a petition to save the Downsview Park hangar by visiting casmuseum.org

Cause undetermined in \$1.5 million blaze

While the cause of a massive blaze that razed a rural Acton home early Friday morning is "undetermined," the Fire Department and Ontario Fire Marshall found "nothing suspicious" and have closed their investigations.

Four people – a husband and wife, their daughter and his mother-in-law – escaped without injury after the fire was discovered at 4:26 a.m. Fire Chief Brent Marshall said the wife woke up just prior to the fire alarms going off, and

saw "some light" outside of the house on Forest Ridge Crescent, between the Fifth and Sixth Lines, north of Highway 7.

"The fire travelled rapidly – it had a really good head start and had been burning for quite some time," Chief Marshall said on Tuesday, adding they determined the fire started in an attached garage, which did not have any smoke alarms. Damaged to the house was pegged at \$1.1-million, and there was \$400,000 damage to

the contents.

"It was a really difficult fire to fight," Chief Marshall said, adding normally they battle blazes from inside out to stop the loss, but it had extended so deeply into the structure, that within minutes of the fire department arriving, the house began to collapse.

At the height of the blaze, there were 30 firefighters on scene, three tankers hauling water, a pumper, rescue unit and aerial truck.

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and
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Wright Ave
8pm
Tickets \$10 at the door



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