

# PEEL SCALE MODELERS DESIGN DISPLAYS FOR HALTON HILLS LIBRARIES

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Francis D'Oliveira carefully brushes glue on the model parts on his table, places the pieces of the Wellington engine together and then uses a tiny clamp to hold them together. No detail is too small to escape his attention.

He points to a partially completed model of a Vought F4U Corsair fighter aircraft.

"When it sat on the runway, the flaps hung down," he says. Knowing that's how the finished product will be displayed, D'Oliveira has altered the flaps that came in the model kit to reflect this.

Growing up in British Guyana on the north coast of South America, D'Oliveira

came by his love of planes naturally, with both of his parents working at a U.S. air force base. His dad was an aviation enthusiast and much of their conversations revolved around the war and activities at the base.

Even when he got involved in building models, most of the models for sale were Second World War planes.

Though he drifted away from model building in his teens, he eventually returned to it when his then two-year-old son found one of his old models in bottom of a cabinet and broke it.

In repairing the model, he rediscovered his love for his old hobby.

Now, D'Oliveira admits he has more model kits than he can build in his life-

time. But he's found an interesting way to determine what projects he'll work on.

Four years ago, he approached the Halton Hills Public Library about creating a display for Remembrance Day. Rather than just displaying random planes, D'Oliveira looked into the history of local veterans and chose aircraft, ships and other military vehicles and equipment that they would have used.

He also enlisted fellow members of the Peel Scale Modelers to help him with the project.

Displayed with each model is the story of a veteran who flew that plane, or served on that ship.

"I wanted more people to be aware of the history," he said.

This year, a second dis-



Halton Hills Public Library

Using models created by the Peel Scale Modelers, Francis D'Oliveira has created displays for the Georgetown and Acton libraries. The models are linked to stories about local veterans who flew planes or served on ships that have been re-created.

play has been set up in the Acton branch of the library.

D'Oliveira says knowing the stories of the veterans makes the building of the models even more meaningful. He built a model of a Lockheed Hudson MK IV

for veteran Chuck Fogal, who flew one of the bombers during the war.

That's why the accuracy of the models means so much to him. Not content to simply apply the decals provided with the kit, D'Oliveira

ra makes sure they are historically accurate.

"I spend a lot of time researching them," he said. "There's not a lot to change, but I use the reference because it's really important to get it right."

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