

All Dressed Up and Definitely Somewhere Special to Go!

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history of the flight training air base at Picton Heights, now called Base31.

“It’s a perfect addition to Base31 and the museum they are planning to create there. While this aircraft was not stationed at the Picton training base, it fits like a glove in the WWII hanger,” Peter said. The Base31 museum is scheduled to open in 2025.

Peter and Don, along with a legion of other volunteers have invested thousands of hours including installing more than 700,000 rivets in the restoration of this famous Canadian air force plane since it arrived at the NAFMC in 2017. It was originally built for the war effort at Malton, On-



Peter Wollenberg and Don Farrington at work on the restoration.—Submitted Photo

tario. At the start of its life, it served in Europe. Officially

known by its serial number KB882, after the war it was assigned new tasks, and in the 1960’s it became an aerial reconnaissance plane flying missions to photograph and map Canada’s sovereign Arctic during the Cold War.

While the restoration work has been ongoing for more than a decade, it is not yet complete. Don says the pair will continue to work on the restoration in its new location.

The recent challenge for the restoration team was actually disassembling the plane so it

could be transported from Trenton to Picton. It was moved in parts in the last week or so of March.

“The next major task will be to reassemble the pieces and continue the restoration. We’re looking for fresh volunteers to help with that work,” Don said. “Many of the existing workers will no longer travel the distance from the other side of Trenton to carry on.”

Don assures that new volun-

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Above: photo of the exact plane in the summer of 1963 at Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island in the Canadian high Arctic while doing ice patrol looking for secret Russian floating ice airfields. Photo by Bill Stadnyk who was the air Traffic controller at Resolute at that time. Below: the same plane under renovation at Trenton.—Submitted photo.



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