

# COAT's Database on Air Shows, Warplanes & Weapons

The Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT) has created a large database on Canadian military air shows and the aircraft that have been exhibited at them. This database contains information on about 400 different types and variants of aircraft that are known to have "entertained" the public over many years at air shows in 27 Canadian locations and seven provinces. This issue of *Press for Conversion!* contains an overview of this data.

In 16 of the 27 Canadian air shows examined, more than 90% of the aircraft on display are of military origin. On average, about 82% of the aircraft are military. (Only one Canadian air show -- in Red Lake Ontario -- was not known to have included *any* military aircraft. If this unique air show, with its focus on civilian bush planes, is disregarded, the average military content of Canadian air shows rises to about 85%.

Air Show Location	Military Aircraft		Data for these years was used in COAT's Database	Date of Air Show in Year 2002	Air Show Web Sites
	Number	% of total			
Abbotsford	120	93	1993, 1995-1997, 1999-2002	August 9-11	<a href="http://www.abbotsfordairshow.com">www.abbotsfordairshow.com</a>
Cold Lake	50	100	1999	?	<a href="http://airshows.freesevers.com">airshows.freesevers.com</a>
Chilliwack	7	70	1999	August 25	<a href="http://www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca/main/page.cfm?id=225">www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca/main/page.cfm?id=225</a>
Edmonton	3	100	2002	July 13-14	<a href="http://www.edmontonairports.com/indexairshow.htm">www.edmontonairports.com/indexairshow.htm</a>
Grand Bend	6	100	2001	?	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/airshowguy2001">www.geocities.com/airshowguy2001</a>
Hamilton	82	94	1992, 2000-2001	(cancelled)	
Kamloops	3	100	1998	July 13-14	
Lethbridge	60	92	1994, 1996-1999, 2001-2002	Aug. 3-4 (cancelled)	<a href="http://www.albertairshow.com">www.albertairshow.com</a>
London	143	93	1972, 1975-1979, 1981-1982, 1984, 1989-1990, 1992, 1994, 1996-1997, 2000, 2002	June 28-30 (cancelled)	<a href="http://www.londonairshow.com">www.londonairshow.com</a>
Moose Jaw	1	33	2002	July 6-7 (cancelled)	
Muskoka	28	72	1995-1998, 2000	May 26-26	<a href="http://www.muskoka.com/airshow/main.html">www.muskoka.com/airshow/main.html</a>
North Bay	3	50	2002	August 2-5	<a href="http://www.heritagefestival.com">www.heritagefestival.com</a>
Ottawa	67	99	1994, 1996-1997, 2000, 2002	June 15-16	<a href="http://ottawa-airshow.ca">ottawa-airshow.ca</a>
Owen Sound	12	92	2002	June 1-2	<a href="http://www.billybishop.org/heritage/program.html">www.billybishop.org/heritage/program.html</a>
Peterborough	2	66	2001	?	<a href="http://www.sdog.net/airshow">www.sdog.net/airshow</a>
Quebec	41	91	2001	?	<a href="http://www.quebecplus.ca/feature/320/3.html">www.quebecplus.ca/feature/320/3.html</a>
Red Deer	46	100	1994-1995, 1997, 1999, 2001	?	
Red Lake	0	0	2001-2002	July 19-21	<a href="http://www.norsemanfestival.on.ca/festival.html">www.norsemanfestival.on.ca/festival.html</a>
Sarnia	36	95	1999-2002	Sept. 14-15	<a href="http://www.ontarioairshows.com">www.ontarioairshows.com</a>
Saskatoon	54	93	1998, 2000-2001	August 17-18	<a href="http://www.canadaremembersairshow.com">www.canadaremembersairshow.com</a>
Shearwater	38	95	2001-2002	September 7-8	<a href="http://nsias.ns.sympatico.ca">nsias.ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Sydney	20	87	1998, 2000-2001	(cancelled)	<a href="http://acam.ednet.ns.ca/seen2000/sydney.htm">acam.ednet.ns.ca/seen2000/sydney.htm</a>
St Stephen	7	64	2001	?	<a href="http://www.town.ststephen.nb.ca/special_events.htm">www.town.ststephen.nb.ca/special_events.htm</a>
St Thomas	6	86	2001	(cancelled)	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/airshowguy2001">www.geocities.com/airshowguy2001</a>
Toronto	85	82	1939, 1946, 1949-1956, 1958-1959, 1972, 1980s, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997-2002	August 31-September 2	<a href="http://www.cias.org">www.cias.org</a>
Trenton	13	93	1999	June 22-23 (cancelled)	<a href="http://www.qias.com/main.html">www.qias.com/main.html</a>
Winnipeg	29	70	2000-2002	June 1-2	<a href="http://www.winnipegairshow.mb.ca">www.winnipegairshow.mb.ca</a>

## Notes on Sources and Data

Data was gathered on all aircraft (civilian and military) known to have participated in "air shows" in 27 Canadian locations. Most of this data was found on the official web sites of these "air shows." Other sources included: web pages posted by air show enthusiasts (often with photographs of each plane), newspaper articles, air show publicity materials, and unclassified Department of National Defence (DND) documents on some of the major "air shows" that took place during the year 2000. (About 350 pages of DND documents were released to COAT following an Access to Information request.)

Every effort has been made to make COAT's database as accurate and complete as possible. However, data was not available on air shows held in every Canadian city, nor for every year. If data was available for a particular

year, it was not always complete. While some air show web sites contain more-or-less complete lists of the aircraft that have appeared during specific years, other sources only highlight some of the aircraft displayed.

Another area in which the data is not always exact or complete is in the identification of aircraft variants. As well as having a designation number, like "F-15", warplanes also have different variants or versions, i.e., F-15A, F-15B, F-15C, etc. Variants are either improvements on the basic aircraft type, or they may reflect a modification in some electronic gear or weaponry which allows the warplane to perform a specific function, like carrying nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the exact variants that performed at military air shows are not always specified by the available data sources on military air shows.