

Brief Service Biography

LCol Ronald A. Holden, OMM CD (ret)

LCol Holden was raised on a farm in Oldcastle Ontario. As an Air Cadet he learned to fly with an Air Cadet scholarship in 1947. He joined the RCAF as a pilot in 1950 and enjoyed a varied service career both on the ground and in the air. He has logged more than 20,000 flying hours and notable among the 75 types flown are the Harvard, T-33, CF-100, F-86 Sabre, CF 104 Starfighter, four engine Argus Maritime Patrol, and Tracker Ocean Surveillance aircraft.

Noteworthy among jobs held during his career was Deputy Air Attache in Washington, Deputy Director Flight Safety for the Canadian Forces, and Commanding Officer of 880 Maritime Patrol Squadron.

LCol Holden is a graduate of Command and Staff College and was invested with the Order of Military Merit for outstanding service in 1976.

He retired from the Canadian Forces in 1982 and actively farmed for 29 years. As well as farming he took over duties as CFI Manager of the Windsor Flying Club from 1983 to 1996. During this period he also co-ordinated a number of major Air Shows in Windsor. Ron has been Chief Pilot of the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association since 1995 where he instructs others in the ways of flying the old Boeing Stearman biplane, the two Chipmunks, and a Harvard, all owned by the Association.

He is a past President of the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association and continues to work towards establishing an aviation museum in the Windsor area.

Ron and his wife Joyce travelled extensively while in the military and now enjoy a more settled but still busy second career. They have three children, and five grand children .