

# **First Membership Meeting of the Proposed CAHS Georgian Bay Chapter**

**“Life & Times of LAC Doug Smith, RCAF 1954 – 1964”**

**Barrie Legion Branch 147, 410 St Vincent St. Barrie ON**

**1:30 PM September 14, 2024**

**Presenter Brian Cotter**

Brian was an Air Cadet 1968 – 1972 rising to SWO as a WO2 before serving as a B Class Reservist during summers 1972 and 1973 as a Corporal and Sergeant Drill Instructor, at Trenton Air Cadet Camp (TACC). As a Lieutenant with that unit June-August he served as a Call Out Indoctrination Course (Crse) Instructor and than as OIC for the Cadet Jr, Leaders Course (Crse).

He then went on to serve as a Training Officer and later as Acting CO at 534 RCAC Peterborough while attending Trent University 1974-76. Promoted Captain, he served for five months during the summers of 1975-77 and again in 1980 each time as a Staff Officer and Section Head at TACC. For various of these attach-postings he was responsible for Flight, Squadron and twice for the entire Cadet Wing training formations. For the latter he was responsible for up to 30 NCOs and 20 Officers (Res & Regs) and up to 1800 trainees. At CFB Trenton he liaised /worked with various Base sections and residential Units. Brian graduated Trent University with an Honours BA in History in 1979 having travelled internationally for a year after graduating with an Ordinary BA in 1977 with a joint major in Philosophy, Politics and History.

## **Professional Career**

Brian spent 13 years in book publishing at Macmillan of Canada where, in 1980 he had a sales territory from Yonge Street East to Newfoundland. He then moved to Oxford University Press during 1980-82 working a similar territory, thence to Academic Press in 1983 as a National Marketing Manager. He then joined Gage Educational Publishing as Medical/Nursing Manager in 1983, then to National Sales Manager in 1985 finishing up by 1991 as Publishing Director & General Manager, Professional and Higher Education Division at Gage.

*Transitioning to TV/Film:* He joined TVO in 1993 in sales, thence to Summerhill Entertainment 1997-2005 as Senior VP Development developing-financing factual and specialist series and docs. Then he was Executive Producer at Stornoway Productions 2005-2009 and later a producer at EP/Producer on TV projects for other firms. Throughout all ventures he travelled widely pitching to broadcasters and attending TV markets world-wide. *Notable TV credits include:* Smithsonian Channel's *Unbelievable Flying Objects*; 26-one hour *Canadian Geographic Presents* for Discovery Canada; The Emmy-nominated *The Fantastic Plastic Brain* for Discovery Health US and Space Channel, *Saving the Mustang* with Pet Network and *The Mystery of San Nicandro* for The Documentary Channel.

Recently retired he is a member of CWH Museum, CAHS National and the Toronto Chapter, RCAF Association and for the past 12-years has been a *Memory Program Speaker* for Historica Canada recently becoming an Ambassador in February 2024 for that program.