

**6 December 2018**

**PRESS RELEASE – NORAD TROPHY PRESENTATION TO AUTHOR  
TED BARRIS BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**



- In 2008, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Association inaugurated the NORAD Trophy marking the 50th anniversary of the North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD) Command. Initially, the trophy recognized the “most deserving team” for their contribution to protecting that which we value the most: our loved ones; our liberties; and, our peace.
- Ten years on, the trophy has been repurposed to recognize any Canadian individual or group, military or civilian, making a significant contribution to Air Force advocacy, the preservation of Air Force values and/or the maintenance of Air Force traditions, history and heritage.
- Ted Barris is an accomplished Canadian author, journalist and broadcaster. As well as hosting stints on CBC Radio and regular contributions to the national press, he has authored 18 non-fiction books and until recently served as a full-time professor of journalism at Centennial College in Toronto. He has also written a weekly newspaper column – “The Barris Beat” – for more than 40 years.
- Ted Barris is a renowned historian who caught the eye of the RCAF family when he published *Behind the Glory: Canada's Role in the Allied War*. His work shed light on the origins and day-to-day functioning of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), in particular, the flight instructors who, because of their talents, never received overseas postings to combat operations. Without Ted Barris’s assessment, Canadians would never have known the personal sacrifice these extremely talented and vital aviators – civilian and military – made, ensuring the very best aircrew would be sent into battle during the Second World War.
- Ted Barris’s latest work is timely. In *Dam Busters: Canadian Airmen and the Secret Raid against Nazi Germany*, he revisits the most daring missions ever conducted by Allied aviators, during the Second World War – missions undertaken to wreak catastrophic damage on three important dams in enemy territory. Nineteen bombers from Bomber Command’s 617 Squadron took off; eight were lost; three turned back; and eight returned from the raid. Of the 133 crew members, 53 died. Three were captured and imprisoned. Thirty Canadians took part in the raids, with fourteen losing their lives. In the year in which we commemorate the 75th anniversary of this epic raid, Ted Barris’s account is both well-timed and well-received.
- In recognition of Ted Barris’s significant and unequalled contributions to the preservation of Air Force values and the maintenance of Air Force traditions, history and heritage, the RCAF Association is proud to award him the NORAD Trophy for 2018. The trophy is to be presented at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, in Hamilton, Ont., at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.
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