

Jim McKeachie

Jim McKeachie is a past national president of the Air Cadet League of Canada and currently is a member of the National Advisory Board and is Honourary National Treasurer. He joined the B.C. Committee of the League in the mid-1950's, served as provincial chairman in 1973-75 then moved up the ladder in the national executive and had the honour to be elected national president in 1983.

In June, 2002, he became the 12th person ever to receive the Air Cadet League's highest award, the Medal of Honour. In January, 2003, in recognition of his service and dedication to the air cadet program, he was presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and in late 2012 received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Jim's interests also include membership in the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 60, West Vancouver), 801 (Vancouver) Wing of the Air Force Association of Canada, and the British Columbia Division of the Duke of Edinburgh's "Challenge to Youth" program.

His involvement with the League goes back more than 60 years. When the League was formed early in 1941, he enrolled in a small unit at Victoria High School, and later, Victoria College. It was so early in the league's history that uniforms still had not been designed and issued. Early in 1943, at age 18, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and won his pilot's wings in 1944. He did his operational training on the west coast at Boundary Bay and Abbotsford airports, flying the B-25 Mitchells and four-engine B-24 Liberators. He flew the Liberators on coastal command on anti-submarine and convoy escort and meteorological operations over the Atlantic.

After the war, he graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1948 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He flew in an air force reserve and until a few years ago held a civilian commercial pilot's licence. He worked as a newspaperman in Victoria and Vancouver, which led to the public relations field. Most of his career was with the PR department of Canadian Pacific Airlines. He retired as CP Air's Public Relations Director in mid-1986, and then did PR consulting, including almost five years with British Airways.

Jim now is retired and enjoying life in West Vancouver with Joyce, his wife of 64 years, who also served in the wartime RCAF. They have a grown up family and seven grandchildren

(Feb 2013)