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# Aurora

14 WING • ESCADRE 14 GREENWOOD, NS

Vol. 35 No. 13

MARCH 31, 2014 NO CHARGE

[www.auroranewspaper.com](http://www.auroranewspaper.com)

## No answers Time passes, as family marks 48 years since Argus crew member disappeared

**Padre Gord Poley,  
14 Wing Greenwood  
Chaplaincy**

The Major family has not been back to Greenwood since 1966. They returned March 22 to 24, filled with many complex and mixed emotions.

Margie (87) lives in Saskatoon, Alan (67) came from Golden, British Columbia; and Susanne (65) now resides in Nottingham, England, after 24 years in Hong Kong. While the Greenwood visit was a kind of family reunion, it was also a time to visit the last place they had seen husband and father Bob.

A plaque on the north sanctuary wall of St. Mark's Chapel reads: In Loving Memory of Flight Sergeant R.W. Major, who lost his life over the Bay

of Fundy March 24, 1966. Donated by Margaret, Alan & Susanne Major.

Major was the flight engineer on one of 14 Wing Greenwood's Argus aircraft that morning, and there is great speculation to this day on exactly what happened. At



**Flight Sergeant Bob Major, 1966** Submitted

one point in the flight, about 10 a.m., the question was asked, "Where is Bob?"

He was nowhere to be found: somehow, he fell from the Argus. In fact, his body was never recovered. Nobody saw it happen. Many jump to the conclusion of it being a suicide, but I believe it was an accident. Four separate books merely acknowledge the incident in one or two sentences.

Major and Margie's kids went to West King's District High School at the time. Susanne was 16 and Alan was



**Margie, Susanne and Alan Major at the Margaretsville shore of the Bay of Fundy, where husband and father Flight Sergeant Bob Major disappeared in 1966. The family held a brief commemorative service on a Greenwood visit March 22 to 24, tossing three white roses into the waters.** Submitted

"head boy" of the graduating class of 1966. They both vividly remember the base's Military Police coming to the school that day, hearing the dreadful news and seeing the "look on mom's face" when they got home to Kingswood Place.

Now, 48 years later, Greenwood has changed for the Major family - but the memories have not. All wanted to pay their respects with a bit more dignity, and say "good-bye" one more time. As the padre responsible for St. Mark's Chapel, I have been in dialogue with the Majors since I first

heard of their pending visit. I asked them for thoughts on their return visit to Greenwood:

Gratitude: "St. Mark's Chapel, the community, the high school and the air base all reached out to us in our darkest hour and now, decades later, they have done it again. We are so grateful to all the volunteers at the aviation museum who brought out the reality of what Dad did as a flight engineer on the Argus. St. Mark's Chapel brings so many wonderful memories: seeing the stained glass win-

dows that display how the church supports the men and women who fly; and seeing former classmates from West Kings, who shared my grief as a teenager."

Tragedy: Military bases are filled with stories of sacrifice and tragedy in the lives of those who serve. "We have not come to Nova Scotia for closure, but to seek acceptance of something that we cannot change. Remember the Prayer of Serenity: 'God, grant me the peace to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and

the wisdom to know the difference.' Travelling to Greenwood has helped to free me from the chains of wondering and asking. The Lord knows the truth, and God promises the truth will set us free."

Alan Major, on seeing the Greenwood Military Aviation's restored Argus aircraft, setting just at the 14 Wing Greenwood main gate: "Argus 10717, the same plane my Dad fell from. I was confident that an Argus was on display at the air base, but I had no idea it was the same plane. The chills went up my spine."