After periods of maintenance and restoration, two Canadian classics have been returned to flying status

BY JIM THOMPSON

fter an absence of approximately one year from the Canadian Warplane Heritage's Hangar Four, the Avro Anson Mk.

V has returned after restoration work was completed at the Springer Aerospace Company, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Anson, registered CF-HOT, is one of only two flying Mk. Vs.

The CWH's Anson Mk. V is an all-wood aircraft, but by MacDonald Bros. during 1944 in Winnipeg. The plane was donated to the CWH by INCO Ltd., who had used the craft in the postwar era for mineral survey flights for which the all-wood structure was ideal.

The Avro Anson had the distinction of being the first monoplane is service with the Royal Air Force. Originally designed as a six-passenger commercial aircraft in the early 1930s, its merit as a general reconnaissance aircraft for Coastal Command was quickly noted by the British Air Ministry.

The Anson entered service in 1936 and proved itself to be a reliable design. During the early days of war, a desperate RAF threw the Anson into combat but it was soon relegated to a trainer and became the backbone of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), as a multi-engine trainer and light utility transport.

Over 11,000 Ansons were built and the type enjoyed a lengthy postwar career but, today, any form of Anson is indeed a rare bird.

The second aircraft to be added to CWH flying status is a Fleet Finch, which recently completed a lengthy restoration. Built in 1940, the Finch served as a trainer with 22 Elementary Flight Training School in 1943. Retired in 1944, this aircraft was restored in 1962 and again in 1970, prior to arriving at the CWH.

The seven year restoration project was initiated by the Volunteer Finch Restoration Crew and over 2000 hours of labor were put in the ground-up rebuild of CF-FUI.

Both of these aircraft, as well as all the other vintage and veteran aircraft in the CWH collection, can be viewed at Hamilton Airport, Mount Hope, Ontario, seven days a week from 9 am to 4 pm. For further information, the museum can be reached at (905) 679-4183.



