

## Southport Building #12

This building was moved from the former Southport Air Base through the financial co-operation of Southport Aerospace, The Canadian Aviation Training Centre and Atco-Frontec. Moved in two pieces, early in 2001, this 193ft. long by 24ft. wide building

As you enter Southport Building 12 from the north end you will see the displays of district 4-H and I.O.F. Lodge memorabilia, as well as the Portage Pipe Band.



### Military Display

The centre section proudly features Fort la Reine's Military Museum. You will see a display of WWI and WWII uniforms belonging to people from the local area. The displays in the main hall feature artifacts from WWI, WWII, and Korea. As well as current military equipment and an Aerobic Team display.

The ejection seat at the north end is from a Voodoo Jet. It was rocket powered and shot the pilot 220 feet in 1.5 seconds. (170 kph)

The bicycle folds in half and was used by invasion troops for communication between regiments on the beaches.

Midway down the hall you pass our "Wall of Honour". This wall is dedicated to veterans who served their country both at home and abroad.

You will have noticed a propeller on the bar; this came from an Avro Anson and

was found in a farmer's field south of Portage la Prairie.

Just past this there is a small chapel, dedicated to the men and women from this area who have given their lives for their country.

The small uniforms on the mannequins are children's uniforms. These uniforms came in Air force, Army and Navy styles and were worn by children to show support for the war effort during both world wars

Continuing on you will see an RCMP officer guarding our personal tributes room. This room contains displays of badges, buttons, hats, and medals belonging to local veterans. The uniforms are from some prominent Portage la Prairie citizens.

Directly in front of "Building 12" is the Military Memorial Garden which features a wall of brass plaques in recognition of military and RCMP personnel.

## **Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame**

The south end of Building 12 contains The Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame. The Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and Museum was opened in May of 2002 and was established to preserve the history of softball in Manitoba and to recognize individuals, teams, and organizers for outstanding achievement and/or contributions to the sport of softball.

As you proceed into the main hall, you will see the plaques of the Honored Members of the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame located along the museum's walls. As of May 3, 2008, there are currently 88 individuals and 20 teams that have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. On your right next to the window is our museum's collection of softball bats. You will notice that there are three aluminum bats with bent-handles. Those bats were part of an experiment that was conducted out in the 1980s in order to determine if the bent-handles had an effect on the way the softball was hit. The idea was that the bent-handles could potentially cause the softballs to travel faster and farther than a regular bat could. The experiment only lasted one year.



Throughout our museum there are 18 display cases, each showcasing various softball memorabilia, the oldest of which dates back to the 1920s and 1930s. The newest of our showcases is the Umpires' display located in the museum's entrance.