

Lancaster visits Windsor

By LEE PALSER

STAR COUNTY REPORTER

The Canadian Warplane Heritage's (CWH) Mynarski Lancaster bomber — the only flying Lancaster in North America — will be at Windsor Airport Aug. 3-4 for a reunion and the launch of a children's book detailing the airlift of supplies to starving Dutch families near the end of the Second World War.

Called Bad Penny, the book is dedicated to Windsorite Bob Upcott, an officer in the RAF who flew the first "Operation Manna" mission April 29, 1945. The flight was a dangerous low-altitude test to see if the German troops occupying that part of Holland had got the message that mercy flights were to be allowed.

Upcott, who died in 2001 at 78, was also the city's former emergency planning officer. He was honoured by both the British and Dutch for his role during the war.

Bad Penny, named for Upcott's Lan-

BOOK LAUNCH

The Mynarski Lancaster will arrive Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. The book launch and signing will be at noon, and facilities will be open until 8 p.m. The reunion continues Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

caster, was written by Glen Mitchell, who said he thought a book should be done about the flights the first time he heard about them.

"But a couple of years went by and I realized if it was going to be done, I'd have to do it myself," he said.

The book, illustrated by University of Windsor graduate Kristen Gallerneaux, sells for \$6.95 in soft cover. Signing the book will be one of Upcott's crewmates, Flying Officer Stan Jones, a wireless operator.

The CWH Lancaster was named for pilot officer Andrew Mynarski of Winnipeg, whose plane was shot down by a

Luftwaffe night fighter in June 1944.

As the bomber plunged earthward, Mynarski, his clothing afire, tried in vain to free his trapped rear gunner from a jammed turret.

Miraculously, the gunner survived the crash and was able to tell the story of Mynarski's bravery. Mynarski, later awarded the Victoria Cross, died from his burns.

The visit will be part of a reunion of "warbirds," including a Spitfire, Hawker Sea Fury, Mustang, Harvard trainer and a Canadair T-33.

The public will also be able to see the work being done on the Mynarski Lancaster's sister ship, FM212, which has been removed from its plinth in Jackson Park and taken to the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association hangar at the airport.

Rides are available to the public for a fee in vintage aircraft throughout both days of the event.

Concessions and souvenirs will also be available for purchase.