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# Snowbird pilot was to marry next month; Family, fiancée and team members grief-stricken, waiting for answers in fatal crash

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200121  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Shawn McCaughey;  
**KEYWORDS:** AIR SHOWS  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**BYLINE:** Merita Ilo  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 563

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TORONTO – Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 years old on Saturday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault on Saturday.

The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbird pilot was to marry next month; Family, fiancée and team members grief-stricken, waiting for answers

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation. Mitchell said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet. The Montana air show was the Snowbirds' first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, B.C. who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January, 2007.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said Saturday. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

Shawn McCaughey's father said his son had dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy. When he grew up, he asked, " 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot?' " Ken McCaughey recalled. "I said, 'Sure, I'll be with you all the time.' "

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and today at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team. "They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close."

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually. Including this accident, six Snowbird pilots have died in air crashes since 1972.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor and held a civilian commercial pilot's license, with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

Snowbird pilot was to marry next month; Family, fiancée and team members grief-stricken, waiting for answer

# Pilot planned to be married; Forces' investigators head to U.S. to look into Snowbirds crash

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**PUBLICATION:** The Sunday Herald

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**SECTION:** Front

**PAGE:** A3

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Merita Ilo

**ILLUSTRATION:** Capt. Shawn McCaughey of Candiatic, Que., was supposed to be married in three weeks.

**WORD COUNT:** 1147

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TORONTO – Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbirds pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey of Candiatic, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiatic, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 years old on Saturday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault on Saturday. The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

Mitchell said he understood the family needed answers.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

The Montana air show was Snowbirds first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, B.C. who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January, 2007.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said Saturday. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

Shawn McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "he asked me 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,'" Ken McCaughey recalled.

"I said, 'sure, I'll be with you all the time.'"

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia on Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday.

"We still are opening our gates . . . there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them."

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Mathias said.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

The CT-114 Tutor is a Canadian-made single-engine subsonic jet trainer that entered service in the mid-1960s and was used for basic and advanced pilot training until it was replaced by two new planes in 2000.

According to the Department of National Defence, the only two operators of the CT-114 Tutor jet are The Snowbirds and the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000. He also held a civilian commercial pilot's licence.

BC–Snowbird–Crash–Cda, 2nd Writethru, Bgt

code:2

Update: ADDS Snowbirds team to remain in Montana, details on the jet Budget

See AP Photos

INDEX:Defence, International, Transport

HL:Canadian Snowbird pilot killed in crash was to be married next month

By Merita Ilo

TORONTO (CP) – A Snowbird pilot who died Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was going to be married next month in Montreal, his father said Saturday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south–shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

Ken McCaughey said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy and had described his job with the Snowbirds as "the best job in the world."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high–speed, low–altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT–114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday.

"We still are opening our gates . . . there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them.

Pilot planned to be married; Forces' investigators head to U.S. to look into Snowbirds crash

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Mathias said.

Snowbirds team members planned to remain at Malmstrom to help with the investigation, she said.

A Canadian Forces team is expected to arrive Saturday to lead the investigation into the crash.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

The CT-114 Tutor is a Canadian-made single-engine subsonic jet trainer that entered service in the mid-1960s and was used for basic and advanced pilot training until it was replaced by two new planes in 2000.

According to the Department of National Defence, the only two operators of the CT-114 Tutor jet are The Snowbirds and the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000. He also held a civilian commercial pilot's license.

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# Snowbird pilot was to be married next month

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**SECTION:** Provincial/National

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**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Merita Ilo

**DATELINE:** Ottawa

**ILLUSTRATION:** Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, from Candiac, Quebec, is shown in this undated handout photo. The Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.  
– Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 391

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A Snowbird pilot who died Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was going to be married next month in Montreal, his father said Saturday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time."

Dreamed of becoming a pilot

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

Ken McCaughey said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy and had described his job with the Snowbirds as "the best job in the world."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement after the crash, calling McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

Show goes on

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and today at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was very sombre, but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.



"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday.

"We still are opening our gates ... there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them.

Snowbirds will help with investigation

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Mathias said.

Snowbirds team members planned to remain at Malmstrom to help with the investigation, she said.

A Canadian Forces team was expected to arrive Saturday to lead the investigation into the crash.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

# Canadian Snowbird pilot killed in crash was to be married next month

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**DATE:** 2007.05.19

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 654

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TORONTO (CP) \_ Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through ``a real tough time."

``In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

``This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 years old on Saturday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault on Saturday.

The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

Mitchell said he understood the family needed answers.

``We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. ``They want to know for closure."

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there ``indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

The Montana air show was Snowbirds first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, B.C. who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January, 2007.

“Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend,” Mitchell said Saturday. “Our team is devastated, and we will miss him.”

Shawn McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, “he asked me ‘Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,’” Ken McCaughey recalled.

“I said, ‘sure, I’ll be with you all the time.’”

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey “a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces.”

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was “very sombre”, but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

“After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today,” Mathias said Saturday.

“We still are opening our gates. . .there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them.

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team.

“They are clearly a very close-knit team. It’s a small unit and they’re very, very close so we’ve kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary,” Mathias said.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round \_ logging 3,700 hours annually.

The CT-114 Tutor is a Canadian-made single-engine subsonic jet trainer that entered service in the mid-1960s and was used for basic and advanced pilot training until it was replaced by two new planes in 2000.

According to the Department of National Defence, the only two operators of the CT-114 Tutor jet are The Snowbirds and the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000. He also held a civilian commercial pilot's license.

# TORONTO -- Prime Minister Stephen Harper has added his condolences on behalf of Canada to the survivors of a Canadian

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**DATE:** 2007.05.19

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 59

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TORONTO -- Prime Minister Stephen Harper has added his condolences on behalf of Canada to the survivors of a Canadian Snowbird pilot who died Friday after crashing in Montana.

Captain Shawn McCaughey was killed when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base while practising for an air show.

His father says he was to have been married next month in Montreal.

The 31-year-old pilot joined the Snowbirds aerobic team two years ago.

# Snowbird–Crash–Cda

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**DATE:** 2007.05.19

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 118

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MOOSE JAW, Saskatchewan — A Snowbirds pilot killed while practicing for a show in the U–S is being remembered by colleagues at the team's home base in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Military officials say Captain Shawn McCaughey was a fine pilot and a top military officer.

Colonel Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing, says McCaughey was jovial, very caring and did his job well.

McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

The 31–year–old from Candiac, Quebec was practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

The Snowbirds team was to perform its first show of the season this weekend.

Foster says the team will take an operational pause to remember McCaughey while an investigation is underway.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

(BN)

JMG

# Military team heads for U.S. to investigate Snowbird crash

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200091

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Richard Peterson, Associated Press / Maj. Robert Mitchell, lead pilot with the Canadian air force Snowbirds precision flying team, speaks to reporters in Great Falls, Mont., yesterday. The Snowbirds lost a jet and a pilot, Capt. Shawn McCaughey, in a crash in Great Falls on Friday during a practice flight. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 272

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OTTAWA — A Canadian Forces team was to arrive in Montana yesterday to investigate a crash that took the life of a member of the Snowbirds aerial demonstration team.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., near Montreal, was flying in formation Friday alongside several other Snowbirds when his jet veered off course and plummeted to the ground in Great Falls, Mont.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew the No. 2 jet in the Inner Right Wing position.

The aerial demonstration team had been practising for a pair of air shows this weekend at the local Malmstrom Air Force Base. The team has grounded itself for an unspecified amount of time.

McCaughey is the sixth snowbird pilot killed since 1972.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his regret at the death.

"It is with great sadness that I learned about the accident that took the life of a decorated and talented pilot," Harper said in a statement.

"Captain Shawn McCaughey served our country with distinction, honour and professionalism. On behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, my deepest sympathy goes out to his family, friends and fellow team members during this difficult time.

"Captain McCaughey was a highly skilled and experienced pilot who fulfilled the ultimate dream of joining our illustrious Snowbirds team. He was a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces. His family and friends can be proud of his accomplishments and contributions, as are all Canadians."

Speaking yesterday with CBC Newsworld, the pilot's father said his son knew the dangers involved in the job.

"Shawn always wanted to be a pilot, since he was a kid, and he told us many times, 'This is the best job in the

world," Ken McCaughey said.

# Snowbird was to wed in weeks; Teammates, family mourn 'ambitious' pilot

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**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A02  
**BYLINE:** Thulasi Srikanthan  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star With Files from star wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 253

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Snowbird pilot Shawn McCaughey's family was to have celebrated his wedding day in three weeks. Instead, they are mourning the death of their youngest child, who perished when his plane crashed during a rehearsal in Montana.

"It's a great loss for us," said his father, Ken, from the family home in Candiac, Que.

McCaughey, 31, was going to get married on June 9 to Claudia Gaudreault. They got engaged last December. Yesterday was Gaudreault's 29th birthday and the day of her bridal shower.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée," said Ken McCaughey.

The team was practising manoeuvres on Friday for the Malmstrom Air Show when McCaughey's aircraft broke formation and pitched into the ground after about 45 minutes.

"When he was a kid, he always wanted to be a pilot," said Ken McCaughey. "He was a very ambitious little man. He had a goal in his life to become a Snowbird pilot, he worked hard at it. It was his passion, his love."

McCaughey logged more than 1,400 hours flying for the military. He also held a civilian pilot's licence and served as a flying instructor for the military.

His skills won him plenty of notice, and he became the first Snowbird pilot to join the team without ever having flown the CT-114 Tutor jet.

Ken McCaughey said his son was planning to stay on with the Canadian Forces after his three-year term – the maximum for any Snowbird – was completed.

The family is planning to travel this week to the Snowbirds' base in Moose Jaw, Sask., where Gaudreault is a social worker.

Meanwhile, his teammates are devastated by the tragedy.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend. ... We will miss him," said Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane.



A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base yesterday afternoon to investigate the crash.

Mitchell said the team has not decided when to resume flying.

With Files from star wire services

# Pilot's death leaves family, team reeling; Engaged to be married in 3 weeks, 31-year-old Quebec man loved v

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200075

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Photo Courtesy of the Snowbirds / Maj. Robert Mitchell said the cause of the crash that killed Capt. Shawn McCaughey, above, is still unknown. 'Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend,' he said. ;

**BYLINE:** Merita Ilo

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press, with files from Canwest News Service, and the Associated Press

**WORD COUNT:** 950

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Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was flying in formation alongside several other Snowbirds when his jet veered off course and plummeted to the ground in Great Falls, Montana. He is the sixth Snowbird pilot killed since 1972.

Capt. McCaughey's father said the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks' time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, said from his home in Candiac, a suburb on Montreal's south shore.

Capt. McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., turned 29 yesterday -- the same day the bridal shower was to be held for her wedding to Capt. McCaughey. She is a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

Capt. McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew the No. 2 jet in the inner right wing position.

Ken McCaughey told CBC Newsworld his son knew the dangers involved in the job.

"Shawn always wanted to be a pilot, since he was a kid, and he told us many times, 'This is the best job in the world'," Ken McCaughey said.

Capt. McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000, and held a civilian commercial pilot's license. A former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the Snowbirds' Canadian-made CT-114 Tutor jet.

Pilot's death leaves family, team reeling; Engaged to be married in 3 weeks, 31-year-old Quebec man loved

The Snowbirds' commanding officer, Maj. Robert Mitchell, said the team had been in the air about 45 minutes when the crash occurred. Maj. Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said Capt. McCaughey made no radio contact and didn't indicate he was having trouble.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," said Maj. Mitchell, who took over command of the Snowbirds in January. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

He said Capt. McCaughey's fiancée and family members were still in shock and looking for an explanation about what caused the crash.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Maj. Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

The aerial demonstration team had been practising for a pair of air shows today and tomorrow at the air force base. The team has grounded itself for an unspecified amount of time.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Capt. Mathias said yesterday.

"We still are opening our gates ... there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them."

Capt. Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbirds team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Capt. Mathias said.

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early yesterday before the public began arriving at the base.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived yesterday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media. Snowbirds team members planned to remain at Malmstrom "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Maj. Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper expressed his regret at Capt. McCaughey's death.

"It is with great sadness that I learned about the accident that took the life of a decorated and talented pilot," Mr. Harper said in a statement.

"Capt. Shawn McCaughey served our country with distinction, honour and professionalism. On behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, my deepest sympathy goes out to his family, friends and fellow team members during this difficult time.

"Capt. McCaughey was a highly skilled and experienced pilot who fulfilled the ultimate dream of joining our illustrious Snowbirds team. He was a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces. His family and friends can be proud of his accomplishments and contributions, as are all Canadians."

Pilot's death leaves family, team reeling; Engaged to be married in 3 weeks, 31-year-old Quebec ~~18~~an love

The commander of the 15 Wing Moose Jaw, where the Snowbirds team is based, said the team would fly again this season after a temporary halt of performances.

"Canadian Forces Snowbirds are the finest members of the Canadian Forces — they represent the Canadian Forces' interests well, and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the future."

The prime minister added: "The Snowbirds are a world-renowned aerial demonstration team and one of the most identifiable Canadian symbols. All Canadians take pride in their excellence and are forever grateful for the important work done by the Snowbirds and by all our military men and women."

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor also issued a statement yesterday.

"This dedicated pilot and professional officer served as an ambassador of Canada by showcasing his skills and representing the best that the Canadian Forces has to offer. Capt. McCaughey accumulated over 1,400 hours of military flying time before joining the 2007 Snowbirds team."

This is the first Snowbird crash since Capt. Andy Mackay, 39, of Orleans, safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided south of Moose Jaw in December 2004 during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C.

The fate of the Snowbirds squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old Canadian-made CT-114 Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed. It is the only squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

Pilot's death leaves family, team reeling; Engaged to be married in 3 weeks, 31-year-old Quebec19an love

# Pilot's death stuns family, fiancée; Crash came on eve of bridal shower

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200167  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Capt. Shawn McCaughey; Photo: Robert Mitchell ;  
**KEYWORDS:** AIR SHOWS; DEATHS  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**BYLINE:** Merita Ilo, with a file from Joel Kom  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**NOTE:** Obituary of Capt. Shawn McCaughey.  
**WORD COUNT:** 663

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Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled as the death of a Snowbird pilot Friday at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana left his family and fiancée in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes practising manoeuvres during a rehearsal for a weekend air show near Great Falls, Mont., when his aircraft pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks' time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 on Saturday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault on Saturday.

The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

Mitchell said he understood the family needed answers.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

"They're doing their early investigations," said 2nd Lt. Sebastien Monger, 15 Wing public affairs officer, on Saturday. He added they plan to address the media today.

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the

No. 2 jet.

The Montana air show was the Snowbirds first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January, 2007.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said Saturday. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

Shawn McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "He asked me 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,' " Ken McCaughey recalled. "I said, 'Sure, I'll be with you all the time.' "

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian air force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and today at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions (Friday) with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday.

"We still are opening our gates . . . there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them."

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbirds team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Mathias said.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

The CT-114 Tutor is a Canadian-made single-engine subsonic jet trainer that entered service in the

mid-1960s and was used for basic and advanced pilot training until it was replaced by two new planes in 2000.

According to the Department of National Defence, the only two operators of the CT-114 Tutor jet are the Snowbirds and the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000. He also held a civilian commercial pilot's licence.

# Death in the family Snowbird to tie knot in 3 weeks

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200429

**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** 2 photos 1. photo by Robin Loznak, AP Air force personnel look over the wreckage of the Snowbird plane at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., on Friday. 2. Captain Shawn McCaughey, 31, was from Candiac, Que.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**WORD COUNT:** 526

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Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said yesterday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 yesterday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault yesterday.

The family said they were still waiting for information from the military.

Mitchell said he understood the family needed answers.

## INVESTIGATION

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," he said.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at the base yesterday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbirds members planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.



Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet. The Montana air show was the Snowbirds first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, who took over the command of the team in January, 2007.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said yesterday. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "he asked me 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,' " Ken McCaughey recalled. "I said, 'Sure, I'll be with you all the time.' "

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

Soldier suffers multiple gunshot wounds in Shilo incident

CFB SHILO, Man. (CP) — A soldier at CFB Shilo in Manitoba remained in hospital yesterday after suffering multiple gunshot wounds during a training exercise.

Lt. Amber Bineau, a spokesperson for the soldier's battle group, said the incident happened Thursday on the base's training grounds while troops were conducting small arms practice.

She said the soldier was taken to hospital in nearby Brandon in serious but stable condition, adding that the soldier's condition was still stable yesterday.

"At the time, first aid was administered by one of the other soldiers who was trained in combat casualty care," Bineau said. "He did suffer at least two gunshot wounds."

The name and age of the soldier have not been released.

Bineau said an investigation has been launched into how the incident occurred.

The injured soldier is a member of the 2nd Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, and was training to be deployed to Afghanistan in early 2008, Bineau said.

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## LOSSES

Here are some crashes and accidents involving the Canadian Forces Snowbirds aerobatic team:

— May 18, 2007 — Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., is killed when his jet crashes at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while practising for an airshow.

— Aug. 24, 2005 — Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont. walked away after ejecting from his plane. A report by the Department of National Defence said the cause was "catastrophic engine failure."

— Dec. 10, 2004 — Capt. Miles Selby died in a collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during training near Moose Jaw. Mallet survived.

- June 21, 2001 — Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.
- September 2000 — Two jets sustained damage when the wing of one aircraft grazed the tail of another on the way to an air show. The pilots were not injured.
- Dec. 10, 1998 — Capt. Michael Van denBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Snowbird was to be married

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200209

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 10

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHAWN MCCAUGHEY Jet crashed on Friday

**BYLINE:** MERITA ILO, THE CANADIAN PRESS

**WORD COUNT:** 166

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A Snowbird pilot who died when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was going to be married next month in Montreal, his father said yesterday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in a group of planes practising manoeuvres above the base Friday when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said yesterday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000 and was in his second year with the Snowbirds. Ken McCaughey said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy and had described his job with the Snowbirds as "the best job in the world."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

KEYWORDS=OTHER NEWS

# 'Tough time' for kin Snowbird pilot died less than a month before his wedding

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200120  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 15  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHAWN McCAUGHEY Fulfilled dreams  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**WORD COUNT:** 232

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Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died in a crash during practice for an air show in Montana, leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of the Montreal suburb of Candiac, was in a group of planes practising manoeuvres at Malmstrom Air Force Friday when his jet left the formation and pitched into the ground.

He died one day before his fiancée Claudia Gaudreault's 29th birthday and bridal shower. Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., is a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask.

The family is going through "a real tough time," said McCaughey's father Ken.

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," said Ken, 66, his voice breaking with emotion. "This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée."

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said he understood the family needed answers.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

Snowbird team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds.

## TEAM 'DEVASTATED'

His crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, B.C., who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January.

"Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "he asked me 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,' " Ken recalled.

"I said, 'sure, I'll be with you all the time.' " KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Dead pilot was soon to be wed

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200359

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A8

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. photo by AP REHEARSAL: The Canadian Forces Snowbirds rehearse for weekend performances over Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. One of the jets crashed later in the rehearsal, killing Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., the Federal Aviation Administration said. During the manoeuvres above the base, one plane broke from the formation and crashed, FAA spokesperson Allen Kenitzer said. No one ejected from the single-engine jet, he said. 2. photo of CAPT. SHAWN McCAUGHEY

**BYLINE:** MERITA ILO, CP

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**WORD COUNT:** 510

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A Snowbird pilot who died Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was going to be married next month in Montreal, his father said yesterday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said yesterday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told CP from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

Ken McCaughey said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy and had described his job with the Snowbirds as "the best job in the world."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform yesterday and today at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias of the Malmstrom air base said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said yesterday.

"We still are opening our gates . . . there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them.

U.S. crews worked late into the night Friday, combing the crash site for debris and resumed early yesterday before the public began arriving at the base.

Mathias said members of the U.S. air force were supporting the Snowbird team.

"They are clearly a very close-knit team. It's a small unit and they're very, very close so we've kind of let them have whatever support they need, offering them chaplains if necessary, facilities if necessary," Mathias said.

Snowbirds team members planned to remain at Malmstrom to help with the investigation, she said.

A Canadian Forces team was expected to arrive yesterday to lead the investigation into the crash.

The Snowbirds team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

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## CRASHES, ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SNOWBIRDS

Here is a list of crashes and accidents involving the Canadian Forces Snowbirds aerobatic team:

- May 18, 2007: Capt. Shawn McCaughey of Candiac, Que., is killed when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while practising for an airshow.
- Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans walked away after ejecting from his plane. A report by the Department of National Defence said the cause was "catastrophic engine failure."
- Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.
- June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell. No injuries.
- September 2000: Two jets sustained minor damage when the wing of one aircraft grazed the tail of another on the way to an air show. The pilots were not injured.
- Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.
- 1997: Two Snowbirds touched wingtips over Glen Falls, N.Y., but no one was injured.
- 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.
- 1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.
- 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.
- 1991: Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.

- 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, killed when plane crashed into Lake Ontario during air show in Toronto.
- 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, killed during air show in Grande Prairie, Alta.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, killed during air show in Trenton. KEYWORDS=CANADA



# Pilot was set to marry Snowbird who died was to wed June 9

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200540

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 22

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Richard Peterson, AP Three Canadian Air Force Snowbirds precision flying jets sit parked at the Great Falls International Airport in Great Falls, Mont., yesterday. The Snowbirds lost a jet and a pilot in a crash on Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., Friday during a practice flight for an air show, which was planned for this weekend.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** TORONTO

**WORD COUNT:** 244

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A Snowbird pilot who died Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana was going to be married next month in Montreal, his father said yesterday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said yesterday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said.

McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

Ken McCaughey said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy and had described his job with the Snowbirds as "the best job in the world."

In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force.

The team was scheduled to perform yesterday and today at Malmstrom. It was slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre", but that the

Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday. KEYWORDS=CANADA

# Crash victim was to wed Snowbird's marriage day was set for early June

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**SOURCETAG** 0705200635  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of SHAWN MCCAUGHEY Died in crash  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**WORD COUNT:** 255

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Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said yesterday the family was going through "a real tough time."

"In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, said from his home in Candiac, Que, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée. Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, turned 29 yesterday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault yesterday.

The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

Mitchell said he understood the family needed answers.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said.

He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

The Montana air show was Snowbirds first show for this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January, 2007.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said.

"Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

Shawn's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "he asked me 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot,'" Ken recalled.

KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

# Dead Snowbirds pilot had wedding set Grief, shock consume family, fiancée after fatal jet crash

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.05.20

**PAGE:** A7

**SECTION:** Canada Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 537

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CP Wire Merita Ilo TORONTO — Wedding plans have tragically been cancelled for a 31-year-old Snowbird pilot who died Friday in a crash at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, leaving his family in shock and looking for answers.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, of Candiatic, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres during rehearsal for a weekend air show when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

McCaughey's father said Saturday the family was going through "a real tough time." Unbelievable "In December, he got engaged on a boat with his fiancée and he was supposed to get married in three weeks' time, on June 9," Ken McCaughey, 66, told The Canadian Press from his home in Candiatic, a south-shore suburb of Montreal.

"This is unbelievable what's going on now for us and his fiancée.

Today is her birthday," Ken McCaughey said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Shawn McCaughey's fiancée, Claudia Gaudreault, of Chicoutimi, Que., a social worker at the Snowbirds base in Moose Jaw, Sask., turned 29 years old on Saturday.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for Gaudreault on Saturday.

The family said they were still waiting to hear information about the crash from the Canadian military.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived at Malmstrom air base Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media.

Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

Shawn McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet.

The Montana air show was the Snowbirds' first show of this season.

The crash was especially devastating for Mitchell, a third-generation fighter pilot from Victoria, B.C., who took over the command of the Snowbirds aerobatic team in January.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said Saturday. "Our team is devastated and we will miss him." Shawn McCaughey's father said his son dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy.

When he grew up, "he asked me: 'Dad, will you help me out if I want to become a pilot?' " Ken McCaughey recalled.

"I said, 'Sure, I'll be with you all the time.' " In a statement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces." The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian air force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and today at Malmstrom and were next slated to fly at an air show in British Columbia next Wednesday. They were also to perform at the Manitoba Air Show at Southport air base at Portage la Prairie on June 2 and 3.

U.S. Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, of the Malmstrom air base, said the mood there was "very sombre," but that the Snowbirds wanted the show to continue.

"After discussions yesterday with Canadian Forces Snowbirds, they did emphasize they wanted the wing to continue our open house events today," Mathias said Saturday.

"We still are opening our gates... there are still going to be flying events this afternoon, so we really are picking up the flag, as it were, and carrying that banner for them." — Canadian Press