

# Some Notes about the Military Service of John Charles Durant Scholefield *provided by his son, Peter Scholefield*

(In an e-mail from Peter Scholefield dated October 25, 2023.)

My father, John Charles Durant Scholefield, was a trainer of navigators during WW 2. He did not serve overseas but remained in Canada at two RCAF training bases, one in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and the other in Deseronto, Ontario. Based on the history of the two bases (see below), I expect that my father first went to Deseronto for navigator training and then was posted as a navigator trainer to RCAF Station Moose Jaw. We still have his leather helmet, with space for headphones, that he wore while flying.

I found the following about the RCAF bases in Moose Jaw and Deseronto on the internet:

## **RCAF Station Moose Jaw**

The declaration of [World War II](#) saw the Moose Jaw Flying Club initially contracted to provide pilot training for the [Royal Canadian Air Force](#); however this was soon replaced by the far larger [British Commonwealth Air Training Plan](#) (BCATP) which saw the Government of Canada acquire the aerodrome and completely reconstruct it into **RCAF Station Moose Jaw** in 1940 with the new aerodrome opening in 1941. Initially the [Royal Air Force](#) trained exclusively at the base under the RAF's No. 32 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) (ca. 1942) using [Harvards](#), and later, [Oxfords](#). No. 32 SFTS eventually broadened its intake to train 1,200 pilots for the air forces of Canada, the United Kingdom, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, France, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, the United States, and the Netherlands.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **Tyendinaga (Mohawk) Airport**

Coordinates:  [44°11'05"N 077°06'28"W](#)

From Wikipedia

### **Tyendinaga (Mohawk) Airport**

- [IATA](#): none
- [ICAO](#): none
- [TC LID](#): CPU6

### **Summary**

<b>Airport type</b>	Public
<b>Operator</b>	First Nations Technical Institute
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory</a> , <a href="#">Ontario</a>
<b><u>Time zone</u></b>	<a href="#">EST (UTC−05:00)</a>
• <b>Summer (<a href="#">DST</a>)</b>	<a href="#">EDT (UTC−04:00)</a>
<b>Elevation <a href="#">AMSL</a></b>	260 ft / 79 m
<b><u>Coordinates</u></b>	 <a href="#">44°11'05"N 077°06'28"W</a>

## Map



CPU6

Location in Ontario

<b>Runways</b>			
<b><u>Direction</u></b>	<b><u>Length</u></b>		<b><u>Surface</u></b>
	<b><i>ft</i></b>	<b><i>m</i></b>	
09/27	4,270	1,301	Asphalt
15/33	2,575	785	Asphalt

Source: [Canada Flight Supplement\[1\]](#)

**Tyendinaga (Mohawk) Airport (TC LID: CPU6)** is a registered [aerodrome](#) that is open to the public and caters mainly to [general aviation](#). The aerodrome is located in [Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory](#), 3 [nautical miles](#) (5.6 km; 3.5 mi) southwest of [Tyendinaga, Ontario, Canada](#), north of the [Bay of Quinte](#) between [Kingston](#) and [Belleville](#).

## History

Originally known as Deseronto Airport, the field opened in 1917 as a training school for pilots during [World War I](#). During [World War II](#), it hosted the No. 1 Instrument Navigation School for the [British Commonwealth Air Training Plan](#), providing advanced instrument-navigation training to air crews. During this time, the airport was also used as the primary relief landing field for the Central Flying School, based out of [RCAF Station Trenton](#). The aerodrome is currently the site of the [First Nations Technical Institute](#) and the [First Peoples' Aviation Technology – Flight Training Program](#).

## Historical Aerodrome Information

In approximately 1942 the aerodrome was listed as "RCAF Aerodrome - Mohawk, Ontario" at [44°11'N 77°07'W](#) with no variation or elevation listed. "

I was born in 1941, the same year that RCAF Station Moose Jaw opened. While my father was away as a navigator trainer, I was told that I spent the first year of my life with my mother and grandparents on the Scholefield family farm in Cadboro Bay. I was also told that while I was a baby, I went with my mother to visit my father in Moose Jaw. From my mother's description of me in a baby carriage during freezing weather in Moose Jaw, it must have been during the winter of 1942.