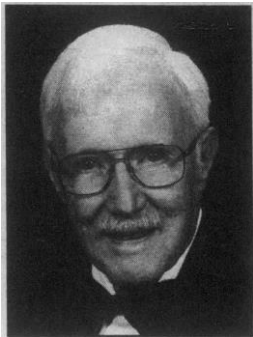


# "Their Stories"



Jun/Jul 2023

## Vic Ingram's "Air-Port-Hope"



Victory E. Ingram

Victory E Ingram was born in Port Hope in 1918. As an adult, he served in World War II and later lived in Detroit, MI. Vic, as he was known was involved in aviation for most of his life. In 1941 he completed his flight training at Detroit City Airport and subsequently acquired his commercial license and Instructors certificate. In the mid 50s he and his wife Audrey moved back to Port Hope and purchased property on Heinemann Rd. He took up the position of Base Operator and Instructor at Huron Memorial Airport in Bad Axe. A position he held for 15 years.

In 1958 Vic cleared property on his Port Hope land and constructed a 2,000 ft. grass runway. Included was one enclosed hanger and one open covered shelter. Vic now had the luxury of being able to fly to work in Bad Axe taking only a few minutes. It didn't take long for the Air-Port-Hope to become a very popular place. For years it was an active location for additional aviators, flying clubs and a regular occurrence of week-end "fly-ins" with pancake breakfasts, airplane rides and entertainment.



Typical Fly-in held at the airfield, drawing huge crowds and creating a fun-filled day



Aerial View of Air-Port-Hope running north and south between Heinemann Rd and Rubicon Rd

### FLY-IN AT AIRPORT HOPE DRAWS HUGE CROWD

The annual fly-in and pancake breakfast held at Airport Hope on Sunday, August 15, drew one of the largest crowds in its history. Even the slightly colder temperatures didn't put a damper on the events, and the Chamber of Commerce report serving breakfast to a record number of people.

Members of the Flying Club were busy until early evening, taking care of all the requests for airplane rides. A large number of door prizes were given away, donated by the merchants in Port Hope. Bomb dropping was demonstrated and model airplane flying by remote control.

Harbor Beach Times article dated Aug 19, 1971

As Vic was nearing retirement age but still a very active and motivated individual, he purchased plans for a one-

seat bi-plane. He proceeded to scratch build the plane adhering to the specifications and materials (Plywood and the necessary stretch covering).

Victory ran a successful airport for twenty years and in 1978 he and his wife Audrey decided it was time to retire. They closed the airport, sold the property and moved to Florida. The scratch built bi-plane was dismantled and shipped to Florida. Retirement didn't hinder Vic's love of aviation, as he continued flying until his mid 90's. Victor E Ingram passed away on July 1, 2017.

Like many other things in our lives, it is sad to think that such an active and popular airfield would someday be gone. But gone it is. However, the fond memories and wonderful stories will live on.

**(Note: As part of the historical society mission statement, we strive to collect and preserve history of the port hope area. Well, on a very positive note, the bi-plane that Victory scratch built and took to Florida, still exists. In fact, Vic's son Sam and his wife Jessica, recently were able to secure the aircraft and return it to its home in Port Hope. It will be displayed in the Historical Society as part of an aviation history display. See the pics of Sam & Jessica on the following page.**



Sam & Jessica Ingram in Florida with Vic's scratch built bi-plane prior to disassembly and shipment to Port Hope