

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed August 5, 2025

### **The Canadian Forces Snowbirds are returning to Nanaimo!**

*Families, friends and aviation fans invited to a spectacular weekend of aerial performances*

#### **Summary**

For the first time in six years, the skies above Nanaimo Harbour will come alive with breathtaking aerial displays of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, Department of National Defence. This free, family-friendly event will take place over two days: a special evening performance on Friday, August 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., followed by a daytime show on Saturday, August 16 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Set against the stunning backdrop of Nanaimo's downtown waterfront, the Snowbirds' performance promises to thrill aviation fans and community members of all ages.

During each show, the Canadian Forces Snowbirds pilots fly at speeds ranging from 200 to 550 kilometres per hour and perform in very tight formations. Audiences will witness more than 50 different formations and maneuvers during the exhilarating 45-minute show, including loops, rolls, solo passes and graceful aerobatic formations with all nine aircrafts. Carefully selected music - compiled by squadron members themselves - adds a dynamic soundtrack to the aerial ballet, enhancing the emotional and visual impact of each performance. The City of Nanaimo is proud to present this event in partnership with the Nanaimo Airport, the Port of Nanaimo and the Nanaimo District Hospital Foundation (NDHF).

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, temporary closures will be in effect starting Friday, August 15 at 12:00 p.m., including the walking and fishing pier at Maffeo Sutton Park as well as surrounding harbour waters and restricted airspace during showtimes. Spectators are encouraged to plan their visit in advance, explore accessible viewing areas along the waterfront, including locations such as the Pioneer Waterfront Plaza and 1 Port Drive, and consider downtown parking and transit options.

Come early, bring your family and make a day of it in beautiful downtown Nanaimo. Whether you're a lifelong aviation enthusiast or simply looking for a summer memory to cherish, the Snowbirds' show offers a rare and unforgettable experience. Those wishing to listen to commentary during the performance can tune in to the Wave at 102.3.

*Strategic Link:* Events support the City's strategic initiatives towards cultural vitality and economic health.

Continued... The Canadian Forces Snowbirds are returning to Nanaimo!

## Key Points

- For the first time since 2019, the Canadian Forces Snowbirds will perform over the Nanaimo Waterfront, offering a rare and thrilling aerial display for the community.
- The event spans two days — an evening show on Friday, August 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., followed by a daytime show on Saturday, August 16 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The Fishing Walking Pier will be closed on Friday, August 15 at 12:00 p.m. and re-open Saturday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m.

## Quotes

"It's an honour to welcome the Canadian Forces Snowbirds back to Nanaimo. This event offers a chance to come together as a community, enjoy our waterfront and witness a spectacular performance that inspires pride in our country and in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

"We are excited to support the Snowbirds at the Nanaimo Airport as they prepare for their spectacular two-day performance over the City of Nanaimo Harbour. We are proud to co-host with the City of Nanaimo, the Port Authority and the Nanaimo Hospital Foundation."

Dave Devana  
President and CEO  
Nanaimo Airport Commission

"We are looking forward to the return of the Snowbirds to the Nanaimo area to provide an aerial demonstration showcasing the technical competency of the RCAF and its commitment to public engagement. We, as a Port, welcome their return and support the activities of all the partners to make this such a successful and cherished community event."

Captain Edward S. Dahlgren  
Harbour Master  
Port of Nanaimo

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View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR250805TheCanadianForcesSnowbirdsAreReturningToNanaimo.html>