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Volume 6 | Issue 1

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March 2016

Bowmanville
Older Adult
Association



**2016 Spring & Summer
Program Guide**
(Pullout Inside)

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58 years after the Canadian Government scraped the Avro Arrow Project, Clarington Museums celebrates the achievements of the Arrow and revisits the controversy surrounding the decision for Canada to exit the aerospace industry.

The Avro Arrow takes flight at Clarington Museums

Heather Ridge (Curator)
Dennis Jeffery
(Education Coordinator)

CLARINGTON MUSEUM

On March 25, 1958, the infamous Canadian-made supersonic interceptor named the Avro Arrow took its first flight, right here in Ontario, a short drive from Clarington. Many local Clarington residents made the drive, every day, to work on this ground breaking project. Clarington Museums will be celebrating its newest exhibition, "Avro Arrow: A Dream Denied" March 24th 2016, at 6pm with the Exhibit Launch Party, NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM. We recre-

ate the 1958 Launch Party of the Avro Arrow! Beginning with cocktails and continuing with a Gourmet Dinner, Interactive Play and Evening Celebrations, this is a unique experience to enjoy and remember. Tickets \$45, contact 905-623-2734 or online at www.ClaringtonMuseums.com.

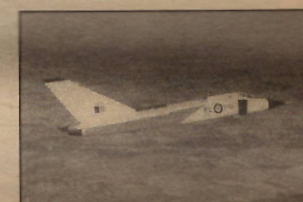
Clarington Museums will tell the story of the Avro Arrow from its conception to its sudden and mysterious cancellation; celebrating and commemorating the achievements of those men and women who made the Arrow dream a reality.

There are many significant dates in The Arrow's controversial history. March 25,

1958 is one of the most important dates in Canadian aerospace innovation. This day would see the First Flight of the Avro Arrow. Soaring through the skies over Malton, Ontario (now the Toronto Pearson International Airport), history was recorded by the Malton control tower: "with terrific acceleration, the Arrow was quickly airborne, less than half way along the runway. The Avro 201 off at 9:51 a.m. and cleared to company tower." 1

Pre-dating the epic first flight was another major milestone in the Arrow's development. On October 4, 1957, the Avro Company would reveal to the country the feat of engineering they

had been secretly creating. On this day in Malton, Ontario, Avro "rolled out" the Arrow in a spectacular unveiling to crowds of work-



Source: Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada

ers, dignitaries, members of the press and politicians. Witnesses reported that "the huge north and south parking lots were full. The enormous crowd of spectators,

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Visit: www.claringtonpromoter.ca

Charles Taws moves to the Peace River Country

by Myno Van Dyke

NEWCASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Charles Taws was born in Montreal and his keen interest in history started at an early age. His grandmother had a very unique old "Revolutionary" house in the United States and she gave him a large old key from one of the doors. He was so proud of it that he took it to "Show & Tell" in kindergarten.

In 1972, young Charles along with his twin brother and parents moved to Lakehurst, Ontario. On the way there, they stopped for the night at the Flying Dutchman Motor Inn at Liberty Street and the 401. Charles said he

remembers that his parents were told that no dogs were allowed in the room, but they ended up sneaking their dog in and found this quite exciting. At Lakehurst, his family operated a General Store selling groceries, hardware and gasoline. Charles advised that it was here that he developed a keen interest in history.

"All of the old-timers would come into the store and tell great stories. Soon I was collecting photographs and articles and filled up several scrap books full of information. I became the President of the local Historical Society at a very young age."

After High School, Charles attended Trent University and graduated in 1986 with

an Honors BA in History and Archaeology. He started his career at Hutchison House Museum in Peterborough, then Perth Museum in Oshawa and moved onto the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes. After that he came to Bowmanville and was Curator, first for Bowmanville Museum and then later called Clarington Museums and Archives. For a few years, Clarington Museums loaned Charles to our Newcastle Village & District Historical Society as a part-time Curator. He did a wonderful job of reorganizing all of our cabinets and creating a number of "themes" for our collection.

He stayed with Clarington Museums for 26 years before

leaving in December for a new position in Grand Prairie Alberta. "It was time for a change" he said.

When asked what he feels was his greatest accomplishment at Bowmanville, he said; "number one was raising the profile of local history through newsletters and newspaper articles, especially in the Clarington Promoter. There were always so many positive comments and people continually coming into the Museum to ask for information about the stories or providing new ones. Number two was finding the Bowman painting, that I had been searching for since 1990. "It was because of the article in the Clarington Promoter, someone saw

it on the internet and knew where the painting was in Montreal", he said.

He is excited about his new job in Grand Prairie. He indicated they even have a number of antique cars and trucks in their collection there. He has already found an interesting connection from a Newcastle native, Dr. Annie Higbee who came to Grand Prairie in 1912.

Annie, whose maiden name was Carveth, travelled by ox cart to a spot near the Smoky River, with her husband Professor Charles Higbee, their 13 year old son Jack and her brother Arthur Carveth with his wife and children to settle in that area. She was the first woman doctor in the Peace River area. The



Higbees returned to Newcastle in 1928, purchasing the historic "Boate" house, 261 Mill St. South. Charles intends to write a story about her further cementing the relationship between Clarington and Grand Prairie. Charles advised he is having no problem adjusting to the climate there. He said, "So far we are having an El Niño winter- instead of minus 40 its minus 20".

The Avro Arrow takes flight at Clarington Museums

Continued from Page 1

estimated at over 15,000, spilled from the parking lot and congregated at Hangar 1. This was an occasion that none of the employees from Avro Aircraft and Avro Orenda Engine divisions at Malton Ontario, wanted to miss. Sitting by itself in Hangar Bay 1 was the sole

completed Avro Arrow². The Arrow's roll-out on October 4, 1957 would change the landscape of Canadian aviation for years to come, but sadly, would be overshadowed in international news by the launch of the Russian "Sputnik", the earth's first artificial satellite.

The roll-out would become one of Avro's proudest moments as not only did they unveil the Arrow itself, but they unveiled Canada as an aviation leader. This message was conveyed to the crowd in a speech given by Fred T. Smye, the President

1 Avro Aircraft by Arrow heads 51
2 The Avro Arrow Story Bill Zuk 13

and General Manager Avro Aircraft Limited, "We feel that this aeroplane represents a substantial technical achievement, that demonstrates the capability of Canadian technology, and represents a substantial Canadian contribution to the western world."³ Clarington Museums will also be celebrating the roll out anniversary in October with a special event commemorating innovation within our community.

February 20th, 1959, a date thereafter known as 'Black Friday', would see the official end of all work on the Arrow projects, as Prime Minister Diefenbaker cancelled the creation of the Arrow and all associated projects. These projects would include the Iroquois engines, designed and manufactured by the Orenda Company, that were installed on the sixth version of the Arrow, called '206' in early February 1959. The Iroquois engines themselves are another example of how technologically advanced the Arrow was for its time. The Iroquois engines would have allowed the 206 to fly at optimal speed at 50,000 feet which would have allowed the aircraft to reach Mach 2, a speed not previously reached by any other aircraft. The cancellation order from Diefenbaker also included an order to have all the designs, and existing aircraft destroyed and scrapped. Not only did the cancellation of these projects set back the Canadian aerospace industry but it

also had a great affect on the workers of Avro and Orenda. Some of the workers were reluctant to leave their work behind to be trashed and so they "stuffed blueprints into their lunch boxes and walked out of the factory, right under the noses of the security staff."⁴

Even though Clarington is approximately 100kms east of Malton, there were Clarington residents that commuted along the old Highway 2, to work at Avro. The exhibit at Clarington Museums will feature the personal stories of local community members who worked on the Avro Arrow before its cancellation. Many of the workers at Avro would find jobs elsewhere in the aviation community. Some would move south to work with NASA on its space program while others would stay closer to home. Alan Cornish was born in Orono, Ontario and worked for Avro as the Chief Engineer of hydraulics. After the cancellation of the Arrow project, Alan moved his family down to Ohio to continue his career. Bill Carver from Newcastle is a past Avro employee who stayed in Ontario. Bill's career with Avro would begin after he finished with the Navy in 1958. Bill was involved with the Arrow's final assembly and test flight division while he worked for Avro from August of 1958 to February 20, 1959, Black Friday. Bill has relayed to us that he really enjoyed his time working for Avro and especially remembers the long commute along Highway 2 making stops to pick

up co-workers on the way to Malton. The hour and half drive would allow the workers to build relationships that would last longer than the Arrow itself. The community stories are what bring the story of the Avro Arrow to life in Clarington.

3 Arrow Rollout pg 71

4 the Avro Arrow Story pg 10



Source: Canada Aviation Museum of Ottawa

The Avro Arrow itself represents many things to many people. For Clarington Museums it means a chance to celebrate all aspects of the story from innovation to mystery and everything in between. Don't miss the significant dates of the Exhibit and Dinner Event exhibit opening March 24, 2016, and Our Launch Party event, March 24, 2016. Clarington Museums strive to illuminate the story of Clarington community members and their involvement with the captivating story of Canada's innovative aircraft, the Avro Arrow.

AVRO ARROW: Night At The Museum



First Flight: The Launch Party
March 24, 2016 6pm
 Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre, 62 Temperance St., Bowmanville, ON

Gourmet Dinner
Interactive Play
Celebrations
Cash Bar

\$ 45

TICKETS: 905-623-2734

www.ClaringtonMuseums.com

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