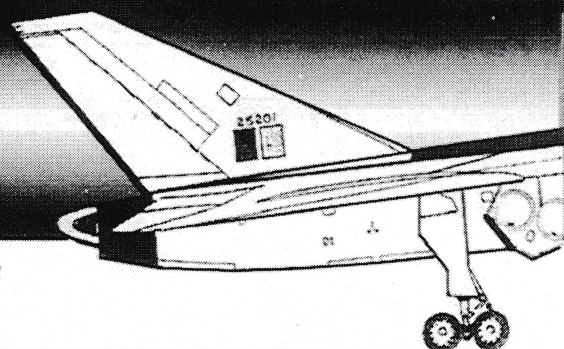


Pre-Flight

A Publication of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada
P.O. Box 246, Etobicoke "D", Etobicoke ON M9A 4X2



Vol. 18, No. 6

November - December 2007



CITYTV photo

Remarks of David C. Onley at the 30th Anniversary Dinner of the First Flight of the Avro Arrow

Mr. Chairman, Bill Turner, Jim Floyd, and of course, Mr. President (as performed by top comedian Bill Mellberg of Chicago), thank you for inviting me to be here this evening to address such a distinguished group of people.

This is, I must say the first time I've ever followed the President of the United States to the podium. It's quite an honour. The closest I've ever come to that was dining at a restaurant, shortly after the President and the First Lady had been there for dinner.

The maitre'd was still overwhelmed by the experience of serving the first family. He asked Mrs. Reagan what she'd like and she said, steak. He asked her how she's like it done, and she said medium. "And the vegetable?" he asked. "Oh, I suppose he'll have the same thing," she replied.

Being here and addressing this audience is a singular honour. There is so much experience and history in this room, I am in quiet awe.

Addressing you is like the man who miraculously survived the Johnstown Flood of the last century. For the balance of his life he would tell and re-tell the story of his amazing survival, retelling it to the point of abject boredom. People would avoid the man at all costs to escape one more recitation of the Johnstown Flood.

And when he went to his reward in the great beyond, for decades, he tried the patience of Job, literally, and begged St. Peter to gather together the assembled multitudes of Heaven, so that in one great presentation, he could recount his survival of the Johnstown Flood.



Founded 1988

AHFC

Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada



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From the President

As this is the last issue of *Pre-Flight* for 2007, I take great pleasure in remembering the start of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada. I recall one of the founding members, our first President and now the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, challenging us at the 30th Anniversary of the Avro Arrow's First Flight Reunion at the Skyline Hotel, March 1988. His challenge was to build a museum-quality replica of the Arrow. This has now been accomplished with congratulations to the Toronto Aerospace Museum for their replica of RL-203, the only Arrow to carry the Canadian Red Ensign.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year of 2008.

Frank

30 Anniversary, cont'd

Finally, St. Peter gave in and called together the Heavenly Hosts, set up the celestial podium, introduced the speaker, turned to him and said, "You've got fifteen minutes, and just remember, Noah is in the audience."

Actually, how I got to be the speaker tonight reminds me of that great story John Glenn still tells about the earth.

The reporters asked him how he felt in the final seconds before liftoff, what was going through his mind.

He replied, "Here I am atop a rocket with almost three hundred thousand gallons of explosive fuel, with a million parts which must interact perfectly, which will shortly propel me at speeds of over thirteen thousand miles per hour, and I know in my heart, that the whole thing was built by the lowest bidder."

Well, I'll attempt to give you some top bid remarks at low bid prices. In point of fact, the honour itself is beyond calculation.

I say that for a number of reasons, first, I want to thank Bill Turner for his generous introduction.

My book, "SHUTTLE" has a matter of record, shaped my career and life. The writing of "SHUTTLE" would not have been possible in the first place had it not been for the support of my family, specifically my father who agreed enthusiastically to finance his then unemployed son's writing project. Little did either of us know that the 18 month schedule would stretch to 24 months and then finally 30 months before publication.

He is here this evening and I want to acknowledge my gratitude.

But after that initial family support, there came the long haul of writing and the almost impossible task of getting to the inside of the United States Space Program. ➡

30th Anniversary, cont'd.

That's where I met Bill Turner and I am indebted to him for opening doors for me at NASA, doors which never would have been opened but for his assistance, doors which materially improved my novel, in fact, made the kind of novel I wanted to write, possible in the first place, without Bill Turner's help there would not have been no book "SHUTTLE" and thus I wouldn't be here tonight.

So if you like my remarks, you have my father and Bill Turner to thank. Of course if you don't like my remarks, it's their fault.

And of course, to Jim Floyd, my thanks for the invitation to speak in the first place. We have collaborated on various projects: my series for CITY-TV on "Canada in Space" and his great book, the singular and authoritative history of the Jetliner.

Most of you have known Jim far longer than I, but few hold him in as much affection, what can one say? A great Canadian.

This is an evening of mixed emotions. There is a sense of accomplishment, of nostalgia and also of sadness. In preparing my remarks for this evening, I tried to take the reality of mixed emotions into account.

I've thought long and hard about what message I might bring to you tonight, that neither dwells on the "might have beens", nor minimizes what most Canadians consider to be a staggering accomplishment the construction and flight of the world's best fighter jet.

While listening to that great Canadian Preacher, the Rev. John Gladstone of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church a few weeks ago, a quote stuck in my mind. I couldn't let go of it. Dr. Gladstone was preaching on the "Olympic Spirit" and what we had learned from the Calgary Winter Games.

He made the point that competition in athletic events can be much like life itself. We don't always win. We don't always meet standards that could be considered victorious. But that in our spiritual lives, as well as our everyday lives, we are instead merely, but always, to run the good race, and fight the good fight. Competition itself is a valid experience.

Then came the quote that would not leave me. John Buchan in his book Montrose, said "No great cause is ever lost or won. The battle, must always be renewed and the creed must always be re-stated." Let me repeat that.

"No great cause is ever lost or won. The battle must always be renewed and the creed must always be re-stated."

If there ever was a single quote which I believe describes what all of us assembled here are all about, its that quote by John Buchan. Let's examine it in light of our past and our future in aerospace in this country.

First, No great cause is ever lost or won. In the world of technology, this should be inscribed on a brass plate above each desk or workplace. History demonstrates the truth of the statement.

The cause that is the Arrow, and note I said *is* the Arrow, not *was* the Arrow, the cause is the same as that of the Wright Brothers, of the early Barnstormers, of those who sought to break the Sound Barrier, build the first Jetliner, get into Space, go to the Moon and beyond....the cause is the same.

One thinks of the Wright Brothers who could have remained in their chosen profession of building bicycles. After all, they had the perfect name in the "Wright Flyer". But they had greater plans for that historic name. It wasn't going on the tubes of a two wheeled vehicle, it was going to be the name of the world's first, powered heavier than air vehicle.

And in the face of great opposition, they changed the world we live in. Oh, of course someone else would have eventually invented the airplane. Perhaps Langley would have finally made a "Go" of it. But the point is, it was the Wright Brothers who did it in the face of opposition. The "cause" was greater than the opposition.

One thinks of Billy Mitchell who had the temerity to not only propose that airplanes could forever change Naval Warfare, but to actual go ahead and prove it. For this he was court-marshaled. But the "cause" was greater than the opposition and those who did oppose him have been considered to the ashcan of history.

One thinks of the early aviation pioneers who opened up the world of air-mail and died doing so. In fact were it not for a lucky break, one such flying mailman, Charles Lindbergh might not have been remembered at all.

One thinks of Lindbergh and of course, the first men to cross the Atlantic, Alcock and Brown, and we understand that they too believed in the "cause", a cause that overwhelmed the opposition.

One thinks of the attempts to break the sound barrier



30th Anniversary, cont'd.

and the lives that were lost before the eventual success. Again, there was a cause involved which left all of the Nay-sayers in their rightful place utter anonymity, completely forgotten.

The fact of history is this: every technological advance that has ultimately improved the lot of the average man and woman has had to face numbing opposition from small-minded vested interests.

That has always been the cause. I believe it always will be the case. That is why, Buchan said, "The cause is never lost or won."

In the second part of Buchan's statement is the notion that the "Battle must always be renewed". There is something both pessimistic and optimistic in that notion.

On the down side, is the idea of endless battle, of always having to fight off the intellectual Barbarians or Philistines of our time. But that is just an unfortunate reality of life. As a former Chief Justice of the United States said to his teenage daughter who was complaining about the unfairness of life, "My dear, if you would simply learn that life is difficult, you'd be much, much happier."

The history of mankind as it pertains to technology demonstrates a repeated theme: The battle is always renewed.

It was renewed by the Wright Brothers by the early aviators of the day. It was renewed in the efforts to establish a separate aviation identity within the British and Canadian military. It was renewed when it became clear that airplanes would change warfare, not just in dogfights but in naval battles too. Mitchell won. They lost.

It was renewed by men like Harry Truman who as a Senator had more to do with the development of commercial aviation than most people are aware. He fought the same kind of people who had opposed earlier developments. In this case, he fought those who were convinced that the government need not get involved in civil aviation because it was clear that the airplane would never rival the railroads as either a mode of personal travel or commercial shipping. Fortunately for us all, Harry gave hell.

The battle was renewed in the development of the space program in the U.S.A. Against strong opposition and ridicule, early plans were prepared for the journey to the moon, a proposal which was laughed out of the

White House before Kennedy came into office. But because of those true believers, who renewed the battle, the ground work was prepared so that when a man of Kennedy's vision was in the White House, he could make the declaration that we should go to the Moon.

The battle is being fought today in the United States against those who would dismantle the manned space program. The battle is being fought today in Canada against those in the Federal Government whose scope of vision of the future does not include space exploration.

It seems that no matter what the accomplishments, no matter what the record of success, no matter how much the quality of life is improved, there are always the narrow minds and the vested interests who are determined to prevent people and nations from achieving their full potential.... "The battle must always be renewed."

That's the down side if you will, the up side is this: Our side, history proves inevitably emerges victorious.

To be certain, we lose battles, some of which sting and hurt for a lifetime, and that too is life.

But the final notion is this.... "The creed must always be re-stated."

"No great cause is ever lost or won. The battle must always be renewed and the creed must always be re-stated."

It is the creed that renews and re-invigorates damaged spirits. It is the creed that inspires a new generation, the creed of not settling for second best, for reaching for the stars, for understanding that you'll never know how far you can go unless you reach beyond your limits. Man's reach should exceed his grasp, else what are stars for?

In my many presentations to students groups, I see that spirit. They don't know that they are re-stating a creed. For them it's just a given, that Canadians are in space, Canadians will be in space, that Canadians can achieve just about whatever we put our minds to.

They had to get that spirit from somewhere. It didn't just happen. It as a seed planted more than thirty years ago that reached partial bloom in the late forties and late fifties. And now thirty years later is rooted, rooted deeply in the fabric of the minds of the young people of today.

That creed is now alive in the most aggressive space ➡

30th Anniversary, cont'd.

program in Canadian History, a ten year commitment. A program to be involved in the International Space Station. Our role in the space garage is one of the most important links in that mammoth project drawing upon our international leadership in robotic arm technology.

We are committed to M-Sat, the mobile satellite, the most sophisticated satellite of its kind in the world. M-Sat will make cellular-type telephone technology operational anywhere in Canada, anywhere at all. This satellite alone will do more to fundamentally alter our perceptions of our country than any other development in our entire history, including the linking of the nation coast to coast by railway in the last century and including the development of television coast to coast in this century.

I believe that M-Sat will have that kind of impact for the simple reason that it will change all of our concepts and notions about time and distance in this vast country. Wherever you are, whether it is in the Northwest Territories, or the Rockies, or the Prairies, or downtown Toronto, you will be able to literally telephone any other Canadian wherever that person may be. So much for roughing it in the bush.

The creed is also re-stated with Radarsat, the most sophisticated observation satellite ever built. It will change our notions about what satellites can monitor from space, creating a new level of sophistication for crop monitoring, and natural resources observations.

There is the Canadian Astronaut Program, there are many other satellite related projects including our world leadership in ozone monitoring, world leadership in weather forecasting space technology, and in Paksat, the peace satellite, which would have a crucial role to play in the de-militarization of space.

Last and not least is Sarsat, the international program of which we are a major player, where in co-operation with the Soviets, the Americans, the French and other nations, over 700 people have been rescued via satellite with emergency locator beacons pinpointing exact location anywhere on the face of the earth to within a one kilometre radius within one hour of the first emergency signal. Sarsat may well be the structural linch pin to improved relations among the super-powers and the basis of eventual nuclear disarmament. It is that important.

Ladies and Gentlemen, none of that happened by accident. It is a result of a cause, of battles fought and won and of a creed that will not die.

That is our potential future. It is built upon an amazing and proud past. I am confident we will continue to build on that tradition.

However, I have a concern I want to share with you. History is more than just books, or video tapes, or personal recollections: history outlives us all.

But when I was researching my book at the Space Center in Houston. I saw history and I touched it, I stood by the full scale replica of the Lunar Lander. You can go up to it and be photographed at the base of the Canadian built landing leg, just as Neil Armstrong did. Landing on the moon becomes real to you and tangible. You can walk through a full scale replica of Skylab and suddenly, living in a Space Station becomes real. You can go to the Ontario Science Centre and touch a full scale replica of an Apollo capsule and suddenly space travel becomes real.

There is a gap in Canadian Aerospace History that at present, cannot be touched. I believe it needs to be filled.

Therefore, I am proposing tonight, the Fund-raising and construction of a full-scale replica model of the Avro Arrow.

This full scale replica would be privately owned by an appropriate authority and loaned to a major institution such as the Science Centre or other facility.

This at long last would provide Canadians with a physical legacy, a touchstone whose existence would let us feel, and touch, and taste greatness.

Future Generations would forever be able to know and understand the base upon which this nation has been built.

**"NO GREAT CAUSE IS EVER LOST OR WON.
THE BATTLE MUST ALWAYS BE RENEWED,
THE CREED RE-STATED."**

David E. Onley



