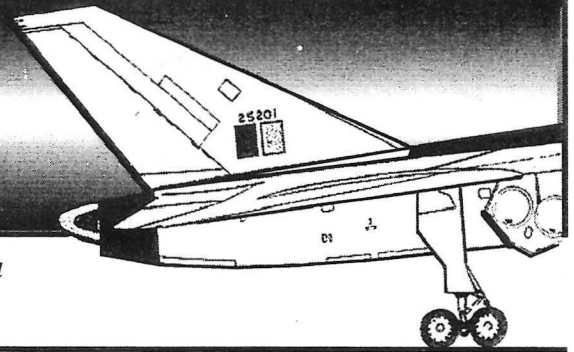


Pre-Flight



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

(Quote from the remarks by David C. Onley at the 30th Anniversary Dinner of the First Flight of the Avro Arrow)

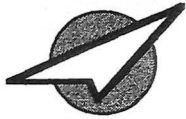


The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario
& Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley

Founded 1989

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From the President

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Honourable Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, David Onley. David was a founding member and first president of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada.

On the front page is David's famous challenge to all of us at the Arrow+30 Dinner. This challenge was taken up by the Toronto Aerospace Museum in building the splendid full-scale replica of RL203.

In the past months, I have made presentations to historical societies and interested groups on aircraft manufacturing and testing in Malton during the years 1938 to 1960, including the CF-105 Avro Arrow.

Frank

The Honourable David C. Onley, O. Ont. Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

There was a collective nodding of heads in agreement, when on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 in Calgary, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the appointment of David C. Onley as Ontario's newest Lieutenant-Governor. "David Onley is a respected author, broadcaster and tireless champion for persons with disabilities. Through this work, he has demonstrated the qualities needed for such an important position," stated the Prime Minister. "He has loyally served the province and his country in a number of roles, and I'm confident as Lieutenant-Governor, he will continue to do so."

Onley was on his way home in the pouring rain when his cell phone rang. "I just had reached the top of the Don Valley Parkway and there was no place to pull over," he recalls. "And when the Prime Minister of your country calls, all you can try to do is stay in the same lane, avoid any fender-benders and have a meaningful conversation, which I did. Thankfully, the 'no cell phone in your car' legislation had passed yet," he said. Onley saw his posting as a distinct privilege and blessing to have been given this vote of confidence by the Prime Minister.

With this announcement, Premier Dalton McGuinty of Ontario thanked the outgoing lieutenant-governor James Bartleman and then congratulated Onley. "David Onley, through his work as a journalist and as an advocate for the disabled, has dedicated himself to helping make our province a stronger and fairer society where everyone can be at their best."

When asked how it all came to be, Onley explained. "Last summer, I was approached by (CP24 anchor) Ann Rohmer, our colleague, who was representing a number of people who felt that I should allow my name to stand as the next Lieutenant-Governor, I thought about it very hard. Obviously it's not something you suddenly decide to apply for one morning. Something I never, ever considered. But as Ann and other people came to me and expressed why they thought I would make a good Lieutenant-Governor, I started to think about it very seriously. Spent the whole summer thinking about it and last fall decided, okay, I would let my name stand."

Onley, cont'd.

His name not only stood; it stood above the rest and with the backing of some prominent friends, David Onley was chosen for the prestigious post. He joined illustrious predecessors like Hilary Weston, Henry Jackman, Lincoln Alexander. In a way, it was an inspired choice by the Prime Minister. Some may see the position as purely ceremonial, but David has an agenda he intends to pursue that's close to his heart.

He is a man with a mission as his words attest. "I really want to be the compelling and driving force to help make this province a more accessible place," he vows. "I believe there's an enormous amount of generosity and goodwill out there as aging boomers dealing with elderly parents suddenly realize if you make something accessible for someone with a disability, you made it more accessible and safer for everybody."

Onley effectively uses leg braces, special walking canes and an electric scooter to get around. As lieutenant-general, he realizes his new job will involve not only being in Toronto, but also visiting all over the province. The locations will need to be accessible; new assistance technology will facilitate the entry of buildings and include the Ontario government's twin-engine propeller aircraft. Onley entered the Legislature with dignity and greater ease by an recently upgraded path to the side entrance.

On September 5, 2007 the official swearing-in ceremony took place, followed by the inspection of the honour guard. Television viewers were able to view the impressive pomp and ceremony in realtime detail. As to the front entrance to the legislature with its a 22 step stone staircase? For now, the south-west entrance is officially being designated the south-west accessible entrance to Queen's Park.

Children and Role Models

Onley has a special spot in his heart for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. Speaking to them at Scarborough's Variety Village, he pledged to be a role model for them and to champion the rights of disabled. He stressed, "I know what is needed is somebody who can identify with many of the children right here." He added that Canada has been fortunate in the last generation to have disabled heroes such as Terry Fox and Rick Hansen to admire. As a boy, the only disabled role model he had to look up to was former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. "And he had been dead a for a long time." Onley continually set aside time over the years championing the rights of the disabled and participating in a host of charities. Because of these ongoing efforts, he was recognized by government's, including education and community organizations.

The Road from Midland

Born in Midland and growing up in Scarborough, Onley was stricken with polio at the age of three and became partially paralyzed from the neck down. After graduating from Scarborough's Heron Park and Fairmont Junior public schools and Midland Avenue Collegiate Institute, he attended University of Toronto Scarborough, where he was student council president. He graduated in 1975 with an Honours B.A. in Political Science, including a Certificate in Canadian Politics. He admits these were some of the best years of his life, when the new campus was being built, along with lasting traditions. Students were part of this. Onley states that he has wonderful memories. Then there was his interest in law, which he subsequently took at the University of Windsor; this academic interest lasted but a year.

He decided to write a novel about a topic that in the '80s was in the news almost continually, space exploration. Onley wrote 'Shuttle: A Shattering Novel of Disaster in Space.' It was published in 1982 and became a best seller. There was a practical spinoff to the research and writing he did preparing for this novel. He became a knowledgeable commentator on the NASA space program at the time and so, he was a frequent guest on radio and television.

An On-Air Personality

The day Onley got his first professional job at the Toronto radio station CFRB to host a feature called a "Step Ahead" in the early 1980s, he told a colleague, "I can't believe this has happened to me." It certainly did, and he went on to become one of the first on-air personalities with a physical disability in Canada. In 1984, he was hired by Moses Znaimer, founder of Citytv because he could do the job. Disability was secondary. He joined CablePulse24 as a science and technology specialist, then becoming a CablePulse 24 live newsreader. He was anchor and host of the weekly "Home Page." and stayed with the station for 22 years.

Life as a television reporter/host may sound exciting and certainly stimulating. Onley sees it more like working in a hospital ER: routine, with burst of high demand activities from late-breaking news, good and bad. Both had to be reported informatively but respectfully, especially where families were involved. Satisfaction, comes from reporting on a newsworthy item, and if possible, with insight and information. In some important ways, his greatest satisfaction comes from being one of the first news persons in Canada with a physical disability. He feel that life is an ongoing learning experience, No time is ever wasted when learning and contributing.

Awards and Recognitions

Going back to 1996, Onley received the Clarke Institute Award 'Courage to Come Back', for dealing with polio, with its disabilities. In 1997, he was inducted into 'The Terry Fox Hall of Fame' for his ongoing contribution to advance the causes of people with disabilities. He considers these quite an honour.

In 2003, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Canada Christian College. In 2005, Onley was appointed Chair of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council to the Minister of Community and Social Services. He was named by Toronto Life as one of the "Torontonians Most likely to Succeed". Its prediction was correct.

In May 2006, as Ontario's first disabled television broadcaster, he was one of the first inductees into Scarborough's 'Walk of Fame'.

A Friendly, Open Style

People have noted that Onley does not cultivate a specific style of meeting people, whether privately or professionally. As the saying goes, he is what you see. It seems to be his nature to be available, to find the time to speak to and with people, and as a result, people with him. For example, he was able to get Steve MacLean, the astronaut, to talk about Canadians walking on the moon within 15 years, for example. Onley freely speaks about the things that inspire him, that excite him, that he finds important. Furthermore, he somehow manages to find time to listen.

He still remembers a former science professor, John Colman, and the comment he wrote at the bottom of the final page of his last (A) essay: "You must always try very, very hard to put down on paper the thoughts I know you have in your head." These words have stayed with him over the years, whether a report, submission or article, and whether he has met this standard. As a father, Onley repeated this wise advice to his three sons, Jonathan, Robert and Michael. It is wisdom that has stood the test of time.

Going Down the Road: Five Years

On Wednesday, September 5, 2007, standing in front of the Speaker's chair, David Charles Onley was sworn-in as the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario for a term of five years. Many will recall his words and his goal: opening doors for people with disabilities of all kinds. "The final steps to accessibility for an individual to achieve their potential may simply depend on another person's strong arm and an open mind. I am asking each and every one of you today to be that person." These words are significant in today's less caring society.

And Rounding Out ...

David Onley is still extremely active in his church in Pickering and community organizations: The Canadian Foundation for Physical Disabled Persons and The Muki Baum Association. Though he keeps up to date with the latest in politics, especially now that he is there in an official capacity, he is not particularly interested in actual political office. He presently has an almost full list of activities which, you can be sure, will require his full and undivided attention.

Including finally sitting aloft, upfront in a glider: holding the control column, searching for updrafts, helps, enjoying the silence and peace and, of course, the security of Charles Petersen in the back seat. Petersen is from Freedom's Wings Canada, which helps persons with disabilities learn to fly.

The Arrow Connection

It is with special pleasure to recall Onley making both a significant suggestion and challenge: to construct a full-scale replica of the Arrow. This was back in 1987 at the 'Avro+30 Dinner'. He knew it would take many years and many dollars to complete. Five years later, when he was the president and one of the founding members of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada, he proceeded to write an open letter to all members of the Foundation. In it, he realistically presented a difficult but attainable goal, urging all members to participate.

The full-scale replica of the Arrow can be seen at the Toronto Aerospace Museum at the former Canadian Air Force Base Downsview, Toronto. It is an amazing reproduction of an amazing aircraft, and David Onley, Ontario lieutenant-governor, saw this vision in his mind's eye back in '87.

We too extend our congratulations to David Onley, one of the founding members., the first President of our Foundation and now the Lieutenant-Governor.

Members Matter

All 2007 and a few 2008 membership cards have been completed and sent out. You should receive them shortly. The delay? A computer glitch, what else. If any paid-up member has not received their membership card for 2007, please drop me a note and I will take care of it immediately. I will now concentrate on the gifts several members have requested for their donations. Thanks for your patience.

Nick

Nicholas Doran, Membership