

# Pre-Flight



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

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A Trip Into the Past:

## NEW YORK WELCOMES JETLINER!!!



Hard-boiled Gotham City gave the Avro Canada *Jetliner* and her attendants the most enthusiastic welcome of its kind for years on our aircraft's recent visit there April 18 - 22, 1950. We proved to many sceptics that the Avro *Jetliner* is several years ahead of any transport in the United States and as a result, we are much closer to various sales contracts.

The Jetliner's departure at Malton and arrival at Idlewild airports were carried out with befitting pomp and hullabaloo. Mayor Hiram McCallum of Toronto, in an Indian Headdress, smoked a pipe of friendship which was carried by *Jetliner* to be smoked by Deputy Commerce Commissioner James O'Brien, representing the Mayor of New York. He also signed and sent an illuminated invitation scroll to the International Trade Fair in Toronto, May 29 to June 9th. Canadian Consul-General Kenneth Greene and United States Consul-General Earle Russell headed consular corps from Toronto and New York respectively, who are passing on the invitation to their

*The mission of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada is to accurately document Canada's achievements and exploits in aviation and aerospace and to preserve them for future generations.*

RL 891-1996

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The Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada (AHFC) is a federally-chartered not-for-profit organization. While the current emphasis is on Avro and Orenda, the future activities of the Foundation will cover the complete history of Canadian aviation.

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Cash donations over \$25.00 and "gifts-in-kind" will be acknowledged by a receipt for income tax purposes. For more information on the AHFC and how to support its activities, please write to:

**The Aerospace Heritage Foundation  
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**P.O. Box 246, Etobicoke "D",  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The warmer weather is now here.

Along with it comes the news we had to move from our location at 1 Steinway, Unit 8. Yes, we have closed the doors of this location to move into storage. We had three days notice and thanks to the Doran and Robertson family, the move was completed.

Where do we go from here? If you have any suggestions, give me a call.

By the way, what ever happened to the movie that was to be made about Avro? Watch for fast-breaking information in the next Pre-Flight.



Nick Doran, President AHFC

### ***New York Welcomes, continued:***

countries. Girls in the national costumes of some of the 35 countries participating in the Fair were at hand at both airports.

### **The first official mail ever carried on a jet transport was carried on this historic flight.**

In addition to these 15,000 first-flight covers, specially prized by philatelists, we "jetmailed" some souvenir postcards to our friends commemorating this important date in mail history. Many of these last were mailed from the Toronto By-Line Ball just before the flight.

The *Jetliner* carried its first passenger on this flight, Gordon R. McGregor, OBE, DFC, President of Trans-Canada Air Lines, who commented favourably on the aircraft, as well as our assistant-general manager, Fred Smye, and the project designer, Jim Floyd. Crew members were Don Rogers, pilot; Michael Cooper-Slipper, DFC, his assistant; Bill Baker and Mario Pesando, flight engineers.

### **The *Jetliner* flew the 360 mile route in less than an hour, about half the time taken by present-day airliners.**

(That's in 1950, folks! - Ed.)

As a result, much publicity resulted and the *Jetliner's* feat was the talk of the town. Typical of the world-wide press reaction was a front-page story and photograph in "The New York Times", in itself something of a feat. The *Jetliner's* name appeared in lights on Broadway (on the "Times" news screen) - another generally accepted proof of success. Radio and television gave the event much attention. All the newsreels covered the achievement and added their millions of *Jetliner* fans to the millions reached by other media. There were numerous other signs of interest, of course, such as the window display on the *Jetliner* given by Dunhill's on fashionable Fifth Avenue.

A police escort with sirens blaring whisked the Avro Canada's delegation and others through the traffic to a welcoming Canadian government luncheon in the fabulous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Consul-General Green graphically pointed out the advance of aviation, in which Canada played so large a part by noting that less than a century ago, in 1855, a man named George Baker in Hamilton travelled to New York by horse and buggy - and it had taken him 14 days to get there. He said that every dollar Canada realizes by the sale of these planes to the United States would be used to

increase our own purchases of US goods. Business is a two-way proposition and just as goods must flow freely in both directions between our two countries. Walter N. Deisher, our general manager, went into detail about the superiority not only of the *Jetliner*, but our other products as well. Mr. O'Brien spoke about the friendship between Canada and the United States, noting that he had not smoked a pipe of peace but one of friendship.

The *Jetliner* was put through her paces on other separate occasions before the press, representatives of various airlines and delegates to the annual aeronautical meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and was the cause of universal admiration.

All in all, the international debut of the *Jetliner* at New York was a very fine prelude to its forthcoming appearance before delegates from abroad to the International Civil Aviation Organization and Aviation Writers Association at Montreal on the 1st of June, in England at the Society of British aircraft constructors Show on September; and in various other places throughout the world.

**From an article in the Rochester Democrat and Chronical, January 11, 1951.**

*A commercial jet airliner, built in Canada, has smashed all American speed records for aircraft of that type by flying from Chicago to New York in 1 hour and 42 minutes. Besides hurtling at 459 miles an hour, the airliner set a new altitude record for transports.*

*This should give our nation a good healthful kick in its placidity. The fact that our massive but underpopulated good neighbor to the north has a mechanical product that ticks anything of ours is just what the doctor ordered for our overdeveloped ego. The Canadian plane's feat accelerates a process already begun in this nation – a realisation that Uncle Sam has no monopoly on genius.*

*That amazing flight of the Canadian plane serves another purpose – a fair and friendly warning that our neighbor is equipped to step into a competitive field. All in all, that record-breaking plane flight was pleasant to dwell upon, especially if the blast of the jet engines blew the cobwebs from some of our thinking.*



**ATTENTION: Ex-members of No. 11 (BR) Bomber Reconnaissance, No. 408 "Goose" and No. 440 "Beaver" Squadrons of the RCAF!**

**MEMORIAL DEDICATION**

You are invited to attend or take part in this Memorial Dedication which will take place on Sunday, June 2, 1996 on Queen Street in Bowmanville. The official opening ceremonies of the new Rotary Park and the Dedication of the Colville Memorial Clock Tower in memory of Bill, Alex and Sandy Colville. These three brothers from Bowmanville were killed in action during WW II, serving as pilots with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

- + F/S (P) William F. Colville, 25  
KIA, No. 11 9BR) Sqn., Torbay, NF. May 6, 1942.
- + F/O Alexander C. Colville, 28  
MIA, No. 408 Sqn., Stuttgart, Ger. March 16, 1944.
- + F/O (P) John S. Colville, 24  
KIA, No. 440 Sqn. near Orbec, France. Aug. 18, 1944.

***We Will Remember Them.***

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We shall remember them.*

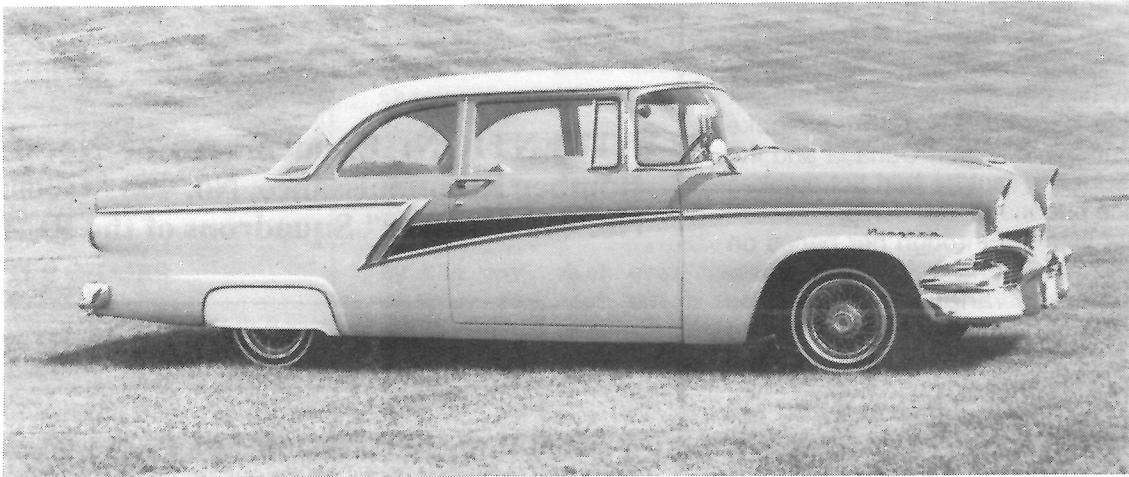
**Please note:** For details and itinerary, please contact  
Bill Calver,  
2 Summerfield Court,  
Bowmanville ON L1C 2E7  
(905) 623-4150 or (613) 541-0721

**FYI:** Bill Calver is one of the original Avro' Canada men, a good friend and supporter of AHFC. (Ed.)

**History . . . is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.**

– Edward Gibbon, "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire"

# WIN THIS CAR!



## **1956 Meteor Niagara Two-Door Sport**

**6 Cylinder, Serial No. 270BK56213049, Frame-Off Restoration,  
One owner, Accident-free History, Full Instrumentation,  
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Appraised Value - \$10,000 +**

**Benefit Car Raffle for  
The Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada  
TICKETS \$5.00 EACH  
Drawing: June 1, 1996! It's just around the corner!  
Need not be present to win.**

**Send for your book of tickets to sell or purchase:  
AHFC  
P.O. Box 246, Etobicoke "D"  
ETOBICOKE ON M9A 4X2**

**The Foundations needs your help with the selling of tickets.  
When you sell a book of tickets, 2 are yours FREE!  
This is to show our appreciation for your efforts.**

***Take this opportunity to help AHFC acquire sustaining funding to:***

- extend its educational program
- develop information packages for the public
- locate valuable Canadian aviation and aerospace artifacts
  - research historical events
- support the AHFC display of aerospace artifacts

**Members willing to help in the sale of tickets, please  
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or write AHFC, P.O. Box 246, Etobicoke "D",  
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