

Barnes creates stand for Arrow

By WENDY LONG

Special to Halton Hills Weekend

Georgetown welder Conor Barnes has created a stand for a model of the legendary Avro Arrow.

The model that is suspended in simulated flight atop Barnes' custom-made stand is one of the original models that stood in the lobby of the A.V.Roe company in the late 1950's.

The model and Barnes' stand will be displayed at the Ontario Science Centre next month.

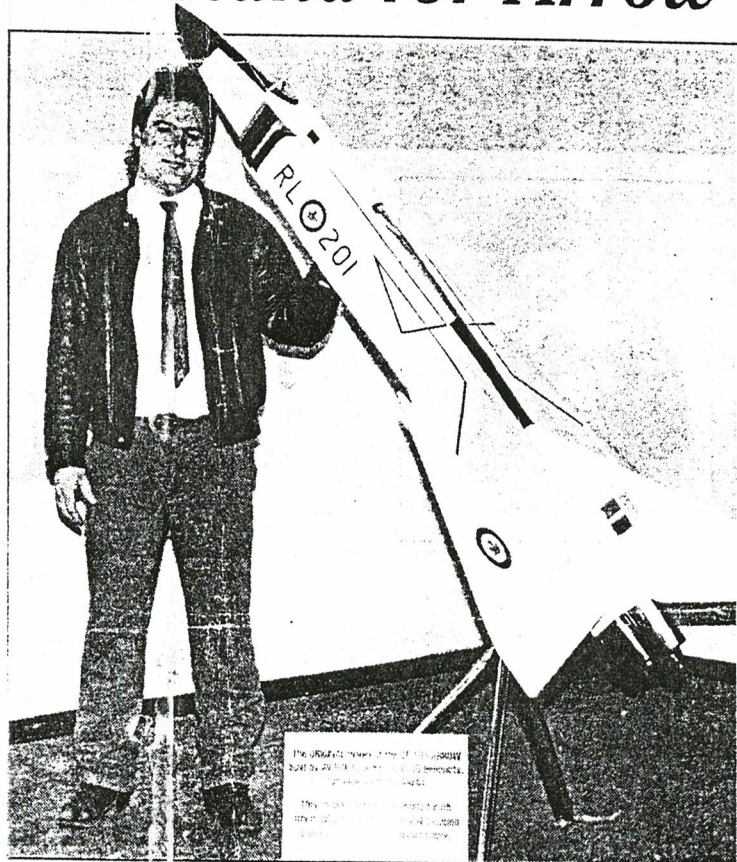
Barnes owns his own business specializing in mild and stainless steel fabrication. His ad in a Toronto paper caught the attention of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada (AHFC), who was looking for someone to manufacture the stand.

The Avro Arrow model was obtained by the AHFC after the closure of the Aviation Memorabilia Museum, owned by the Massin family in Niagara Falls.

In the Aviation Memorabilia Museum the model was mounted on the wall, said AHFC vice-president Alan Dares. The Aerospace Foundation preferred to feature the model as if the Arrow was in flight, and thus required the floor stand for exhibition. Dares said they were looking for someone with "welding expertise and aviation interest who had a direct interest in the project." Barnes fit the description.

Barnes donated his services to create the stand for the Avro Arrow model. Barnes' father, Colm Barnes who is now deceased, worked on the Avro Arrow himself as an electronics engineer.

The stand Barnes' made is constructed from steel and chrome-plated. Its lines follow those of a



Georgetown welder Conor Barnes has created the stand that the famous Avro Arrow will rest upon while on display at the Ontario Science Centre.

tripod. "It's a really clean look," said Barnes. "It's a good project for Canadians to get to know more about."

The model is presently in storage until the display is finalized. It is an impressive 85 lbs of composite materials, including hardwood. It is twelve feet long with a wing span of over four feet.

The real Avro Arrow planes were

controversially dismantled in 1959, although it was cited to be the most sophisticated aviation technology in the world.

"It was a real loss of Canadian technology and we should make sure that it doesn't happen again," said Barnes. "We have to get involved in resource development. We have to take the initiative in technology."

4 years ago?

C.K. BARNES
ELECTRONICS
ENGINEER AT
AVRO

RADIO SPECIALIST
WORKED ON
"BLACK BOX"