



## Tiger Moth returns home

Sixty-two years after its first flight, a 1942 de Havilland Canada D.H. 82C (No. 3874) Tiger Moth has returned home. Toronto-born test pilot, aeronautical engineer and aerospace industry executive, Bob Laidlaw, 78, of Nevada City, California, donated the airplane to the Toronto Aerospace Museum after recently restoring the aircraft to flying condition.

Laidlaw's Tiger Moth made the 3,000-mile journey starting on June 18, just north of Lake Tahoe, California, flying through western Canada to Toronto, arriving at the museum on July 16.

"This flight to Toronto is really a double homecoming for me," said Laidlaw. "I learned to fly on a Tiger Moth with the RCAF in 1943, and my first aeronautical engineering job was with de Havilland in the same building where the Toronto Aerospace Museum is located today."

Laidlaw spent a month flying the bright yellow aircraft from California, making stops at Moose Jaw and Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Brandon and Neepawa, Manitoba, where this very aircraft was flown by fledgling student pilots during the Second World War.

"We're delighted to add a Tiger Moth to our collection," said the museum's chairman, Claude Sherwood. "This Toronto-

built aircraft made a very important contribution to the Canadian war effort, and we are delighted to see it return to Downsview, to the very factory where it was built 60 years ago."

Tiger Moth No. 3874 spent most of its wartime career based at Neepawa, Manitoba, with No. 26 and No. 35 Elementary Flying Training Schools. After the war it was sold to a farmer and stored in a barn until 1989. Laidlaw acquired it in 1998, and on April 29, 2000, piloted it on its first flight after 55 years of inactivity.

The Tiger Moth is one of Canada's best known training aircraft. No. 3874 was one of 1,500 built by de Havilland at Downsview to equip wartime RCAF flying schools of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). More than 50,000 pilots learned to fly at BCATP flying schools, of which 24 were equipped with Tiger Moth trainers.

The Toronto Aerospace Museum facility at Downsview is the oldest aviation heritage building in the Toronto area, and the oldest intact aircraft factory in Canada.

## Avro Arrow blueprints found?

A New Brunswick woman thinks she has an original set of blueprints for the long lost Avro Arrow. Jeannine Myers says they were given to her by a friend who found them in

an Ontario dumpster approximately 20 years ago. The paper is yellowed and fading with age, but hasn't yet been authenticated.

"I've been trying to find out what to do with it," Myers said. "Something like this is part of our history. We have no proof today that it ever existed, because it's all been hidden, taken away."

The most advanced jet fighter interceptor of its day, the CF-105 Avro Arrow was designed to take on Soviet bombers during the cold war. The Arrow was flight tested in 1958, but Prime Minister John Diefenbaker scrapped the program, ordering everything to do with the Arrow destroyed, including completed and flying prototypes, models, drawings and even the manufacturing jigs used to build the Arrow.

Myers' drawing is said to have the serial number of the first Avro Arrow flown in 1958. Her interest in the document was renewed when she saw news reports about divers searching Lake Ontario for parts of Avro Arrow models that crashed in the 1950s (Arrows in the Abyss, *Canadian Aviator* Vol. 14 No. 4).

Myers suggests it's possible to build another model of the plane today, using the specifications. "All the dimensions are there — topside, underside, nose and tail."

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