

# Sparks fly over Avro discovery

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**TORONTO** — Amateur aviation buffs with a passion for the Avro Arrow are launching rockets at each other over the discovery of two models of the legendary aircraft.

At issue is ownership rights to the models of the Avro, both discovered in Lake Ontario this past week by different searchers.

"It's not clear to the province at this point (who owns them)," said Kathy Kenzora, a spokesman for the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

The two models were among nine launched into Lake Ontario in the 1950s during aerodynamic testing by the developers of the famous aircraft.

Members of one search team, the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada, released video footage yesterday of a model they said they identified Sunday on the lake floor.

The discovery came on the heels of an earlier find by searcher Dave Gartshore, who says he located one of the historic artifacts last weekend.

Now the heritage foundation is accusing Gartshore, a marine mechanic who found the model on his own with rented equipment, of breaking the law since he doesn't have the government permits necessary to do the exploration.

"We're a very professional group and we're not going to get into a mudslinging contest," said Bil Thuma, a geophysicist who works with the foundation, who says the models belong to the Ontario government.

The group says it may need to spend \$100,000 to restore a model, which it wants to place in a museum in recognition of the plane's importance in Canadian history.

The Avro Arrow was a high speed, supersonic, twin-engine plane, meant to launch a national aviation industry and defend the north against the Soviets.

The ambitious project was killed in 1959 by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, nixing thousands of jobs in the process.

An official with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation yesterday said survey licences have been granted to two groups, including the heritage foundation, but not to David Gartshore.

The official said additional "underwater licences" are required to actually bring the models to the surface.

**'We're not going to get into a mudslinging contest'**

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