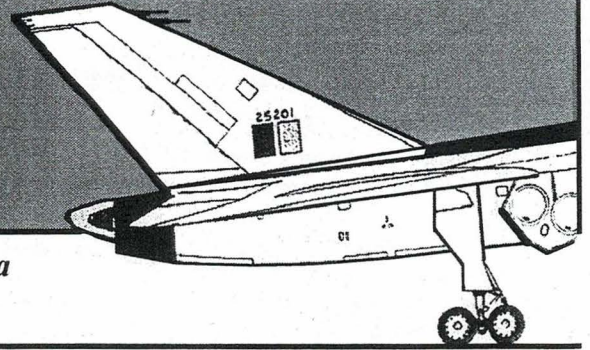


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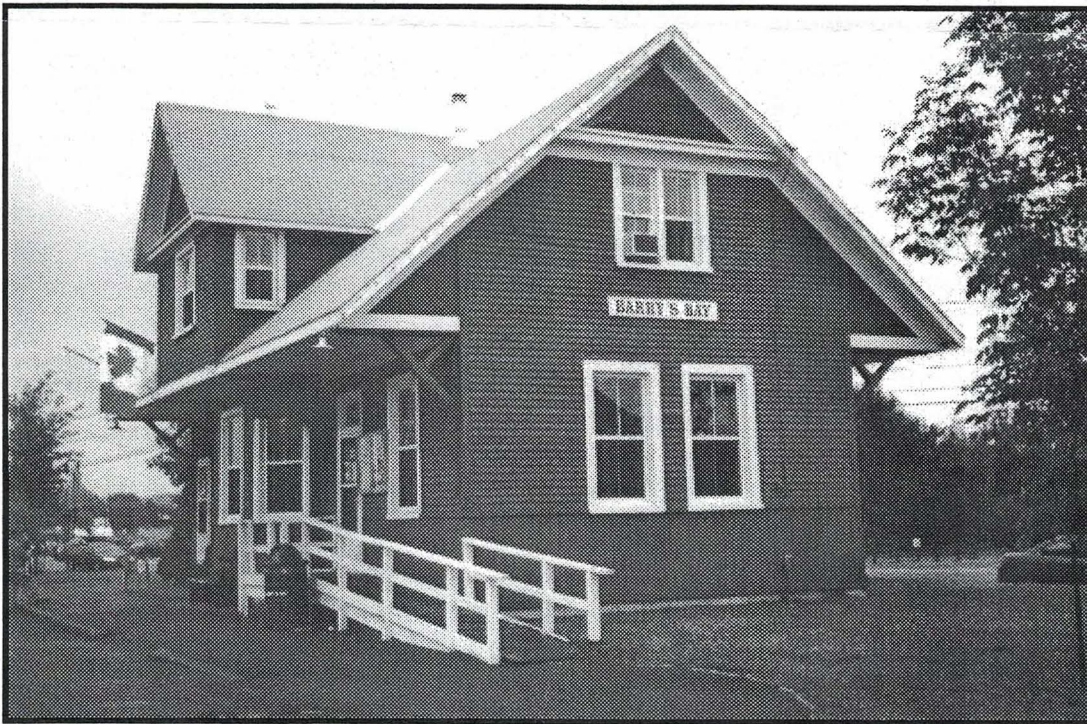
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A Day at Zurakowski Park



Not too many people have heard of Madawaska Valley, even in Ontario. Yet over the years, it was a part of this province that attracted those who wanted peace and quiet and an opportunity to live their lives without fear or unwelcome intrusion. It's not just pretty country; it's beautifully green and rugged, with lakes and rivers and plenty of trees. Small wonder that 'way back in the mid-19th century, early Irish and Polish settlers immigrated there to make a better life for themselves. They settled in and near Barry's Bay, situated on the northern tip of Lake Kamaniskeg, one of the many lakes in the area. And these good people chose Barry's Bay as the appropriate location for a park, a worthy project to honour Janusz Zurakowski: Polish Air Force and WWII RAF fighter pilot; innovative but careful test pilot; hero and consummate, professional dedicated to his craft. Moreover, it would unveil a life-size statue to him at the formal opening ceremonies on Saturday, July 26, 2003.



Founded 1989

AHFC

Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada



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From the President

Sadly I must inform everybody that our President, Ian Farrar, passed away in the early hours of Sunday, September 21, 2003. Ian was a founding member of the Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada (AHFC) and a member of the Board of Directors since its inception. Ian's dedication and tireless efforts to achieve the goals of the AHFC will be sorely missed by all of us.

The dedication ceremony of Zurakowski Park in Barry's Bay was held on Saturday, July 26, 2003. Guests and supporters from many parts of the world gathered to honour Janusz Zurakowski. Nick Doran attended as the representative of AHFC, and reported on this event, including photographs.

The AHFC has been a proud supporter of this effort by the people of Barry's Bay since the Park Project started. Please read the two-part report of this magnificent event.

Frank

Zurakowski Park, cont'd.

The Project Committee, chaired by John Hildebrandt, with the full blessing of the local municipal government, had decided the best place for Zurakowski Park was in Barry's Bay. Actually, it's right smack in the middle of town. The Project Committee must have put in many hours of planning, because it did all the right, correct things. It developed a realistic, long-term project plan; the location was ready on the appointed day; an Internet presence was set up, plus an e-mail address; a spiffy brochure with the salient information was designed; and invitations to key people and the general public in timely fashion.

Nick Doran, on behalf of our Foundation, made the four-hour drive with his wife Shirley through the rugged, scenic countryside. They left the smog of Toronto and headed north to Bancroft via Hwy 62 to meet Hwy 60 at Barry's Bay. Nick said they thoroughly enjoyed the trip, the time went by quickly and they did not encounter any difficulties in getting there. Shirley agreed with Nick and commented that everything seemed to sparkle, and was neat and clean. They found the town welcoming, and were glad they came on Friday. After checking in at the Balmoral Hotel, Nick spent a pleasant half-hour with Mark Zurakowski, talking about the dedication on Saturday, and the health of his father.

Following the chat with Mark, Nick and Shirley went over to the park, at which time the volunteers began a rehearsal for the following day. John Hildebrandt came by and explained the order of what would happen on Saturday. At the same time, Mark Robbins, the MC, reviewed his notes and comments. Such preparation ensured that everything next day would be worthy of presentation. All this took about two hours or so. The whole volunteer group then went for a well-earned rest and snack break. John was kind enough to act as escort and guide of the whole complex, including where the future museum would be located, and other items of interest connected with the Park Project

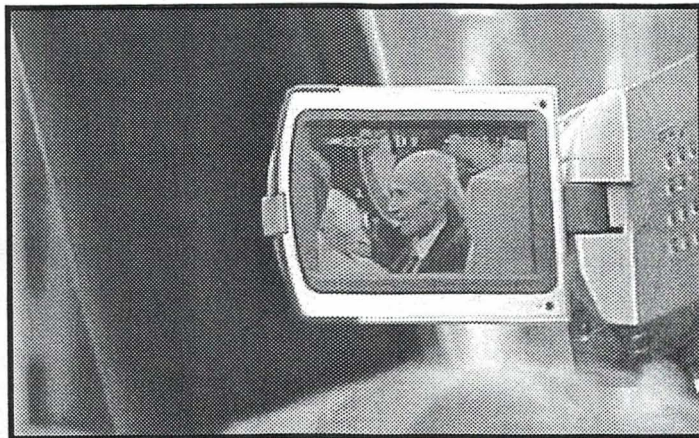


Saturday - Park, cont'd

Saturday was another day, however. But even with the threatening rain clouds, the program would go forward. There was a question of Janusz Zurakowski attending, because of his health; it was hoped that he could attend (which he did, later on). The main highway to Barry's Bay was closed to through traffic, to allow people to gather in front of the park. By noon hour, space was at a premium in front of the large model of the Arrow and the covered statue of Janusz Zurakowski. Precisely at 1:00 pm, Mark Robbins, Dedication Chair, addressed the crowd with the agenda for the day. The dedication of the park was then opened by a parade, led by an OPP car, followed by a contingent of OPP officers on foot, horseback and motorcycles, Air Cadets, veterans, Scout flag-bearers. They were followed by an OPP cruiser escorting Mark and George Zurakowski in a white vintage Corvette, ending the parade.



A hush fell over the crowd, when the people saw a car approaching, and recognized Janusz and Anna. Everyone spontaneously burst into applause, welcoming them. Janusz and Anna took their seats in the place of honour beside their sons, by the unveiled statue.



Next were the formal greetings from the representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments. Besides the government members, over 50 additional dignitaries were present to honour Janusz: Kazik Szrajer, a close friend of Janusz; Don Rogers, chief test pilot of production aircraft at Avro; Major-Gen. Richard Bastien, Assistant Chief of Air Staff; Col. Bill Werney, CO, CF Aerospace and Test Establishment, Cold Lake AB; Brig. Gen. Wladyslaw Saczonek, Military Naval & Naval Attaché, Polish Embassy; the Borden Detachment of the CF Language School; Dr. Pawel Dobrowolski, Poland's Ambassador to Canada, who brought greetings from people in Poland and Canada.

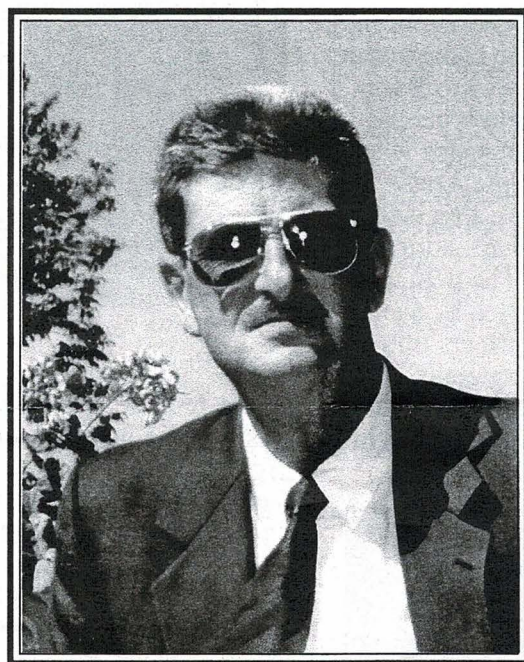


The rest of this long list of worthy people were members of the active military, veterans, OPP officers, artistic, cultural, youth and social organizations, AHFC, represented by Nick Doran; and Desmond Todd, William Calver and others from Avro.

END OF PART ONE

The rest of the dedication program, afternoon and evening, will be detailed along with photographs in the next issue (November - December) of Pre-Flight.





Ian Farrar

November 4th, 1935 ✝ September 21st, 2003

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush;
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not here. I did not die.