

Avro Arrow ID tag dug up

By TONY FITZGERALD

The Hamilton Spectator

CASTOR CENTRE

Gene Holowchak has stumbled on a chunk of Canadian history.

The 46-year-old Castor Centre farmer found an aluminium identification plate from an Avro Arrow in his corn field.

"I was out in the cornfields looking at the weeds to see if I should be cutting them down, when I saw this odd-shaped thing sticking out of the ground," Holowchak said. "I picked it up. It was a four-inch by four-inch plate with holes where rivets go into it. I dusted it off a bit but it wasn't until I got back to the house and put some water on it and starting reading it."

He saw the letters 'DND' at the top and 'Crown Property.' Then he spotted CF 105.

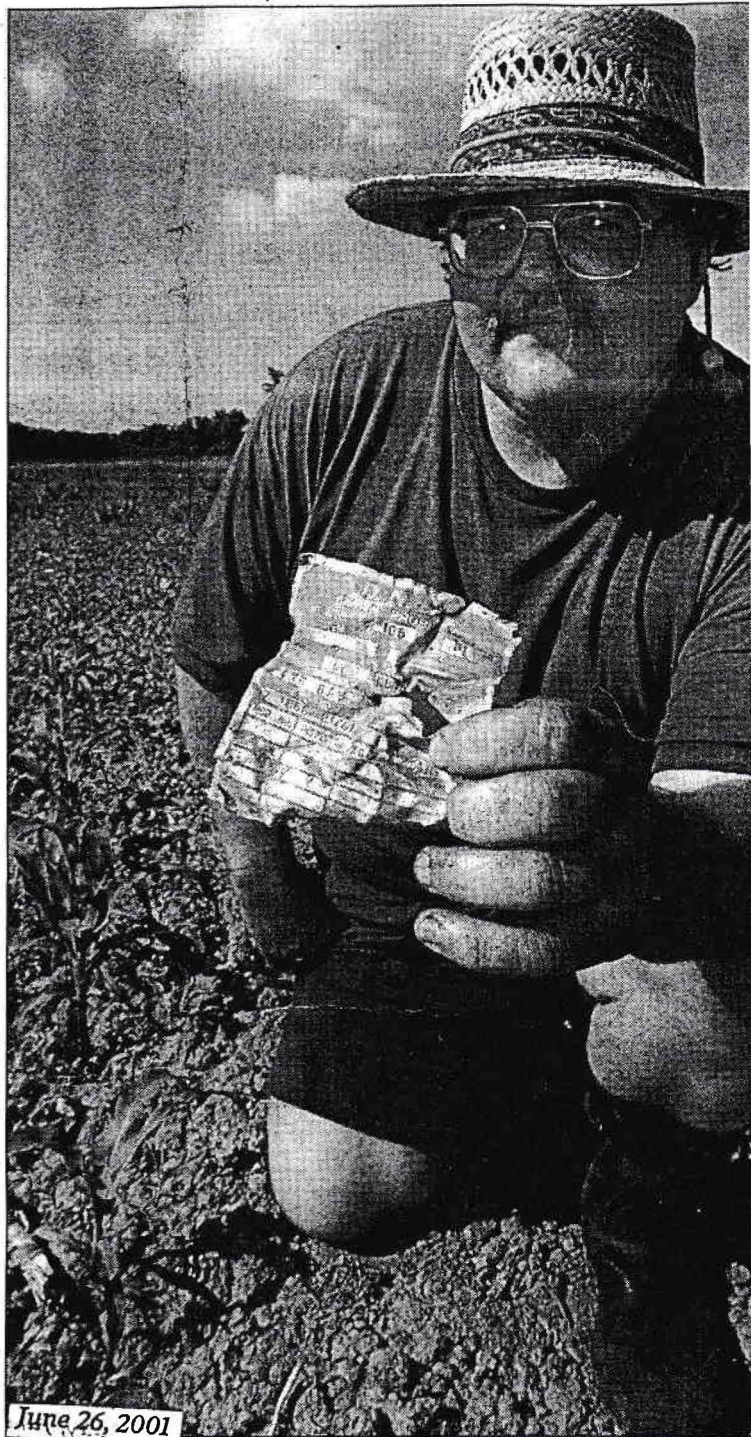
"Man oh man. I'm thinking there's only one thing that ever had that designation," said the former Dofasco computer programmer. "It was stamped Made by Avro Aircraft."

"I know something about it. I read a book a few years ago and I watched the miniseries on the CBC and here I am holding onto a piece of modern Canadian history."

He went on the Internet and talked to an engineer to confirm its authenticity. He plans to meet with the people at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope.

Holowchak has no idea where it came from or if it is the only piece of the famous Canadian aircraft on his farm. He doesn't know if there is any connection, but he is seeing pieces of gears popping up in through the soil in the same area.

He thinks he stirred up the metal



June 26, 2001

RON POZZER, THE HAM

Gene Holowchak, 46, found an ID plate for an engine bay from an Avro Arrow plane which he found in his corn field about 300 feet from the road.

from somewhere from nine inches under. It looks like it's been there for quite sometime.

"I've been told farmers wouldn't have buried old tractors and equipment on their farms. This is all bizarre to me. I have no idea what this stuff is."

they were discarded.

Only five Avro Arrow jets were built before the Canadian government stopped making them in 1959.

Holowchak says it probably will be worth his while to dig