

Peggy Rollings

Worked For:

A.V. Roe Canada in the Avro engineering department as an assistant

Possible Other Leads:

In The Hills (references Peggy Rollings) March 21, 2009 by Jeff Rollings. *In The Hills* is an independent, locally owned print and online magazine. **Comments after the online article have more possible Avro leads. Both of Jeff's parents and uncle worked at A.V. Roe Canada.**

<https://www.inthehills.ca/2009/03/the-day-the-avro-arrow-died/>

(Below is part of that article):

The Day the Avro Arrow Died

It's been 50 years since Black Friday, the day the Avro Arrow was cancelled – and economic disaster spread like wildfire through the hills.

March 21, 2009 | [Jeff Rollings](#) | [Heritage](#)

The Avro Arrow brought my family to Dufferin. Well, not literally, but in the late 1950s both my parents and an uncle had good jobs in Malton, working for A.V. Roe Canada on the design and manufacture of what is now the mythical CF-105 Arrow interceptor aircraft.

Though neither of my parents completed high school, they were both earning fairly handsome incomes. They decided to move out of Brampton and bought a 140-acre farm along the banks of the Grand River in Amaranth. The farmhouse on the property had previously burned down, so they set about making plans to build a new home.

My mom worked as an assistant in the Avro engineering department, and as a result she knew some of the test pilots. As she and dad visited the farm one day in the fall of 1958, they were buzzed by a low-flying Arrow – one of only five that ever flew – the pilot thinking it very funny that he managed to scare my mother senseless.

On February 20, 1959, only weeks after taking ownership of the farm and with the house not yet started, the Diefenbaker government in Ottawa abruptly cancelled the Arrow project. At four in the afternoon a blunt announcement came over loudspeakers at the Avro plant. Workers were to return their tools, remove all their personal belongings, and not expect to come back. My parents were both instantly unemployed.

The day of the cancellation became known as Black Friday, and it's easy to see why. The project employed more than 47,000 people, either at Avro itself, its sister plant Orenda Engines, or among its thirty major suppliers and 650 sub-contractors. Many of those employees lived in Peel, Dufferin and the surrounding region. It was estimated at the time that a quarter of Brampton's entire work force was employed in some way by Avro.

As workers headed home to shocked families who had heard the news on the radio, the region itself was thrown into economic chaos. Fat pay cheques, totalling in the order of three million dollars a week, had been flowing into the local economy for years. Brampton, with a 1959 population of about 14,500, was in the midst of unprecedented expansion, as were all areas within commutable distance of Avro's Malton plant....

Jeff Rollings on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jeff.rollings.7>

Other:

Researched by: Barry Copp (2023)

