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Olds Albertan

Vol. 25 Issue 31

Tuesday, July 31, 2016

oldsalbertan.ca

Your Community Newspaper

A piece of history found in Olds

*Couple finds Avro Arrow
plans in basement*

BY Doug Collie, MVP Staff

An Olds resident has found a piece of Canadian history – plans for the Avro Arrow, a supersonic Canadian-designed and -built war-plane that was scrapped in 1959, amid much controversy.

Bob Nelson's wife Connie came across the plans when cleaning out the couple's basement.

Design of the Arrow began in 1953.

Reports say five planes were made. It was so fast it reached Mach 1.9 in test flights.

However, the federal Conservative government ordered the program scrapped, citing concerns over spending by the previous Liberal government. It shut the program down in February 1959, driving the production company out of business.

The cancellation created a storm of controversy. Some historians and those in the aircraft industry are still debating the wisdom of that decision.

The decision forced highly skilled

engineers and production staff who had worked on the project to find jobs elsewhere. Many did, in the U.S. Critics say the Canadian airplane industry has never been the same.

Bob recalls when Connie found the plans.

"I was upstairs reading. She came up with this and she said, 'do you want this?' I looked at it and I said, 'I don't even know what that is.'"

"Then I unravelled it and I saw it was plans for the Arrow. And I thought, 'where in the world did I come by that? Because I remembered having it once I saw it.'"

"But when I looked at it and she showed it to me, I could not – and still to this day, I can't remember where in the world I bought it," he says.

Nelson suspects he obtained the plans some time between 2000 and 2002 when he and Connie attended a display during which the Arrow was rolled out in Toronto.

Nelson, 72, says he's a "big-time" fan of aviation.

Continued on page 2



COW-A-BUNGA! - Courtney Lavalley gets bucked off during ladies cow riding at Bowden Daze this past weekend. For more photos, see pg. 11.

Noel West/

FEATURED PROPERTIES

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Custom Built Executive "Dream" Home 1572 sq ft 5 bedrooms 3 baths. Fully developed with high end finishing through out. RV parking with full hook ups. Double attached garage PLUS 25x27 Detached Garage. A MUST-SEE.</p> <p>MLS# C4196200 • \$599,900</p> | <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Three Main Floor Bedrooms plus 2 additional bedrooms downstairs. Open concept 3 baths, double attached garage.</p> <p>MLS# C4195192 • \$412,000</p> | <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Affordable Family Home total of 5 bedrooms. Fully developed basement, Detached garage. Home backs onto playground Great Family neighbourhood. Close to Schools.</p> <p>MLS# C4196200 • \$324,900</p> | <p>Great Family Home 3+1 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, double attached garage. Backs on to Deer Meadow School.</p> <p>\$342,900</p> | <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Great Starter home or Revenue Property 3 bedroom, 2 bath Close to schools.</p> <p>MLS# C4171720 • \$199,000</p> | <p>REDUCED</p> <p>This 3+2 bedroom Bi-Level "Sparkles" Fully developed extra large double detached heated garage. Close to schools.</p> <p>MLS# C4171018 • \$327,500</p> | <p>Fabulous Executive Home in SW 3 Bedrooms & 3 Baths. On over lot backing onto acreage home This home is IMMACULATE</p> |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|


Plans offered to museum *Continued from page 1*



Bob Nelson checks out the Avro Arrow, rolled out of a Toronto hangar.

* DOWNSVIEW AIRPORT? NORTH YORK

Submitted photo



August

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| MONDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| CLOSED | 9:00-6:00 | 9:00-6:00 | 9:00-6:00 | 9:00-6:00 | 9:00-6:00 | 12:00-5:00 |
| 29 CLOSED | 30 ARR PIRATES TODDLER & PARENT 10:00-11:30 MONDAY MATINEE "JURASSIC PARK" 12:30 | 31 JEDI PADWAN AGES 6-10 9:30-11:30 AM RSVP JEDI KNIGHTS AGES 11-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP | 1 JEDI KNIGHTS AGES 11-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP | 2 JEDI KNIGHTS AGES 11-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP | 3 JEDI KNIGHTS AGES 11-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP | 4 CLOSED |
| 5 CLOSED | 6 CLOSED | 7 VLOGS & YOUTUBE AGES 14-17 2-4 PM RSVP | 8 VLOGS & YOUTUBE AGES 14-17 2-4 PM RSVP | 9 VLOGS & YOUTUBE AGES 14-17 2-4 PM RSVP | 10 VLOGS & YOUTUBE AGES 14-17 2-4 PM RSVP | 11 CLOSED |
| 12 CLOSED | 13 DINO DIGGERS TODDLER & PARENT 10:00-11:30 MONDAY MATINEE "PETER RABBIT" 12:30 | 14 BUTTONS & STRING AGES 3-5 10-11:30 AM RSVP MIX & SKETCH AGES 8-13 1:30-3:30 PM RSVP | 15 BUTTONS & STRING AGES 3-5 10-11:30 AM RSVP MIX & SKETCH AGES 8-13 1:30-3:30 PM RSVP | 16 BONDING OVER BOOKS "BRIDES OF BANFF SPRINGS" 7:00 FRIDAY NIGHT FILMS "PINK PANTHER" 6:30 BY DONATION | 17 FRIDAY NIGHT FILMS "PINK PANTHER" 6:30 BY DONATION | 18 DROPPED STITCHES 10:30 |
| 19 CLOSED | 20 DINO DIGGERS TODDLER & PARENT 10:00-11:30 MONDAY MATINEE "PETER RABBIT" 12:30 | 21 MASTER BUILDER AGES 6-10 9:30-11:30 AM RSVP HATS WITH STYLE AGES 14-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP SCRATCH CODING AGES 6-10 2-3:30 PM RSVP | 22 MASTER BUILDER AGES 6-10 9:30-11:30 AM RSVP HATS WITH STYLE AGES 14-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP SCRATCH CODING AGES 6-10 2-3:30 PM RSVP | 23 MASTER BUILDER AGES 6-10 9:30-11:30 AM RSVP HATS WITH STYLE AGES 14-17 1:00-4:00 PM RSVP SCRATCH CODING AGES 6-10 2-3:30 PM RSVP | 24 COVER TO COVER READERS' CHOICE 10:00-12:00 | 25 COVER TO COVER READERS' CHOICE 10:00-12:00 |
| 26 CLOSED | 27 SUMMER | 28 SUMMER | 29 SUMMER | 30 SUMMER | 31 CLOSED | 1 CLOSED |

The library will be closed for the Heritage Day long weekend Aug 4-6.

"From the time I can remember I wanted to fly, I wanted to be a pilot, I wanted to be in the Air Force, I wanted to be everything airplane, you know," he says.

Instead, he ended up taking over the family farm when his father died in 1963.

He had a keen interest in the Arrow and followed its production and demise. "I watched it on TV when they rolled the very first one out and did testing on it," he says.

*Nelson agrees with those who say the Arrow was ahead of its time. *"(It) could outfly and outmanoeuvre and out-carry anything that's out there today," Nelson says, adding it did so with an engine that was "about a third of the engine that was going to be in it in the finalized airplane."

The Arrow also carried an "unbelievable" amount of weaponry, Nelson says.

Nelson had proposed giving the plans to the Mountain View Museum and Archives but says he was told the museum wasn't interested in them.

"I tried," he says. "It kind of surprised me. I thought, 'this is museum material.'"

*So he gave them to a friend, Craig Chapman.

Mountain View Museum and Archives program director Chantal Marchildon could not be reached for comment by press time.

HOPE & HAPPENINGS

Rev. John Lentz, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Olds

There's a boat in a storm. A number of the men aboard this boat are fishermen and have been in rough water before, but even these men are afraid on this day. The threat of being swallowed up by the waves seems too real and present. Then, strangely, their teacher, who wasn't in the boat, comes walking across the stormy waters right up to their boat! They were afraid of the storm. Now they're afraid of one that approaches, calmly, in the middle of all this chaos. One of them, Peter, decides it would be good to go out on the water to do the same as his Teacher. He does fine at first, but then the wind and waves take over and, afraid all over again, begins to sink. The Teacher reaches down, pulls him up and both enter the boat, and the wind and waves become still.

Likely, you've heard or read this account of an event in the life of Jesus and the disciples. It's from Matthew 14. There are a number of great life lessons that can be drawn out of this account, but the one that strikes me immediately, is the interesting relationship between Jesus and Peter. Pete so wants to be like his Teacher. Yet as he takes his eyes off Jesus, he sinks. And when this

