AVRO ARROW AT ABBOTSFORD



Arriving at Abbotsford by bus on the Society of Flight Test Engineers annual outing to the Air Show I saw a familiar shape in the distance. After getting Sheila settled in the General Electric Chalet I took off to investigate. Sure enough it was the Arrow mockup used in the CBC miniseries "The Arrow". I took the above photo and then spent time talking with the local Abbotsford ground crew and the creator of this masterpiece, Allan Jackson.

Allan explained that he had a contract for the Arrow to remain in a hangar at Abbotsford until after next year's airshow, after which it would return to its permanent site in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. On the right, Allan is explaining how the Arrow can be taxied using the hydraulic



motors installed in each main landing gear together with a castoring nose-wheel. The taxying operation requires a "Pilot" using 2 levers to control each hydraulic motor and a "ground crew" of 3 in the fuselage to run the "machinery". The local ground crew told me of several thousand man hours required to refurbish after the movie and the move.

Roy Combley Dec 1997.