

Avro Arrow cancelled 60 years ago

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Feb. 20 was the 60th anniversary of the cancellation of the Avro Arrow.

Built during the “golden age of aerospace” of Canadian aviation in the village of Malton, Ont., it was cancelled in 1959.

The iconic plant opened in 1938 under “National Steel Car” on what was the Robert H. Peacock farm. That same land today is next to Canada’s largest airport, better known as the Lester B. Pearson (Toronto) International Airport.

National Steel Car changed to

Victory Aircraft for the Second World War and made the famous Lancaster bomber. But Avro Aircraft made Canadian history with the new owners, British Aviation brothers Alliott Verdon Roe and Humphrey Verdon Roe.

The Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow, introduced in 1953, was destined to be the Cadillac of interceptor fighter aircraft. After the Arrow shutdown 60 years ago, many engineers and other former employees ended up at NASA and aviation companies, so the ideas lived on.

The museum is working on a 60

per cent scale, piloted replica of the CF-105 Avro Arrow in Springbank, called the “Arrow II.”

I highly recommend visiting the A.V. Roe Canada Aviation Museum, located at the Springbank airport. A public open house is held on the second Sunday of each month, between noon and 3 p.m. There is lots of memorabilia, including original blueprints, as well as t-shirts (2 for \$15 if you can believe that!), posters, flight simulator and even Avro Arrow beer! Visit www.avromuseum.com for more information.