

Communiqué

The QAM and the City of Longueuil organized the first Aerospace Heritage Day.

Saint-Hubert, QC, September 28th, 2019.

As part of the *Journées de la culture*, the Québec Aerospace Museum (QAM), with the support of the City of Longueuil's Office of Culture, held its first Aerospace Heritage Day at Saint-Hubert airport on Saturday, September 28.

The École nationale d'Aérotechnique (ÉNA) was the host and event partners also including the Cosmodôme, the Montreal Aviation Museum (MAM) and the Société historique et culturelle du Marigot.

In spite of the bad weather, more than 300 visitors came out to view kiosks of companies and organizations associated with the airport. This included heritage and technology displays by the Canadian Space Agency, Héroux-Devtek, Pratt & Whitney Canada (P&WC) and CAE.

The MAM displayed the nose of a Bristol Bolingbroke, twin-engine bomber manufactured by Fairchild Aircraft of Canada in Longueuil for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) during the Second World War.

And the QAM displayed a P&WC JT15D turbofan engine, an ejection seat and an air conditioning system associated with the museum's Avro CF-100 Canuck jet fighter, RCAF serial number 100760, which was used by P&WC between 1967 and 1982 to test fly the JT15D. This historic aircraft was displayed outside the ENA facility parked next to its successor, the prototype Learjet 36 (Serial No. 36-001) which is now part of the ÉNA educational aircraft collection. This was an important milestone since the last time the two planes were seen together was in 1982.

The exhibition by the Société historique et culturelle du Marigot included pieces of the Apollo Lunar Module (LEM) landing gear leg made by Héroux-Devtek in Longueuil some 50 years ago. Visitors could learn more about this project from Mr. Gaston Bernier who was a quality control inspector for these important parts for the NASA program to fly the first humans to the moon. In addition, the Society also exhibited a model of the R-100 airship that arrived in Saint-Hubert in 1930 on a record setting trans-Atlantic flight from the UK.

The exciting story of the R-100 was also presented by author and historian Michel Pratt gave a magnificent lecture to an enthusiastic audience.

Two screenings of Québécois filmmaker Denis Boivin's "L'Amour a des Ailes" on early Quebec aviation were also well received. Paul Gagnon, former director of the Quebec government air service and author of the book "Mémoires du pilote du jet à Lesage", also presented his book which highlights the aviation connection to Quebec political history.

On the military side, the Field Technical Training Squadron of 438th Tactical Helicopter Squadron "Wildcats" opened its hangar and the public were invited to sit in a Bell CH-146 Griffon helicopter and question to two technician instructors.

The Musée des ondes Émile Berliner, known for his "Montréal dans l'espace" activity, currently presented at the Cosmodôme in Laval, exhibited a gramophone playing La Bolduc's song about the R-100, and a display about the radio equipment installed on the famous airship.

The Montreal chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) displayed documents and archive material highlighting the history of Saint-Hubert airport. Earlier this year, QAM hosted a tour of ÉNA for CAHS historians and members from across Canada. (see press release of May 25, 2019),

ÉNA, the host of the Aerospace Heritage Day, had a booth where the public could learn about the courses that give it a world-class reputation for aerospace technical education.

Finally, many model makers and collectors participated in the event and displayed beautiful models highlighting different chapters in Canadian aviation history.

The Aerospace Heritage Day proved to be a success. It attracted a wide variety of exhibitors and attendees and was well organized thanks to the leadership of QAM members and students volunteers from the ÉNA. The possibility of hosting a second event in 2020 is currently being evaluated by the QAM and the Bureau of Culture of the City of Longueuil.

The organizers would like to thank the manager of the Saint-Hubert airport, DASH-L, as well as the CAHS for their financial support for the first Aerospace Heritage Day. Thanks is also extended to the two QAM volunteers who prepared more than fifty lunch boxes for the exhibitors and volunteers involved in hosting the event.

Information about City of Longueuil :

<https://longueuil.quebec/en>

About Québec Aerospace Museum :

The Quebec Aerospace Museum was established as a non-profit society at Saint-Hubert Airport in August 2018.

The main objective of the Society is to create a museum on the property of St-Hubert Airport that will showcase for the general public the innovation and achievements of the aerospace industry in Quebec and Canada. The educational programs of the Museum will provide schools, cadets and youth movements with privileged access to the exciting world of aerospace and help stimulate interest in aeronautics and space among younger generations.

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