



## *Communiqué*

### **Québec Aerospace Museum displays rare aviation artifacts from 1930 British R.100 airship visit to Saint-Hubert Airport and Canada.**

*Saint-Hubert, QC, February 17th, 2019.*

A unique collector's item from the largest aviation event in Canada in the 1930s was recently displayed belonging the open house organized by the École nationale d'aérotechnique (ENA) at Saint-Hubert Airport.

Thanks to the close collaboration between the Quebec Aerospace Museum (QAM), 438 Squadron of the RCAF and the ÉNA, visitors to the open house were able to admire a 15-foot (4.57 m) diameter wooden propeller that was intended for the 719 ft (216 metre) long British airship R.100, which arrived at Saint-Hubert Airport on August 1, 1930 after a record-breaking 78 hour trans-Atlantic flight from Cardington, England with 36 crew members and six passengers.

To support the trans-Atlantic flight of the R.100 and future airship service between Canadas and the United Kingdom, the Canadian government constructed a new airport at St Hubert equipped with a gigantic 197 ft (60 metre) high mooring mast in St. Hubert which had all the equipment required to moor, refuel, load and service future airships.

Almost one million people saw the R.100 during its visit to Canada including hundreds of thousands of people who visited St. Hubert airport to see the R.100 attached to the mooring mast, visit the airship or take flights on more than a dozen aircraft.

During a flight from St. Hubert to Ontario on August 10-11, the one of the R.100 engines lost a propeller which fell into the St. Lawrence River. A workshop in the Montreal area was contracted to manufacture a spare R.100 propeller, but an error in the interpretation of the blueprints caused the pitch of the propeller to be reversed, rendering it totally unusable. The propeller stayed in Saint-Hubert when the R.100 departed for England on August 13, 1930.

Following the crash of the R.101, a sister airship, in October 1930, the R.100 was permanently grounded and scrapped in 1931. The airship mooring mast at Saint-Hubert was dismantled in 1938.

The rare R.100 propeller is now owned by 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (nickname "Wildcats") at St. Hubert Airport which agreed to lend it to the QAM for the occasion. At 15 feet long, the R-100's propeller impressed fans and connoisseurs alike, who had never seen a wooden propeller of this size.

In addition to the R.100 propeller, the Montreal Aviation Museum, (a sister museum of the QAM) displayed a pulley at ENA used for docking of the R100 at Saint-Hubert airport.

During the Open House, hundreds of people visited the QAM display and learned about Saint-Hubert and Quebec's rich aviation heritage.



## About Québec Aerospace Museum :

The Quebec Aerospace Museum is established as a non-profit society at Saint-Hubert Airport since 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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