

## Meet the Neighbours - Jim Bruce

Artist Jim Bruce, with his family, has lived in Baie D'Urfe since 1975. He was recently honoured by the Retired Airline Pilots of Canada to recognize his "contribution to Canadian aviation through art".

This spring Jim donated four of his paintings to the newly renovated Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. One of Jim's paintings is of a Trans-Canada Air Lines (TCA – later Air Canada) Vickers Viscount, titled, "At the Blast Fence" (below, right). The original painting is displayed under the left wing of the actual aircraft. Over his career, Jim has donated 14 of his paintings to aviation museums across Canada. Several works can be admired at the Montreal Aviation Museum in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.

In 1954, he started his career at MacDonald Bros. Aircraft in Winnipeg as an aeronautical draftsman where he prepared engineering drawings for maintenance and modification to RCAF aircrafts. He was then hired by TCA in Winnipeg, and in 1960 he transferred to the maintenance base at the Dorval airport. In 1964, he achieved a goal he had nurtured from age 12 – to become a commercial artist. He was hired by The Montreal Star as an advertising layout artist. He was later promoted to Art Director.

Jim left the Star in 1973 to start an advertising consulting firm based around his experience as a commercial artist and graphic designer. In his spare time, Jim took up painting, concentrating on aviation and wildlife subjects. During the centennial of Parks Canada, in 1985, he received an award for a series of paintings he did of their sites in Quebec. Jim has been a member of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society, and the Montreal Aviation Museum since their inception, and is a charter member of the Canadian Aerospace Artists Association.

Locally, he co-designed the previous Baie D'Urfe yacht club sign. He was an active member of the yacht club for years and sailed in many Tuesday evening races.

Two books encapsulating his career as an artist are available for loan at the Baie D'Urfe library.



*Watercolour of the Fritz Farm barn in Baie D'Urfe c.1978. The barn was demolished in 1979*



*At the Blast fence*