

## 2003 ACHIEVEMENTS

**In July 2003 the IAR positioned itself as a major International aeronautical event in Canada, Europe and USA.**

In 2003 The IAR attracted many participants from Ontario and the US. Twenty-three general aviation aircrafts, 66 adventurous people, eight exciting days and 2,500 nautical miles of challenging fun: this was the International Air Rally 2003. From July 19th to 26th, 2003. The participants flew from Quebec and Southern Ontario north to James Bay, east to the edge of continental Canada and back.

Thirty aircrafts had originally registered, 23 departed from Rockcliffe airport, Ottawa (Museum of Aviation) The IAR fleet was composed of three helicopters (including an impressive Astar 350 B-3 amphibian from Palm Beach Florida); a CESSNA A185E amphibian and a 185 CESSNA seaplane, two PIPER NAVAJO (one sponsored by Rolls-Royce Canada) 4 CESSNA 172 (two in a tie for the VFR Trophy) A BEACH BARON BE55 from Palm Beach (second place IFR), a PIPER CHEROKEE 6 PA32 from Florida, a BEECHCRAFT SUNDOWNER C-23, the superb CESSNA 425, the fast MVS BONANZA "third IFR prize", a BEECHCRAFT S-35, a retractable MOONEY M20J "Best landing"; A 340A CESSNA from California, three 185 CESSNA, one C337 and a 421 GP and of course we will not forget the impressive DASH8 lent by Bombardier Aerospace, and its crew who came to the rescue of the VFR pilots in Chibougamau and carried them all to the Innu territory of Pakua Shipu.

**The 2003 International Air Rally was a great celebration for everyone!**

This Rally combined three major discoveries in a pilot's order of priority: first the discovery of an immense and magnificently wild territory; then, the people, men, women, children, a mixture of cultures who united for the sake of sharing and enjoying nature and space and of course, the third and not the least: the discovery of oneself: **Yes! I did it!**

**2500 nautical miles travelled and not only for the sake of flying!**

We all came back to earth to discover destinations that for most of the participants, without the Rally, would have remained anonymous. Yes there are beautiful places in Ontario and Quebec! But is there a better way to discover these destinations other than with the people who are committed to their community: Mayors, Tourist Associations, Economic Development organizations?

## THE 2003 JOURNEY

The Canadian **Museum of Aviation** opened its doors to all of us and we enjoyed the very talented 50 Musicians band: the «*Musique des Cadets*» from the eastern *Canada Armed Forces cadets* while visiting the most extensive aviation collection in Canada which ranks among the best in the world! We would have loved to stay but, off we went to **Markham** where Mr. Cousens, Mayor of the town of Markham himself received us for diner at the prestigious **Angus Glen Golf Club**. What a beautiful town! So quaint and yet the host of the largest High-tech firms in North America.

250 nautical miles later we stepped out of the aircraft to jump on a «quad». Destination: the source of the best water in the world! The famous **Esker** water. Let's have a drink before we visit Mr. Pageau and his famous wild animal shelter and now it is barbecue time! Mr. Cherubin, Mayor of Amos himself is waiting for us with these impressive steaks cooked to taste! This was just the beginning! Up we go to James Bay! The Hydro Electric experience! Why not?! **Hydro Quebec** is welcoming us at the airport and providing the facilities and of course organised visit of the largest underground electric Dam in the world! and it gets more exciting every day with a visit to the Chibougamau's abandoned mine and a little drilling experience-Diane got also quite an

experience there: she performed her first flight! How else can you enjoy the beautiful scenery of the St-Laurent estuary! Flying of course! Beware! Baie-Comeau people are very warm people but also very creative! They confronted the participants with a very realistic life and death situation: *The first aid ground competitions*...However nothing could be more realistic than the Innu camp set up by the Innu people for their yearly Innu celebration. There, we ate and danced in company of these wonderful people. What a unique experience this was! We will never forget it. Drummondville was the final destination. Thank you Mr. Paquet for organising such a great reception at the beautiful airport site by the water. There again, the «**Musique des Cadets**» cheered us up before we all parted to go back to our normal lives.