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Canada's Snowbirds mark seventy-fifth anniversary of powered flight

The Canadian Forces precision flight demonstration team, the Snowbirds, are marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of powered flight in the Commonwealth. It was in 1909 that the Canadian pilot, John McCurdy, first flew his biplane, the *Silver Dart*, at Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

The Snowbirds are also commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Now in their fourteenth year, the aerial gymnasts launched this year's season with demonstrations over the shores of frozen Great Slave Lake at Hay River, Northwest Territories. They will perform at 54 different sites across Canada and the United States, ending with a show in Harlingen, Texas, next October.

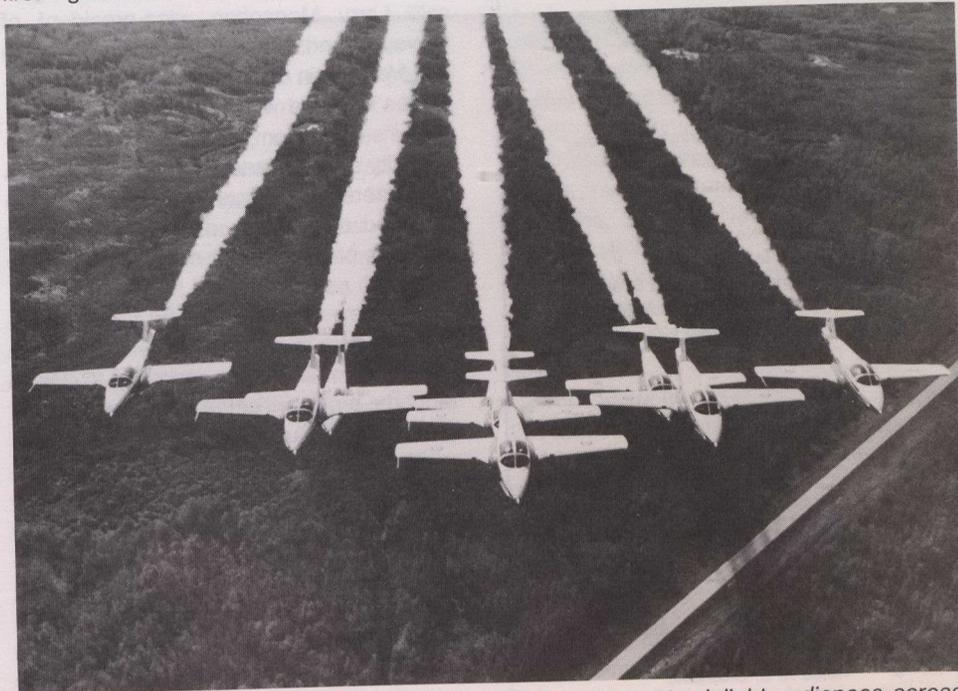
The highlights of this year's schedule will be an appearance at the annual Canada Day show held July 1 in Ottawa and a special performance in Baddeck, Nova Scotia to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first flight in the Commonwealth.

By season's end, more than 3 000 000 spectators will have witnessed the skill and professionalism of Canadian Forces pilots and ground crew as demonstrated by 431 Squadron and their red, white and blue Canadair *Tutor* jets.

The Snowbirds' 25-minute routine consists of a fast-paced series of formation and solo manoeuvres by the pilots and their *Tutors*, the Canadian Forces standard jet trainer.

The Canadian-designed and-built Canadair CT-114 *Tutor*, a two-place jet trainer, weighs approximately 3 000 kilograms and is powered by an Orenda J-85 engine producing 1 200 kilograms of thrust. The aircraft is fully pressurized and has a service ceiling of 12 000 metres.

The team, officially designated 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, is based in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The 12 officers and 11 enlisted men comprising the team are volunteers. The pilots, in a tradition unique among jet demonstration teams, are



Now in their fourteenth year, Canada's Snowbirds continue to delight audiences across Canada and the United States with their spectacular flying stunts.



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