

Snowbirds salute Olympics

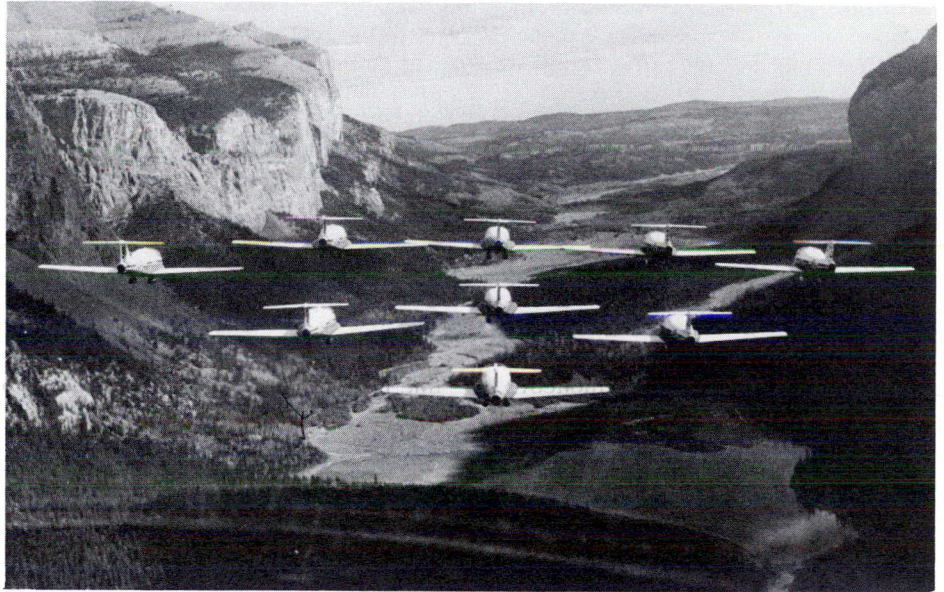
The Snowbirds, aerial display team of the Canadian Armed Forces, takes to the air this summer to salute the opening of the twenty-first Olympic Games in Montreal, July 17.

The nine-plane formation of *Tutor* jet training aircraft present a 27-minute performance featuring loops, rolls and formation changes at speeds between 90 to 350 knots, and as low as 300 feet above the ground.

The display team also took part in United States' July 4 Bicentennial celebrations at Philadelphia.

The first air show of more than 50 to be held in Canada and the United States was held at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, May 7. The last one will be held at Rimouski, Quebec, on October 11. The schedule covers all ten Canadian provinces, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and several locations in the U.S.

The team led by Major Denis Gauthier, consists of nine *Tutor* jet aircraft, flown by Canadian Armed Forces pilots based at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. The *Tutor* is the basic jet trainer used to train pilots in the Canadian Forces. Depending upon weather conditions, the team provides a routine of up to 28 minutes in duration, involving nine-plane formation manoeuvres followed by various patterns of seven aircraft formations and inter-spaced by two opposing solos. Trails of white smoke



are present throughout the display. The Snowbirds continue the tradition established by such noted teams as the Golden Hawks and Golden Centennaires.

The Snowbirds were formed in 1971 under the leadership of Major Glen Younghusband. They grew to a nine-plane demonstration team and performed some 75 shows during the summers of 1971 and 1972. In 1973 Major George Miller became team leader, with authorization to perform a fully aerobatic display.

In 1974 the Snowbirds were the first team in the Western world to perform inside the Arctic Circle, flying a show at Inuvik, Northwest Territories, on

May 14. Through 1974 the Snowbirds performed 82 demonstrations across Canada and in the northern United States.

At the start of the trials for the 1975 team, Major Denis Gauthier was appointed commanding officer and team leader, and remains as such for the 1976 season.

The year 1975 was also notable for the Snowbirds; returning to the "Land of the Midnight Sun", the team, on May 11 performed a full display at midnight, at Inuvik. Throughout 1975 the team flew 74 shows at communities both large and small across Canada as well as at other major locations in the United States.



The Olympic Yachting Centre, Kingston, Ontario, is 185 miles west of Montreal.

Olympic sailing at Kingston

Portsmouth Harbour, Kingston, Ontario, the site of the Olympic sailing events at the Olympic Games, is located 185 miles west of Montreal. Kingston, the home of an international sailing regatta for the past five years, is on the northeastern shoreline of Lake Ontario at the start of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It has been described as the fresh-water sailing capital of North America.

Some 360 competitors from 45 countries will be accommodated at Queen's University, whose halls of residence will serve as the Olympic Village in Kingston.

The university is a short walk from the Olympic Yachting centre in Ports-