

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ASTRONAUT BOB THIRSK 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11

July 20, 2009

“The Eagle has landed.”

They were four simple words, but for the world that watched, they heralded the age of human space exploration.

I'm Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk, onboard the International Space Station. It's an honour to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission with all of *you* at the Canadian Air & Space Museum.



When John F. Kennedy made his “We choose to go to the Moon” speech, he gathered together the will of the American people to make what seemed to some an impossible dream, a reality.

The Apollo missions did more than inspire Americans to pursue the heights of science, technology and exploration—they inspired the world.

In fact, the first feet to touch down on the grey and desolate Sea of Tranquility were manufactured by a company based in Longueuil Quebec, in the same city where the Canadian Space Agency now resides.

Also impressive, some of Canada's best aeronautical engineers contributed their expertise to NASA's quest to land a man on the moon.

The spirit of the Apollo program lives on in Canada's own space exploration endeavours, from Marc Garneau's first voyage into orbit twenty-five years ago, to the present time of this long-duration mission.

Today, let's honour the dedication and the courage of the ones who blazed the trail for us. Let's follow their steps and be inspired by their leap of faith.