

# Concorde to zip into Windsor on Tuesday

By Rob Ferguson  
Star Staff Reporter

Boosters of supersonic travel say you don't get jet lag flying on the Concorde — but that doesn't mean airport security officials are immune.

With one of the world's 14 sleek, white Concorde scheduled to touch down at Windsor Airport just before 7 p.m. Tuesday for a 24-hour visit, RCMP, city police and Essex OPP are bracing for crowds.

And while police and airport officials have no idea how many gawkers will show, the curious are certain to outnumber the 80 British journalists and financial analysts being whisked into town by Allied-Lyons PLC — the giant British conglomerate — to tour its Hiram Walker distilleries.

"I don't anticipate any really great problems other than numbers themselves," said RCMP Const. Phil Grayce of the airport detachment.

City police and OPP will keep an eye on traffic in and around the airport, calling for more officers or closing roads if things get too hectic.

So what's the big deal about the Concorde, you ask?

It's 1965 technology. The first Concorde marked its first passenger flight

11 years ago.

"It's still the only supersonic passenger aircraft in the world," said British Airways public affairs manager Honor Verrier in a telephone interview from Toronto. The airline operates seven Concorde.

At Mach 2, twice the speed of sound, the jet zips from London to New York at an altitude of 16 km in the near-blackness of space — high enough for its 100 passengers to see the curve of the earth — in just three hours, compared to about seven for a jumbo jet. The round-trip fare, including champagne, is \$5,490 US.

**TUESDAY'S PLANE** load will be coming from Toronto as part of a five-day London-Scotland-Toronto-Windsor-New York-France tour of Allied-Lyons holdings. The jet takes off for the 90-minute flight to New York on Wednesday at 6 p.m. No modifications to Windsor Airport are required other than adjustments to equipment for unloading passengers and baggage.

The closest the curious will get to the Concorde is the airport lobby, grounds and nearby roads, Grayce said. Anyone caught climbing over the fence or sneaking onto the airport tarmac will be charged with trespassing.

The usual security staff of one

Mountie is being boosted to three for the landing.

Anyone heading to the airport to pick up passengers from two early evening incoming flights is advised to show up early.

Airport manager Rick Koroscil said the best Concorde-spotting will be done from Essex County Road 42 or airport parking lots.

"You won't be able to see much from inside the terminal because there's not much glass facing the tarmac," he said.

While the Concorde has a reputation for loudness, Koroscil doesn't think he'll be deluged with complaints from residents along the flight path because the visit is a "one-shot deal."

"This is an airplane we may never see again," he said.

If you miss the visit, you can see an Air France Concorde at Pearson International Airport in Toronto, the base for four days of two-hour "discovery" flights from June 18-21.

But you still can't go for a spin.

At a cost of \$895 per person, the "trips to nowhere" are sold out, said Vancouver travel agent Randy Parihar, who arranged the flights out to the Atlantic Ocean and south to Bermuda, then back to Toronto.



Photo/Star files

THE CONCORDE, the only supersonic passenger aircraft in the world, travels at twice the speed of sound