

Flying Fire Trucks

– A Pictorial History of Aerial Fire-Fighting in Canada

Trevor McTavish

Update #3

March, 2002

A partner and I spent the weekend of March 16th and 17th visiting with our friend at Sproat Lake BC. During our visit, we discussed our project and remembered to drop by the Forest Industries base to take some photos. Luckily we were blessed with absolutely beautiful weather on Sunday morning, creating some spectacular photos of both the Mars out of water.

An interview was conducted with Ken McTavish. My father who flew with Norcanair in the late 1960s performing fire patrols in Cessna 180s and bombing in Beavers.

April 2002

Former TBM pilot, Ralph Langemann was interviewed about his experiences flying TBMs in British Columbia and New Brunswick.

Several in depth emails were received from Jack Minor, included was information on several early fire fighting systems by the Ontario Provincial Air Service, the history of CF-CRR a Canadian PBY that was credited with sinking a German U-boat. Jack's been doing a great job in recording information for use by the Museum and people such as our selves and I'd like to thank Jack for his efforts.

I now have a personal email account. I can now be contacted at phomctavish@hotmail.com

A partner visited the Saskatchewan Government at Prince Albert Saskatchewan and photographed both the Trackers and CL-215s that were being used for recurrent pilot training.

May 2002

I managed to accomplish many tasks during my visit to Sproat Lake. In addition to photographing the Martin Mars, I interviewed most of the Flying Tankers staff, including pilots, mechanics, flight engineers and managers. To everybody there – thanks.

An interview with Leo Lejeune of Quebec was performed via long-distance telephone. Mr. Lejeune has flown with the Provincial Air Service of Quebec in PBYs and CL-215s, been part of the CL-415 test program and is now marketing the Ayres-Thrush as a low-cost initial attack tanker.