

Flying Fire Trucks

– The History of Aerial Fire-Fighting in Canada

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Update #4

June, 2002

This month I conducted several interviews via the telephone. First off was Mr. George Maude of Sidney BC. This gentleman is the current owner of the nameplate to the Caroline Mars, saved before it was scrapped in the mid-1960s.

Contact was also made with Mr. Paul Gagnon. He was the first Director of the Quebec Air Service and a strong supporter of the purpose-built fire fighter concept. He'll be a great asset for the early years at QAS.

July, 2002

I spent eleven days in New Brunswick visiting with Forest Protection Limited. General Manager Dave Davies and I talked about the company, its past, present and future, including the purchase of the new Air Tractor AT-802F. Also during this time, I met with the flight and maintenance crews in Miramichi and photographed the last remaining TBM Avenger fire bombers. I'd like to say a special thank you to FPL for all their help.

Many of the people I've talked to passed names of former co-workers to me as people I should try and contact. Over the summer I've managed to contact many of these gentlemen. As part of my efforts I spent a weekend in Victoria British Columbia interviewing an engineer who designed retardant / water tanks for the TBM, PBY and Mars and a retired TBM and DC-6 pilot from Conair.

August, 2002

In mid-August, I was able to meet with Mr. Donald Hamilton, owner of Air Spray (67) Ltd to discuss his company. While our meeting was brief, Don supplied answers to many of my questions.

I have purchased a slide scanner, which will allow me to copy slides without the need for expensive bills at the film developers (I had one \$200 bill from one gentleman's collection).