

Flying Fire Trucks

– The History of Aerial Fire-Fighting in Canada

Trevor McTavish

Update #5

September, 2002

During September I made several contacts with new people; letters, emails and phone calls were all made. I managed to finally meet Chuck Ellsworth, a former pilot with Flying Firemen and Avalon Aviation. Probably the most experienced PBY pilot in the world, Mr. Ellsworth and his wife were very helpful and hospitable during my visit.

During a quick trip out to Vancouver Island, I dropped in at Flying Tankers Inc and spent a good portion of an afternoon discussing their fire season.

October, 2002

I'm happy to announce that my slide scanner is finally up and running. My own photos and photos lent to me can now be copied without expensive bills from photo shops.

Again I made another trip to Vancouver Island (I guess I really like it there). This time I met with several employees from The Flying Fireman and Fairey Aviation. Together we discussed their experiences, the history of Flying Fireman and the work involved in creating some of the early fire fighting aircraft.

November, 2002

I've purchased my first home and am pleased to pass on my new mailing address.

57 Mayfair Close SE
Airdrie, AB
T4A 1T4

Neither my email, nor my phone number change. (403) 874-2094

Early in the month, I managed to meet with Jack Minor from Ontario. Jack and his wife were in Calgary and I was quite lucky to meet up with them after a failed trip to Sault Ste. Marie during the summer. Jack's been doing research into the Ontario Government Air Service and has passed a lot of his work on to me for my project.

December, 2002

More interviews with pilots this month, including a B-25 pilot from Northwest Air Lease. A visit to the Alberta Aviation Museum in Edmonton lead to some interesting finds in their archives.

Best of the holiday season.