

# **Flying Fire Trucks**

## **– The History of Aerial Fire-Fighting in Canada**

Trevor McTavish

Update #6

January, 2003

This month I met with John Gomany, who's been flying TBM Avengers for Forest Protection for the past twenty-five years. Not only did he have some interesting stories of his work in New Brunswick. He lent me a huge collection of photographs. I also met with a mechanic from The Flying Firemen who literally lives 'just down the block' from me.

February, 2003

This month I arranged several meetings in both British Columbia and Alberta.

Early in the month, I finally managed to meet Mr. Dan McIvor in Vancouver. Since I started this project back in August 2001 I've been trying to schedule a trip to meet the father of the Martin Mars. While there, we discussed not only the Mars (for which he's famous) but also his fire fighting experiments with a Grumman Goose.

Two weeks later another meeting was held, this time with Perry Dancause, Operations Manager of Air Spray ('67) Ltd. While we met in Red Deer, Perry answered questions, toured me through the new hangar facility and allowed me to take photos of the planes undergoing winter maintenance. I must say that Air Spray's new facility is quite impressive.

Finally, on the last day of the month I met with Linc Alexander and George Plawski in Langley. Some of you may know Linc's books from the mid-1960s. "Air Attack on Forest Fires" was (and still is) the most comprehensive book on fire bombing. Both he and George had flown for several companies in Canada and the USA and shared a wealth of information on their experiences.

March, 2003

A portion of this month's activities was spent copying materials lent to me over the past months. These included photographs, reports and some logbook entries.