

# **Flying Fire Trucks**

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

Trevor McTavish

Update #7

April, 2003

Just before Easter I spent a week in Sault Ste. Marie to find material for the Ontario Provincial Air Service. With the help of Jack and Heilene Minor and Bob Thomas I met a number of people; pilots and mechanics and Tom Cooke, the inventor of the first successful water bombing system in Canada. A good chunk of my time was spent in the archives of the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Center finding photos and reading reports.

During my Ontario trip I was welcomed at the OMNR facility at the airport and was given a tour, able to talk with some pilots and take as many photos as I wished - thanks OMNR.

May, 2003

During one of my weekend flights, I dropped by Red Deer on weekend and caught Air Spray performing a couple of training water drops. Luckily I always bring my camera with me when I go flying and I was able to take some nice pictures.

June, 2003

This month, I spent a lot of time creating captions for many of the photographs I've collected. This is important as it keeps track of what each picture is showing and who supplied the photo. I've attempted to make contact with a number of people across the country, to discuss their fire fighting experiences; some of these people were in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, one was in France. Included in the group is a PBY pilot from Norcanair, and the Managing Director of Avalon Aviation.

At the end of the month, my girlfriend and I made a long weekend trip out to Vancouver Island and made sure to drop by Flying Tankers for a couple hours. I managed to copy all of the company's slides and would like to thank everyone at FTI once again.