

Flying Fire Trucks – The History of Aerial Fire-Fighting in Canada

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Update #8

July, 2003

Thanks to a long distance calling plan, I've been able to start calling many of the out-of-province people who's names have been passed on to me. One such person was Terry Harrold, who owned Northwestern Air Lease in the 1970s. I also spoke to his son, Brian, who is a partner in NWAL and B-25 pilot for many years. It was interesting learning about the B-25 being used as fire bombers. I've also contacted pilots who'd flown Turbo Beavers, Twin Otters and CL-215s with the OMNR, A-26s with Air Spray, PBYs with the Newfoundland and Saskatchewan Governments.

Some of you might also be interested to know that my project has started to gather some exposure. My work was mentioned briefly in the summer newsletter of the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Center, which you might recall I visited in April.

August, 2003

Once again, I spent a good portion of time copied photos that have been lent to me. The biggest of these were from an Air Spray Invader pilot and a FPL TBM pilot who each lent me twenty years of photographs.

September, 2003

The beginning of September was taken with a road trip to Revelstoke and Kamloops BC. How better to get action photos and interviews than during the province's worst fire season? I talked to a number of Conair Firecat and Air Tractor pilots and the base manager in Revelstoke.

The rest of the month has been quite as I've been fighting a cold and an increase in work.