

# **Flying Fire Trucks**

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

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Update #10

January, 2004

This has been a quiet month, spent mostly returning materials to the people who've lent them to me and copying photos and articles sent to me by others.

February, 2004

I was warned about a television program called 'Land and Sea' (on CBC) this month that featured a 30-minute episode on FPL's spraying and fire bombing operations. I thought it was quite good, and it was neat to see some of the people I'd met back in 2002, when I visited New Brunswick.

Most of this month was spent editing and revising the material I'd written on the Newfoundland and Ontario Air Services, Avalon Aviation, Conair and Forest Protection Ltd.

Towards the end of the month I met Leo Lejuene, from Quebec City at a local CAAA convention. Leo and I talked for several hours about his experiences with the Quebec Government Air Service and as the Canadian distributor for the Thrush agricultural/fire fighting aircraft. It'll be interesting to see how sales of the Thrush 660 go over the next few years.

March, 2004

This month, I talked to Tim Garrish, who spent three years with Avalon Aviation, flying PBVs in the NWT, Alberta and Ontario. He then moved to Conair, where he flew CL-215s out of Yellowknife, and Air Tractors out of BC. Tim also flew the Fire Boss this past season. Thanks to Tim, I now have some great Avalon PBV photos and stories.

Following some dental surgery, I was finally able to sit down and watch some movies sent to me from Tom Wilson in BC. These three movies were made by/for Skyway back in the 1960s for training and one, included tanker evaluations at Kamloops, with the Stearman, TBM and B-17 in colour!

Contacts have been made in Manitoba, research into Buffalo Airways has begun and I'm looking at traveling to Newfoundland. Hopefully my schedule permits it.