

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

A new aviation book by Trevor McTavish

Update #11

April 2004

Thanks to my manager, I was able to meet his father, who was one of the first PBY fire bomber pilots in Newfoundland. While the month wasn't too productive, I was able to use this meeting to gather a lot of information on early fire fighting efforts on the East Coast.

May 2004

This month I was able to meet with Cyril Jones and Royal Cooper when I took my project on the road, this time to Newfoundland. For a week I interviewed people from the Air Service and two of the first fire bombing pilots with Eastern Provincial Airways back in the 1950s. Because of these interviews and meetings with others in the Gander region, I've learned a lot about the beginning of fire bombing in Newfoundland. A list of contacts is also being created so I can call on several other important members of Newfoundland's fire bombing history.

Photos were also taken and I'm happy to announce I've learnt quite a bit more about fire bombing on 'The Rock.'

June 2004

This has been a big month for me. First, I finished all of my schooling, and secondly, my girlfriend and I are now engaged.

I met Dan Dempsey, a former Snowbird pilot and author of the book, 'A Tradition of Excellence,' a massive book about the aerobatic performers in Canada. Dan was very open and helpful in sharing his experiences with publishing his book. Besides offering whatever assistance he may, Dan also gave me a great deal of encouragement for the work I've done so far.

For the book I was finally able to get scanning some of the backlog of photos that have been lent to me. I've managed to scan, sort and return several packages of photos. Those of you who've lent me materials and are waiting for their return – they're in the mail.