

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

A new aviation book by Trevor McTavish

Update #12

July 2004

Progress on my book this month has been slowed, as I expected due to wedding plans. However, I was able to expand on the history of Northwestern Air Lease and their B-25s, Avalon Aviation with PBYS and obtain permission for the use of many of the photographs I've collected over the years.

August 2004

Sadly on August 18, Tom Cooke, the Ontario Air Service pilot that's been credited with creating the first successful water bombing system (the Otter roll-tanks) passed away. Earlier this year Tom had been inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame for his years of service with the OPAS. I also discovered that Sheldon Luck, a legend in Western Canadian aviation and an early member of the Flying Fireman passed away in May.

At the end of the month, I was given some terrific information about the first fire fighting conversions used by the Quebec Government Air Service from Mr. Paul Gagnon. Paul was the QAS's first Director and the authority to talk about the Air Service's early days.

September 2004

This month, I didn't work on the project. Most of the month was spent with family issues, including the death of my grandfather. What free time I had was spent working on my family biography which will soon be available as a webpage I've been busy creating.