

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

A new aviation book by Trevor McTavish

Update #14

Summer, Fall and Winter 2005

Well I must confess that work on Flying Fire Trucks dropped off quite a bit this year. A good portion of my year was spent with my wedding and doing home improvement projects both for myself and lending a helping hand to my brother. At least I managed to get back onto a number of small projects with the book, including rewriting a bunch of the beginning chapters. I think they read a lot better.

I'd like to thank everyone for another year of support. I look forward to an even more productive 2006.

April 2005

Well, this too has prove to be another slow month for Flying Fire Trucks. Between work, family, home renovations and my model club responsibilities, the book has taken a back burner. But with the summer fire season approaching, I know I'll be heading out to some tanker bases and doing my best to gather more interviews and photographs.

March 2005

Unfortunately this month was far less active than I'd hoped. For two weeks I was out of the country on a work-related training course. I did however manage to turn my weekend off into a collection of valuable photos from Russ Lougheed. Russ's father was a key member of the Canspec Air Transport company that's been so elusive.

February 2005

I'm pleased to say that a bunch of work has been done this month, namely through a weekend interview and visit with George Plawski and Linc Alexander in Vancouver. Because of these two gentlemen, I was able to finally track down and create a decent record of Air Spray's early years and the role Kenting Aviation had in fire fighting. George did a wonderful job in fixing all of my mistakes and setting me on track.

I also performed two telephone interviews. One with Bill Nash, who was Kenting's Tracker pilot at the start of the OMNR project, while the other was Knox Hawkshaw. Knox was the engineer responsible for the fire bomber conversions done by Field Aviation in Toronto.

January 2005

Happy New Year everybody. This month, I really didn't manage to do much on Flying Fire Trucks, focusing my attention instead on a number of household issues. Isn't home ownership great?