

Foreword



Aviation history is much more than collection of places and aircraft. It is a history of economic development, military actions, communities and people's lives. Western Canada's aviation history is rich and exciting, as the unique geography of the region was a natural fit for the movement of goods and people by air, developing remote regions of the country and facilitating commerce and trade.

There are a few of us who fly for the joy of flying itself. However, for most people, the actual flying is often over-shadowed by the reason for the flight itself. We have progressed tremendously from the days when people used to pay for exhibition flights to experience the thrill of flying. Technological advances and training have made flying a safe, affordable means to visit friends and family, conduct business, and ship goods. Chris' work spans the pioneering first mail flights to the present day jets of commercial flying.

For those who have flown these routes to the small and large communities profiled or recognize aircraft that have had the pleasure of your contact in the pages of Chris' series, the memories of your own experience will be revived with clarity. For those who read with a passionate interest in the aviation history that shaped Western Canada, a new world of understanding and appreciation will be elicited. In either case, on your next WestJet trip across the rugged terrain of Western Canada, Chris' work will surely bring your thoughts down some 30,000 feet and back several years as your mind traces the history of the communities, aircraft and lives chronicled in this series.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clive Beddoe".

Clive Beddoe
Chairman, President and CEO
WestJet

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