

Winnipeg Free Press, September 8, 2022. Front page.



HIGH FLYERS

Royal Aviation Museum unveils Amelia Earhart-style Lockheed plane / [B3](#)

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Former Air Canada captains Gerry Norberg (left) and Rob Giguere taxied the 85-year-old Lockheed L-10A Electra to its new destination at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada.

Early symbol of Canadian air travel lands in new home

MALAK ABAS

THE Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada's newest show-piece aircraft is the same model as one piloted by Amelia Earhart during her ill-fated flight around the world.

The Lockheed L-10A Electra (call sign CF-TCC) arrived at the Wellington Avenue attraction Wednesday, where it will become part of its permanent collection after being donated by Air Canada.

The Electra is perhaps most famously known for its connection to aviation pioneer Earhart, who selected a model 10E for her attempt to fly around the world. Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in July 1937.

The 85-year-old bright silver plane now on display at the Winnipeg museum has lived many lives as well.

Retired captain Gerry Norberg said Wednesday he'd spent the summer polishing the aircraft for its big day (even that day, he pulled out a small cloth and continued to shine). He is more than fond of the small plane, which he manned for more than two decades as a volunteer with non-profit organization Dreams Take Flight, which flies children with special needs and their families to Walt Disney theme parks in the United States.

"It's one of those sad/happy days. It's kind of sad it's not going to fly, but I had 23 good years on it," he said. "And it's here at a beautiful new home. It's

85 years old, so it deserves a good rest."

CF-TCC was one of the first aircraft operated by Trans Canada Airlines (which would later become Air Canada). Purchased in 1937, it was used mainly for pilot training, along with freight and mail delivery and the occasional passenger flight.

Passing through other owners over the decades, it was later located in Florida, bought back by Air Canada in 1984 and restored by the airline. It was one of only two remaining Lockheed L10-A Electras still flying in the world before its retirement.

On Wednesday, retired captain Rob Giguere, whose father once flew CF-TCC himself, taxied the plane over to the museum from the hangar where it had been stored.

"It's pretty special," Giguere said. "It's going to go into a beautiful new museum, where it will inspire all sorts of young people who have passion for aviation."

The aircraft seems simplistic by today's standards — it seats 10 passengers and two pilots — but it was top of the line at the time. Giguere pointed to its wings, which have de-icing edges that would expand and crack ice off of the plane.

"To get from Halifax to Vancouver would be seven stops and probably about 20 hours of flying," he said. "But at the time, it was state of the art, it was as fast as you could go from Halifax to Vancouver."



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Retired captains Gerry Norberg (left) and Rob Giguere in the cockpit of the CF-TTC, one of the first aircraft owned by Trans Canada Airlines.

Both former captains said they hoped the aircraft's new place in history would serve as a way to spark young people's interest in aviation and encourage them to consider it as a future career.

"There's a lot of ways to get to it," Giguere said. "When you develop a passion — they say if you find something you love and you learn to do it well enough from somebody who will pay

you for doing it, you never work a day in your life. And most of the folks here feel that way about airplanes and flying."

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