

# FOREWORD



The Yukon is a beautiful place to live, or even to visit. An abundance of natural delights, lakes, rivers, glaciers, mountains, and even the highest mountain in Canada treat our senses with awe. Its terrain has made it the last frontier in Canada. But the Yukon was also the scene of many exploration ventures and wartime emergencies. Much of this occurred in the last century, in fact almost all of man's intrusion into this frontier territory has been since the 1898 gold rush. And much of the exploration and travel in the Yukon has been since the invention of the airplane.

There are still evident, scenes of many hardships, successes and failures in the travel and exploration for gold, silver and other minerals, and the need to move men and equipment to a conflict. All of these scenes and the artifacts of this recent past serve to make the present day exploration and visits to the Yukon even more exciting.

Chris Weicht's book, "Yukon Airways" is the fifth in a series on the aviation development in Western and Northern Canada, and the book takes us through the Yukon via the Northwest Staging Route and the Canol road. The story starts with the early aviation visionaries who developed rudimentary aircraft transportation links, and grows into the massive airway system used to supply a war half way around the world.

This book is essential reading for aviation enthusiasts who intend to fly or drive this route, and recommended reading for history buffs who wish to understand this history. This history is so recent many of the efforts, scars and gravestones are very much evident, and even the tough veterans who lived through the pioneering days are still to be seen and heard.

Chris Weicht has spent much of his career flying in Western Canada-and has flown into many of the places mentioned in the book. Since retiring from active commercial flying he has travelled in his camper to visit these sites in very recent years-thus giving us, the readers, an up to date perspective. His love for the subject is evident, and his preparations for this book have taken the last fifty years.