July 9, 2009

Lynn is embarking on a historic coast to coast flight with his Seastar SP, along with 122 other aircraft (210 pilots in over 62 different airplane types) leaving Boundary Bay, BC on July 17/09 and arriving in Baddeck, Nova Scotia on July 28 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the first powered flight ever to take place in Canada. This Century Flight is believed to be the biggest transition of aircraft to ever fly from coast to coast in peacetime Canada.

Last fall he was watching the TV show "Wings Over Canada" created by John Lovelace, and first heard about this historic flight. They were hoping for 100 aircraft to participate in total, with approx. 20 to 24 making the entire coast to coast journey deemed the “Century Flight” - the rest would join in along the way. Lynn submitted his application and resume and was notified Oct. 28/08 that he was #10 accepted. The first order of business was to finish building the Seastar SP that had arrived as a kit from Brazil in Oct/07.

The aircraft is an amphibian (lands in water or on land) biplane with retractable gear. The hull is of fiberglass composition and the wings are fabric covered. The pusher type configuration uses a 100 hp 4 cylinder aircraft engine with a 3 blade carbon fibre prop. It cruises at 90 kts (104 mph) and will take off or land in 300 – 400 feet.

Construction was completed in Nov/08 and he patiently waited for Spring to take his maiden flight. He now has over 40 hours flying time in the Seastar SP including 5 water landings. He took refresher ground school classes to get updated on navigation, terminology, filing flight plans, etc. as it had been 35 years since he passed his private pilots license. He is a member of the Iron Creek Flying Club that operates out of the Killam-Sedgewick airport. He has also been studying mountain flying techniques, and will be taking his float plane endorsement on his way out to Boundary Bay.

The logistics for the organizers has been staggering. What started off with 20-24 planes making the entire coast to coast journey has mushroomed into over 100 aircraft making the complete flight. To get all the aircraft into the air at each leg will take more than two hours, and refueling them will take as much as eight hours. It is estimated that it will take 140,000 litres of avgas to refuel the airplanes one way. Parked nose to tail, the 123 aircraft will form a line almost one mile long. During flight, it will take three hours for the airplanes to pass over a stationary location on the flight path. The average speed of the aircraft is 150 mph with the fastest being 400 mph and the slowest at 80 mph.

Two documentaries of the flight are being produced by John Lovelace Productions and will be broadcast in the Fall of 2009. For the 12 days of the flight, video and print updates will be posted daily on the website: www.crosscanadaflight.com

Lynn will have his SPOT satellite tracker onboard with him so friends and family can share in his travels. Join him on his journey at www.crosscountrysales.com and click on CROSS CANADA FLIGHT