

2009 NORSEMAN FESTIVAL - LEGACY EDITION



CF-DRD Rebuilding an Icon

Following its last run under power on June 28, 1992, the fully restored CF-DRD was returned to the dock at Red Lake Seaplane on Howey Bay. On Canada Day, with the sound of fireworks going off in the background, Don Nord took this historic night shot of DRD ready to assume its new role as icon. The solid rigging for mounting it on its pedestal is already attached between the floats and hardly looks out of place on Noorduyn's tough and durable aircraft.

- Photo by Don Nord

CF-DRD has stood in Norseman Heritage Park on Red Lake's Waterfront since 1992. It is a UC-64A (Mark VI) Norseman produced by Noorduyn Aviation Limited (as serial # 831) for the United States Army Air Force which took delivery of it on May 4, 1945.

The aircraft served in the U.S. during the war and was sold to a civilian buyer there in 1946. It was purchased by Barney Lamm's Ontario Central Airlines in 1953 and received a Canadian Certificate of Airworthiness in 1954. It flew out of Kenora, Red Lake and elsewhere until 1958 when it was purchased by Teal Air of Winnipeg Manitoba and flown as a bush plane throughout Manitoba's north until 1960.

After 8 years without a C. of A. It was re-purchased by O.C.A. and flown out of Red Lake from 1969 to 1974. It was owned briefly by Swanair Ltd. of Dryden, Ontario before it returned to service in Red Lake with Wings Aviation Ltd. It was last flown in 1981.

It sat unused and decaying until it was purchased by the Township of Red Lake from Kuby's Aircraft Ltd. in Kenora in 1991. It was restored by Red Lake Seaplane Service with the help of dozens of enthusiastic volunteers to serve as an icon to the Noorduyn Norseman and to Red Lake's role as a bush flying centre and the Norseman Capital of the World.



Within a short period of time, the fuselage had been stripped down to its bare bones of welded chrome molybdenum steel tubing. - Photo by Don Nord



CF-DRD had spent a decade sitting unused and exposed to the elements when it was purchased by the Township of Red Lake in 1991. Its fabric skin was tattered and it arrived home in pieces.

- Photo by Don Nord



The wings were stripped down to its spruce wood spars and duralumin clad leading and trailing edges. Countless hours were spent removing glue or fabric and replacing small wooden parts which had decayed due to exposure. - Photo by Don Nord