

75th Anniversary – Uplands unannounced

On a winter's day in the early 1950s, Ovila Boudreault and Elvie Smith decided to fly from Pendleton to Uplands to look for a heated work space. During the winter, club members were rebuilding the wings of the Gatineau Gliding Club's "flat-top" LK-10A two seat glider, CF-ZBF.

Poor visibility due to snow showers combined with low ceilings did not deter our two intrepid fliers from heading off in the club's tow-plane, Tiger Moth CF-EMT. The Tiger Moth's wheels had been replaced with skis for the winter flying season.



Tiger Moth CF-EMT on skis, 1951

Following roads due to the poor visibility, the two eventually found their way to Uplands airport and landed on the snowy infield at the North end. Feeling rather snug about their aviating skills, they decided to maintain a high taxi speed to save time arriving at the Ottawa Flying Club's apron. People in the club house had noticed the Tiger Moth, likely because it was the only aircraft flying given the weather. Neither Ovila nor Elvie had anticipated that there was a 4 foot drop from the snow to the apron so, to the dismay of the flying club patrons watching, the Tiger Moth 'dropped' into the club with a big bang !

The Tiger Moth had only just been shut-down when Elvie and Ovila were informed that the Ottawa Flying Club's telephone was ringing off the hook: the tower wanted to speak to the (censored) flying the biplane. The Tiger Moth did not have a radio and neither pilot had ever considered it necessary to get permission to fly into Uplands. The tower, unable to understand what a yellow biplane on skis was doing meandering out of the murk, had had to wave-off a DC-3 airliner in the midst of a range cloud breaking procedure, sending the prop-liner back up into the snow laden clouds for a second time-consuming airport approach.



Trans-Canada Air Lines operated DC-3s from 1945 to 1963

There ensued a bit of an uproar with MOT, the Ministry Of Transport, but in the end nothing came of it. Getting permission to takeoff and fly home was another story but the Tiger Moth and our two pilots eventually made it back to Pendleton the following day.

In 1955, the Gatineau Gliding Club's "flat-top" LK-10A glider CF-ZBF started flying at Pendleton so we can surmise that a heated workspace was found !



Ovila Boudreault & LK-10A CF-ZBF