

Press Release

Canadian Thrush Tour 2017

For Immediate Release

Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd., June 2017 - What a rush! Canada you were asking for a Thrush tour and Thrush Aircraft really delivered! Kicking off with an open house at Yorkton Aircraft Saturday May 27 Terry Humphrey demonstrated the performance and stability of these well made Thrush planes to well over 45 attendees, most of which got rides.

In addition to Thrush Test Pilot Terry Humphrey, Thrush's Quality Manager Kevin Pierce also joined us from the factory. Industry was here too - Robin Lavoie from Pratt & Whitney and Nick Davies of GE helped us start the tour. Two Farm Credit Corp representatives were on hand with their booth and brought us coffee for the day. We just about got one of the FCC reps in the plane for a ride, but unfortunately time ran out. On static display was a 510P dual cockpit, in addition to three 510G dual cockpits and a 510G single cockpit. A terrific meal organized by Allan closed up a very exciting day.

The tour headed out west to points in Southern Saskatchewan and Alberta and then wound down in Manitoba on Wednesday May 31. Terry Humphrey says he lost track on the number of rides given over the days and at least 10 turbine experienced pilots took the airplane for a fly.

The most common comments were around the performance of the plane. Everyone knows Thrush produces a rugged plane but even with all its toughness on board, with full fuel, full 510 gallons and two people on board the plane was always airborne within 2000 feet of take off. Demonstrations took place at various elevations and even in the 25+ temps experienced in Manitoba.

Many pilots talked about the plane being lighter on the controls than they anticipated and quite a few attempts were made to stall the plane but this rugged bird refused - she just wants to fly. Experienced Thrush Pilot Darren Tiede of Strathmore Alberta flew the 2017 model and we asked him what he thought. His response, "it flies like a solid Thrush."

The demonstration plane was a 2017 510G Dual Cockpit, Dual Control model owned by Prairie Dusters of Birtle Manitoba. This plane is the second 510G in the Prairie Duster fleet. The first plane was purchased in 2015. Special thanks to Randy and Janet Sandstrom for making this tour possible.

This Canadian Tour also brought focus to the important role Canadian Aerial Applicators play in helping to feed the world. This decal featured here was on the tail of the tour plane. This awareness initiative of Thrush Aircraft is in support of the industry it serves. "Ag aviation will not continue to prosper as an industry, long-term, if we don't get more people aware of its benefits – and of its importance to increasing crop yields for farmers around the world," said Payne Hughes, president of Thrush Aircraft. "Population growth combined with economic challenges is putting tremendous pressure on farmers right now to produce more from the ground they have – and ag aviation can help. Coupled with this of course, is the clear fact that we need more pilots to join the industry and make it a career," he continued.



"We learned a long time ago that leaders promote their industry, while others just promote their products" said Eric Rojek, Vice President of Thrush. "The Feed the World campaign has been created to help everyone in our business – from customers to competitors – because it's a story that needs telling. And, if we do it right, we'll help secure the future for an industry that has served all of us well."

Yorkton Aircraft is an appointed dealer for Thrush Aircraft. Since the appointment, 13 new Model 510 planes have been sold into Canada bringing the number of turbo Thrush models in Canada close to 30.



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