

# Spring 2015 Newsletter



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***In preparation for the upcoming spraying season, we wanted to let our growers know about some new exciting items we have been working on over the winter.***

## **E-Billing**

Quikway Air Services shall continue to implement an E-Billing Option for our customers. We had a number of customers request this in 2014 and it has worked very well. You now have the opportunity to register to have all of your invoices and statements emailed directly to you instead of being mailed through Canada Post.

If you are interested, please go to our website  
[www.quikwayair.ca](http://www.quikwayair.ca)

Click on **CONTACT US** and send us a secure message via the online form or email our office directly at [quikwayair@xplornet.com](mailto:quikwayair@xplornet.com)

***We look forward to working with you during the coming season.***

***Coffee is always on, stop on by!***

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## **Flight Plan Online**

We are implementing a computerized spray work-order system called Flight Plan Online. This will allow our spray work orders to include detailed mapping which will tie directly into the Air Tractor GPS systems. Work orders are computer generated with mapping, flight coordinates, adjacent crops and sensitive area identifications all automatically uploaded to the aircraft for the pilots. Completed work orders can then be emailed to those growers requiring this information. It also ties directly into our financial software.

## **Scenic Tour Gift Certificates**

Are you looking for the perfect gift for that hard to buy for person - we have just the item for you.

Quikway Air Services offers unique scenic flight certificates. Flights are for up to three persons and available in ½ hour or 1 hour durations.

Popular tours include Dinosaur Provincial Park, Aqueduct Tour and Lake Newell, the Red Deer and Bow Rivers and Bassano Dam.



***If you want to check your fields by air, you may do so with Terry in our Cessna 182***

## **Air Tractor AT802A**



In our commitment to our growers in Southern Alberta, we are replacing our oldest spray plane with a new and bigger aircraft. It is the Air Tractor 802A. It is the largest single engine agricultural aircraft available. The 802A carries over 800 gallons of crop protection products and is powered by a 1350 horsepower jet turbine engine. With its fast ferry speed to the field of 200 mph and increased swath width along with the large carrying capacity, we will be able to treat more of your acres per day. The Air Tractor factory, located in Olney Texas, will be building our aircraft in April. Delivery to Brooks will be in May.

### **Lines and Towers**

In the past couple of years we have been proactive in addressing proposed construction of cellular and data towers. Some of you have been involved with us at the County or MD MPC meetings to bring a voice of safety and economical concerns to the committee; we appreciate your time and efforts in working with us.

The number of towers and large power lines are ever increasing and it is a safety concern not only for our spray pilots, but also for other low level aviation type operations. We are not oblivious to the need of having cell phone and data coverage, we all use it, but we need to have the infrastructure placed where it has the least impact on farming operations. We are also advocating having all towers of any height to be marked to be more visible from an aircraft. Towers and the guy wires to stabilize them are very hard to see from the air, they blend into the background of the earth. Transport Canada had issued an Advisory Circular in

2011 providing guidance and suggestions on marking of towers to have them more visible. Painting the tower with white and orange banding, large marker balls on top of guy-wires are some of the suggestions. Transport Canada is now reviewing regulations pertaining to tower marking and they are considering incorporating the recommendations from the Advisory Circular in to the regulation.

There have been towers and large power lines constructed the past few years that have either limited or completely eliminated the ability to utilize spray planes for application of crop protection products on some fields. The growers affected did not realize at the time of agreeing to have infrastructure placed, that it would hinder aerial application. They are now limited to growing crops that only a ground spray rig can be used.

### **Non Certified Operators (NCOs)**

Across the Prairie Provinces there has been an increase in aerial applications performed by Non Certified Operators, (NCO). Formally known as a flying farmer, this exemption from Transport Canada's regulation of commercial operations allows a farmer with a private pilot's license to privately own and operate a spray plane to apply products to his/her crops within a 25 mile radius of his/hers home location by air or also help his neighbors with aerial application for recuperation of costs. Regulations stipulate the NCO's main source of income must be from farming.

There are some persons who are operating outside of this exemption and offering aerial application as a commercial operation illegally. The NCO are largely unregulated and do not have to maintain and operate their aircraft to commercial standards. They do not have to have pilot training requirements and aerial application licensing in place along with the insurances that are necessary. Advertising their services are illegal, this fools people in believing the operation is legitimate. If considering hiring an aerial application company to apply crop protection products on your crops, be sure that they are a commercial operation approved by the Minister of Transport by asking for their operating certificate.

**Quikway Air Services  
Air Operator Certificate (AOC) #006032**

***We at Quikway, are looking forward to another growing season, helping you grow the best crops possible. Please be as safe as you can in your operations.***