

RICHMOND REVEALED

100 Years of Powered Flight Aviation Spectacle

An unparalleled series of visual spectacles will introduce Richmond, BC, Canada to the world during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Each spectacle will tell the story of Richmond's local economy, people, heritage and natural environment.

Celebrating 100 years of powered flight



One of two existing Martin Mars water bomber – the world's largest flying tanker.

- One hundred years ago, in 1910, the first Canadian powered aircraft flight west of Winnipeg took off from Minoru Racetrack in Richmond.
- A variety of spectacles paying tribute to the aviation industry will be showcased around Richmond for the duration of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Come out and see the simple beauty of the world's largest flying tankers – Martin Mars water bomber

- The story of the creation of the water bomber begins in the 1950s when Richmond volunteer fire fighter, senior pilot and Burkeville resident, Daniel (Dan) Erskine McIvor's vision, determination and ingenuity transformed Martin Mars World War II Navy planes into career "water bombers", evolving planes from fire spotters to fire fighters.
- Dan McIvor (1911-2005) was referred to as the father of the water bomber concept.
- In the 1950s the four existing World War II Navy planes were purchased by a consortium of British Columbia timber companies, while Dan McIvor successfully searched for and bought spare Martin Mars parts and engines he knew would be crucial for operations.

- With a wing span of 200 feet, the Martin Mars water bomber is the world's largest flying boat ever flown operationally. It was originally designed as a bomber for long range missions and patrols during World War II.
- Since the 1960s, these aircraft have been involved in fighting over 4,000 wildfires in British Columbia as well as many abroad.
- In 2007 Coulson Airplane Ltd. of Port Alberni, British Columbia purchased the two remaining Martin Mars to expand its firefighting capabilities and establish itself as the only operator worldwide to operate both Sikorsky S61 Type 1 helicopters and the world's largest water bombers.

Martin Mars specs

- The aircraft has a wingspan of 61 metres (200 feet). It is 36.6 metres (120 feet) long and can be in the air in 10 minutes.
- It can scoop and hold an impressive 27,276 litres (7,200 gallons) of water per load which can be dropped from either the bottom or the side of the plane. In addition it can hold 2,270 litres of foam concentrate - enough for 21 drops. They can make a drop of water every 15 minutes.

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- It takes on average 25 seconds for a Martin Mars to refill with water.



Rolls Royce RB211

- On display at the Richmond O Zone is a Rolls-Royce RB211 engine which achieved a new world record by powering a Boeing 757 for 18 million miles (that is an equivalent of 36 times to the moon and back) without removal from the wing.



Helicopters in Richmond

- One of the world's largest helicopter companies is based in Richmond and operates approximately 250 aircraft in 35 countries.

- There will be a roving display of helicopters adjacent to Fire Hall No. 4 on Russ Baker Way to showcase the diversity of applications.

Richmond's aviation industry

- Richmond is home to Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and a vibrant community of supporting industry and trades.
- Aerospace technology recently celebrated 50 years of leadership in training on Sea Island (Richmond) with the completion of the aviation-dedicated BCIT Aerospace Technology Campus on Russ Baker Way.

100 Years of powered flight

- On March 25, 1910, the first-ever Canadian airplane flight west of Winnipeg took off from Minoru Racetrack in Richmond. Over 3,500 people witnessed Charles K. Hamilton fly from Richmond to New Westminster and back.
- William Templeton flew the first plane to be built and flown over Metro Vancouver. He took off from Minoru Racetrack on April 28, 1911 on a homemade biplane. He later became the first manager of the Vancouver International Airport.
- The first-ever flight in Canada to cross the Rocky Mountains took off from Minoru Park in August 1919. The flight took 16 hours and 42 minutes and was the first airmail delivery across the Rocky Mountains.

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