



Welcome to Canada

Wilderness North Today

A Guest Service of Wilderness North - Ontario's Premier Outdoor Adventure Destination

Our de Havilland Air Force

Flying History Lesson

Name: de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver

AKA: Beaver

Wing Span: 14.63m (48ft)

Length: 9.22m (30ft 3in)

Powerplant: One Pratt & Whitney 450hp radial piston engine

Maximum Speed: 193km/h (120mph)

The de Havilland Beaver is duly credited with opening Canada's northern wilderness. After all, here you are! Introduced in 1947, the Beaver remained in production at de Havilland Canada into the mid-1960s, eventually numbering some 1650 aircraft, flying in over 50 countries. In addition to its role in the Canadian north, the Beaver was employed extensively by the United States Army and Air Force in Vietnam. Parts from these Vietnam-era Beavers are now used as replacement parts for the many Beaver aircraft still flying today. It was the first foreign-built plane ever purchased by the U.S. Army during peacetime and required special legislation to get around the Buy American Policy.

It takes an exceptionally rugged aircraft to operate safely and reliably in the Canadian bush. One such airplane is the de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, a single-engine high-wing monoplane.

The versatile all-metal Beaver made its inaugural flight in August of 1947, and since that time more than 1,650 have been constructed.

The Beaver, which was designed after consultation with veteran Canadian bush pilots, is a true STOL (short takeoff and landing) aircraft. It features a high-lift wing with its entire trailing edge hinged, hydraulically operated flaps and slotted ailerons.

The Beaver can carry a crew of two, plus six passengers or more than 1,500 pounds of cargo. Powered by a 450-horsepower, nine-cylinder air-cooled radial Pratt & Whitney engine, aviation experts consider the de Havilland Beaver to be one of the most perfectly designed small utility aircraft ever built, and a great number of them remain in service today in many parts of the world.



The Beaver

The success of the de Havilland Canada Beaver inspired the creation of the Otter, originally to be dubbed the "King Beaver". The Ontario Provincial Air Service, informed de Havilland Canada (DHC) that it

would buy 20 aircraft twice the size of the Beaver if DHC would build them. Canadian Pratt and Whitney agreed to produce an engine for it, and the Otter was on its way. We have three Otters in service today, retrofitted with modern turbine prop engines, giving them even more power and payload. The aircraft was also designed for short strips of around 1200 feet, and could carry a payload of some 2000 pounds for 250 miles. There is accommodation for nine passengers and a crew of two. The passenger seats are often folded against the wall when our guest's gear is loaded on board.



The Otter

By 1953, the U.S. Army got wind of the Otters performance and ultimately ended up purchasing a third of the total Otters' production, which numbered around 450. Both the Beaver and Otter, named after industrious Canadian wildlife, were willingly adopted by the U.S. Army.