

HAROLD F. (MITCH) MITCHINSON

Harold (Mitch) Mitchinson was born in Wilkie, Saskatchewan and received his public school education in Hardisty, Alberta and his high school education at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate Institute while living in Sutherland. It was in Sutherland that he married his wife Olive in 1939.

Mitch learned to fly with the Saskatoon Flying Club where he received his private pilot's licence in 1936, followed by a commercial pilot's licence in 1937 and concurrently he took an aircraft engineer's apprenticeship during the years 1936 - 1938.

Mitch served with the RAF in World War II. Following the war in 1945 he became Chief Instructor for the Cub Aircraft Flying School in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1946 he moved to Saskatoon and started Mitchinson Flying School which for the first year concentrated on flying training and barnstorming at fairs in Saskatchewan.

In 1947, Mitch changed the name of his company to Mitchinson Flying Service Ltd. The full services of the company included flying training, aircraft sales, power line patrols for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, wildlife surveys for the Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Wildlife Service, air photos for the Star Phoenix, and charter flights. Mitch is considered to be one of the pioneers of flying training instruction in Saskatchewan and it is estimated that as many as 100 students who graduated from the flying school have gone on to become pilots for commercial airlines in Canada.

Mitch retired in 1980 and he and his wife moved to British Columbia. His former company in Saskatoon still retains the name Mitchinson Flying Service Ltd. Mitch has qualified for his pilot's licence for fifty years in a row.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1989